

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

12 May 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on May 12 2021, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

Wendy Jacobs (Chair)	Durham County
Jenn Weaver (Vice Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Pierce Freelon (Member)	City of Durham
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Charlie Reece (Member)	City of Durham
Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Sally Greene (Alternate)	Orange County
Brenda Howerton (Alternate)	Durham County
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Lisa Mathis (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
Amy Ryan (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Nimasheena Burns (Alternate)	Durham County
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
John Hodges-Copple	TJCOG
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
Tim Schwarzauser	Chapel Hill Transit
Nick Pittman	Chapel Hill Transit
Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit/Planning
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Evan Tenenbaum	City of Durham
Brian Taylor	City of Durham
Tasha Johnson	City of Durham
Chassem Anderson	The University of North Carolina
Kurt Stolka	The University of North Carolina
Michael Page	North Carolina Central University
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration

42	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
43	Patrick Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
44	Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
45	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
46	Brandon Jones	NCDOT Division 8
47	Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD
48	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
49	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
50	Anne Phillips	DCHC MPO
51	Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
52	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
53	Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
54	Kayla Mathews	DCHC MPO
55	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO
56	Dave Connelly	Resident
57	Mike Waldroup	Resident

58 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

59 **1. Roll Call**

60 Chair Wendy Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and
 61 Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated
 62 above.

63 **PRELIMINARIES:**

64 **2. Ethics Reminder**

65 Chair Wendy Jacobs read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of
 66 interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any
 67 identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by
 68 MPO Board Members.

69 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

70 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

71 **4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

5. Directives to Staff

Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned that MPO staff will address the directive to review proposed federal and state funding legislation at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. April 14, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. CTP Amendment #3

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Amendment #3 and asked for comments. Andy Henry pointed out the attachment in the agenda packet that includes a compilation of public comments received over the past month and said there was general support in the comments for bicycle/pedestrian projects and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Chair Wendy Jacobs opened up the public hearing and no members of the public spoke. Chair Wendy Jacobs closed the public hearing.

Chair Wendy Jacobs asked for comments from MPO Board Members. Charlie Reece expressed concern over the continued inclusion of the abandoned alignment for the former Durham-Orange Light Rail Project (DO-LRT) in the CTP. Andy Henry said options for what to do with the DO-LRT alignment will be brought to the MPO Board in June. Andy Henry said that the alignment was left in the CTP for a future Durham-Orange Bus Rapid Transit project because it was assumed there was no negative financial impact from this decision, although new information indicates otherwise. Charlie Reece responded that the main issue is the inclusion of alignment outside the public right of

way that obligates City of Durham planning staff to enforce that reservation even without a clear plan for the alignment in the future.

Andy Henry added that MPO staff is working on problem statements to provide more information that was requested by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as CTP Amendments are a joint process and must be adopted by both the MPO Board and the NC Board of Transportation.

A public hearing had been conducted and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

8. 2050 MTP – Deficiency and Needs Analysis

Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry introduced the Deficiency and Needs Analysis as a “living document” because it is frequently updated and referenced during the MTP development process. Andy Henry directed meeting participants to the DCHC MPO web page for more detailed data, graphics, and maps. Andy Henry reviewed the purpose of the Deficiency and Needs Analysis, which is to model how a no-build scenario would handle projected socioeconomic (SE) trends comprised of population and employment data. Andy Henry presented the SE data, performance measures, travel isochrones, travel time tables, and volume/capacity congestion maps.

Michael Parker asked if this data will be updated as the most recent census data becomes available. Andy Henry said that SE data will be updated at the census block level once the data that is scheduled to become available in August 2021 is released. Michael Parker mentioned that many of the performance measures relate to cars (Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT), average speed, etc.) but does not show similar metrics for other modes of transportation such as biking, walking, and public transit, which more closely relate to the newly adopted MTP goals and objectives.

Damon Seils mentioned the importance of the VMT per capita performance measure showing a predicted dramatic increase despite already committed projects that were hoped to make a large impact on reducing VMT per capita. Damon Seils said that VMT per capita is an important measure to

121 demonstrate the functioning of our transportation system and whether our investments are making a
122 difference and what investments we should be making to make a difference. Damon Seils emphasized
123 that these projections are showing what could happen, and the MPO and local communities can
124 positively impact the outcomes through land use policy, housing and employment opportunities, and
125 transit investments.

126 Karen Howard asked why Chatham was not included on the maps shown in the presentation.
127 Andy Henry responded that only 2/3 of Chatham County is included in the Triangle Regional Model
128 (TRM), which extends beyond the MPO boundaries. Chair Wendy Jacobs agreed with Damon Seils that
129 performance measures should correspond with the MTP goals and objectives and also recognized the
130 potential challenges of constrained data availability.

131 Andy Henry said there is a set of performance measures beyond what is included in the TRM
132 that are aligned with the MTP's goals and objectives, such as emissions, travel times for Communities of
133 Concern (COCs), and amount of delay for COCs that will be included in each of the three scenarios
134 proposed during the alternatives analysis. Michael Parker said changes in land use policy proved to be
135 more impactful at congestion mitigation than investments in transit and additional road capacity during
136 the 2045 MTP development process. Michael Parker suggested some performance measures that
137 encompass the overall transportation environment such as investments in transit per capita. Michael
138 Parker suspects investments in transit are not keeping up with population growth and the MPO should
139 take on more of a role of advocating for good land use policies to address the challenges the MPO faces.
140 Sally Greene asked if Triangle J Council of Government (TJCOG) could be a partner in collecting data and
141 raising awareness of transit issues to aid in advancing regional solutions. Andy Henry said TJCOG is very
142 involved in transit data collection, as well as the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO). Vice Chair Jenn Weaver
143 agreed with Michael Parker that the land use aspect is critical to reaching the MTP goals and objectives

and suggested the MPO aid individual jurisdictions in communicating to the general public how the various local, regional, and state bodies work together.

