

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

26 April 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on April 26, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Ellen Beckmann (Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Margaret Hauth (Vice Chair)	Hillsborough Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Chapel Hill Planning
Linda Thomas Wallace (Member)	Durham County Cooperative Extension
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Theo Letman (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Peter Murphy (Alternate)	Orange Public Transportation
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Max Bushell (Member)	Orange County Planning
Cara Coppola (Member)	Chatham County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Jennifer Britt (Member)	NCDOT, Division 8
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kurt Stolka (Member)	UNC
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
John Tallmadge	GoTriangle

Quorum Count: 21 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. A roll call was performed. The

Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were

identified and are indicated above. Chair Ellen Beckmann reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

Bergen Watterson stated that she was now the TC Member for Chapel Hill.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Public Comments

Chair Ellen Beckmann asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of March 29, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion of the March 29, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes. Geoff Green made a motion to approve the March 29, 2017, TC Meeting Minutes. Tom Altieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Update on Durham County and Orange County Transit Plans

John Tallmadge and Geoff Green, GoTriangle

John Tallmadge discussed the changes to the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project that led to the renegotiation of the cost sharing plan, including: the addition of a station at North Carolina Central University, the replacement of the Meadowmont station with the Woodmont station, and changes in the alignment to protect the New Hope Creek wetlands. John Tallmadge also noted Durham's interest in maintaining the Wake-Durham Commuter project. John Tallmadge stated that the updated cost sharing agreement would consist of an 81.5%/16.5% split between Durham County and Orange County, with private contributions making up the remaining 2%.

70 In response to Chair Ellen Beckmann's inquiry about Durham's cash balance, John Tallmadge
71 reviewed the funding assumptions for the Wake-Durham Commuter Rail project. Chair Ellen Beckmann
72 and John Tallmadge discussed what would happen if the 2% of private contributions did not materialize,
73 and whether funding from the University of North Carolina could count towards the 2% of private
74 contributions. John Tallmadge reviewed the assumptions underlying the estimated cost of the Wake-
75 Durham Commuter Rail project. Chair Ellen Beckmann and John Tallmadge discussed reasons for the
76 increased cost of existing service for bus operations.

77 Chair Ellen Beckmann and John Tallmadge discussed whether there were letters of intent to
78 confirm \$19 million worth of right of way donations, and how these donations are reflected in the
79 updated plans. John Tallmadge reviewed the dedicated tax revenue commitment from each county for
80 the D-O LRT project, and the reason that these commitments are reflected in dollars and not
81 percentages.

82 John Hodges-Copple and John Tallmadge discussed how joint developments are reflected in the
83 plan. There was discussion of the deadline for fleshing out joint development plans. Geoff Green
84 commented that Patrick McDonough at GoTriangle has been working with city and county partners and
85 the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) consultant to come up with a joint development policy.

86 Felix Nwoko and John Tallmadge confirmed the timeline for various boards to approve the
87 updated County Transit Plans.

88 Pierre Osei-Owusu and John Tallmadge discussed whether there was any additional information
89 about how the president's proposed budget would affect the New Starts program.

90 Felix Nwoko reaffirmed the MPO's commitment to the D-O LRT project.

91 Tom Altieri and John Tallmadge discussed the staff working groups' decision to forward the
92 County Transit Plans to the governing boards for consideration without recommending approval. Tom
93 Altieri expressed reservations about voting in favor of the plans before the Orange County Board of

Commissioners has had an opportunity to approve the plans. John Tallmadge reminded the TC that the County Transit Plans are two separate plans, and the TC and the MPO Board should take separate actions on them. Tina Moon and Cara Coppola expressed reservations about voting in support of the plans. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth suggested crafting a motion that speaks specifically to the technical merits of the plans. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the County Transit Plans are supportive of the MPO's adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and long-range vision. Vice Chair Margaret Hauth asked John Hodges-Copple to propose a motion that would allow the TC to endorse the technical aspects of the County Transit Plans, without weighing in on the policy implications of the plans. Tom Altieri stated that he was removed from the financial components of the plan which reduced his ability to comment on technical merits of the plans. There was discussion of changes to the plans regarding bus service hours. Pierre Osei-Owusu stated that it was important to distinguish between existing services and the future service that new funding would support for the transit systems.

Linda Thomas Wallace stated that it is incumbent on local jurisdictions to approach GoTriangle about issues such as bus service hours. Linda Thomas Wallace also commented on Durham's efforts to vet the plan before making a recommendation to the Durham County Board of Commissioners.

Peter Murphy and John Tallmadge discussed whether there is funding to support Orange County's requested revenue hours.

Scott Whiteman reminded the TC that the plans reflect a compromise between Durham and Orange Counties. Max Bushell stated that he was comfortable supporting the technical merits of the plans.

Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the plans reflect the MPO's priorities and that there would be opportunities to revise the plans in the future.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend approval of the County Transit Plans, since they substantially include the bus and rail services in the adopted 2040 MTP. John Hodges-Copple stated

that the TC believes that it will be critical that the MPO as an organization and the TC members as organizational representatives be directly involved in all future planning activities related to the services and facilities included in the plans. Geoff Green and John Hodges-Copple discussed the motion's implications for MPO involvement in modifying the plans. Geoff Green suggested that the language of the motion be modified to indicate that the TC members would "have the opportunity to be directly involved" in future planning activities related to the plans.

Theo Letman stated that the Orange County Board of Commissioners still had unresolved issues regarding the convenience clause in the plans. John Tallmadge pointed out that the clause was in the cost sharing agreement and that the MPO was not a party to the cost sharing agreement.

There was discussion of whether the language of the motion should also reaffirm the MPO's commitment to a multi-modal public transportation system. Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that the MPO's commitment to a multimodal transportation system was already implied.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to recommend approval of the County Transit Plans, since they substantially include the bus and rail services in the adopted 2040 MTP. The TC believes that it will be critical that the MPO as an organization and the TC members as organizational representatives have the opportunity to directly be involved in all future planning activities related to the services and facilities included in the plans. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Tallmadge thanked the staff working groups for their hard work on the County Transit Plans.

6. Proposed Modifications and Deletions for SPOT 5.0

Felix Nwoko and Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain drew attention to a list of Carryover projects for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization 5.0 (SPOT P5.0), and asked the TC to inform him if there was anything missing from the list or anything on the list that should not be changed. Aaron Cain stated that the

deadline for operational projects was at the end of the following week, while the deadline for non-operational projects is in June.

Aaron Cain, Max Bushell, and Tina Moon discussed operational and intersectional improvements on NC 54.

Aaron Cain and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the Division Engineers also have to consent to changes to the projects. Aaron Cain stated that he was already in conversation with David Keilson about changes to the projects, but still needed to speak with Ed Lewis.

Aaron Cain discussed how the corridor cap would affect the U-5774F project. Aaron Cain stated that he was working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to see whether improvements on NC 54 could be prioritized over the managed lanes on I-40, even though the managed lane project scored better than the improvements to NC 54. Aaron Cain stated that if the NC 54 improvements could not be prioritized, the managed lane project may need to be withdrawn. Richard Hancock stated that discussions need to continue with NCDOT to determine how to address the projects on NC 54 and I-40.

Chair Ellen Beckmann outlined alternative approaches to the U-5720C project. Aaron Cain and Chair Ellen Beckmann also discussed the U-5937 Durham Freeway project. Aaron Cain confirmed that the R-5821 project is a Carrboro project.

Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend approval of the Carryover projects to the MPO Board. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) -- Final

Andy Henry, LPA Staff
Julie Bogle, NCDOT

Andy Henry outlined changes that were made to the CTP report and changes that still needed to be made.

Andy Henry and Geoff Green discussed whether the CTP should reflect that the grade separations at the South Roxboro Street railroad tracks need improvement.

There was discussion of how the proposed two-way conversion of two pairs of one-way streets in the Durham Downtown Loop, Duke Street and Gregson Street and Mangum Street and Roxboro Street, should be addressed in the CTP, and the effect that such a conversion would have on capacity.

Felix Nwoko stated that NCDOT was going back to using the term superstreets, and that a note should be made in the CTP to indicate that synchronized streets are also referred to as superstreets.

There was continued discussion of whether the proposed two-way conversion of the two pairs of one-way streets in the Downtown Loop should be classified as needing improvement in the CTP. Julie Bogle pointed out that the CTP could be amended in order to better align with the MTP at a later date. John Hodges-Copple stated that the key consideration should be whether not labelling the conversion as “needs improvement” would restrict the MPO from doing something in the MTP or submitting projects for the SPOT process. There was continued discussion of amending the CTP to align with the MTP, and the impact that the NCDOT Board of Transportation timeline for adopting the CTP would have on the MTP. Andy Henry and Chair Ellen Beckmann discussed whether the two-way conversion of the two one-way pairs could be considered as a Transportation System Management (TSM) project in the MTP. There was discussion of whether a problem statement for the two-way conversion of the two one-way pairs of streets in the Durham Downtown Loop should be included in the CTP. Chair Ellen Beckmann proposed stating that the two pairs of one-way streets in the Downtown Loop need improvement and describing safety concerns about the streets in the CTP, but not including specific solutions to address these issues.

Scott Whiteman made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the CTP. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

7. Reports from the LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

There was no report from the LPA Staff.

9. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann, DCHC MPO TC Chair

There was no report from the TC Chair.

10. NCDOT Reports

A report from NCDOT Division 5 was included in the packet. There were no questions or comments.

Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there was a combined build inspection meeting on April 25, 2017, regarding two projects in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. Pat Wilson stated that Division 7 would proceed with the projects as long as no issues were raised.

Pat Wilson, Bergen Watterson, and Tina Moon discussed the multi-use path, sidewalks, and the proposed roundabout on Bennett Road.

Pat Wilson stated that he would send a formal request to staff members in Chapel Hill and Carrboro to find out about the status of the review of the information that was sent about the project on Franklin Street and Merritt Mill Road.

Jennifer Britt, NCDOT Division 8, stated that construction of the portion of the southbound left turn lane on NC 751 within the DCHC MPO's area is 80% complete.

There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

11. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

There were no informational items.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.