Chair Wendy Jacobs said there was consensus that the MPO needs to make sure land use policy is integrated into the upcoming MTP scenarios and the MPO could form policy recommendations from local to regional levels.

Damon Seils made a motion to release the 2050 MTP Deficiency and Needs Analysis for a 30-day public comment period. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Federal Infrastructure Update

Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

Dale McKeel provided an update on current legislation at the federal and state levels, including the American Jobs Plan proposed by the Biden Administration for over \$2 trillion of investment throughout the next 8 years. Dale McKeel gave an update on bills currently being discussed in the NC General Assembly. Chair Wendy Jacobs asked for guidance to prepare for the passage of the American Jobs Plan and Dale McKeel said the MPO should focus on preparing shovel-worthy and shovel-ready projects to be ready to take advantage of the federal funding. Pierce Freelon commended MPO staff for high scoring project proposals that were reviewed at a meeting with Congressman David Price.

This item was for informational purposes and no further action was required by the MPO Board.

10. Material Change to the Durham County Transit Plan – New Regional Transit Center

Jay Heikes, GoTriangle

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain said that per the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) a material change to the Durham County Transit Plan must be approved by all three parties to the plan: 1) the Durham County Board of Commissioners that approved this material change on May 10, 2021, 2) the MPO Board that will vote at this meeting, and 3) the GoTriangle Board of Trustees that will vote in June.

Jay Heikes provided information on the request for \$600,000 in FY22 and a total of \$2,850,000 from FY22-FY24 for the relocation of the Regional Transit Center (RTC). Jay Heikes said GoTriangle

believes this request is consistent with the guidelines set out for FY22 work program development and gave the following three justifications: 1) This is a continuation of a previously funded transit plan project (the feasibility study), 2) the project fulfills needs identified in previous short range transit plans and is included in all three pending transit plan scenarios, and 3) commitment of local funding will support applications for competitive federal grant programs. Jay Heikes reviewed the purpose and results of the feasibility study and showed the location of the existing RTC as well as the proposed location where the new RTC could anchor a walkable, mixed use destination. Jay Heikes outlined the next steps moving forward after concept design is completed, including engineering and construction through 2024.

Charlie Reece expressed support for the RTC relocation project and pointed out that this material change is an exception to a current policy of no material changes in advance of the revisions to the Durham County Transit Plan. Charlie Reece said that GoDurham and Chapel Hill Transit had proposed a set of transit service improvements for FY22 to address specific needs that were identified during the community engagement process. Charlie Reece said he hopes the Durham Staff Working Group (SWG) will reconsider the recommendation to not proceed with material changes at that time as the City of Durham does not have a voting member in the SWG.

Chair Wendy Jacobs noted that the RTC relocation project was reconsidered in a time sensitive matter in order to take advantage of federal funding opportunities. Aaron Cain, Durham SWG administrator, explained that the original recommendation to not move forward with operating projects at that time came from GoTriangle Finance because of the financial implications of operating projects existing in perpetuity. Aaron Cain said that the SWG was uncomfortable moving forward with large accumulated investments in operating projects that would not go through as thorough of a public involvement process for a material change as is built into the Durham Transit Plan public engagement process.

Damon Seils thanked Charlie Reece for raising this question because it has been raised in Orange County as well, which indicates an overarching tension of continuing service needs being put on hold during the lengthy transit plan update process, despite there being an existing, albeit slightly dated, transit plan. Damon Seils expressed support for the RTC relocation project, but also asked for further consideration of service improvements for Chapel Hill Transit and GoDurham. Pierce Freelon asked for clarification on the role of the SWG and why the City of Durham does not have a vote in that group. Aaron Cain provided more background information on the ILA structure that allows that SWG to make recommendations to the three governing boards of the ILA addressing the implementation of the transit tax. Aaron Cain stated that the local share of a capital project must be considered committed to make applications more competitive for federal funding opportunities, which does not apply to operations projects, and an exception was made for the RTC relocation because the deadline to apply for federal funds precedes the scheduled adoption of the Durham County Transit Plan. Jay Heikes agreed that a federal funding application is much more competitive with demonstrated commitment of local funds. Ellen Beckmann, Chair of the Durham SWG, agreed with previous comments and added that the cost share split between counties for the RTC relocation is favorable to Durham and Orange Counties because Wake County would cover 70% of the project cost.

Michael Parker made a motion to approve a material change to the 2017 Durham County Transit Plan to provide funding for the local match for a new RTC. Vice Chair Jenn Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. FY21-22 Call for Projects Funding Recommendation
Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

Anne Phillips reviewed MPO staff's funding recommendations for Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA) funding, STBGDA-COVID funds, the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian program, and the new STBG-Competitive funding source. Anne Phillips showed a pie chart breakdown of all funding sources by project type, most of which went to bike/ped projects.

Lydia Lavelle made a motion to approved the TC-endorsed slate of projects from the FY21-22 Call for Projects. Charlie Reece seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #6
Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

Anne Phillips said this action item is necessary to add the projects approved in action item 11 to the TIP in Amendment #6. Anne Phillips mentioned that per the MPO's Public Involvement Policy, a 21-day public comment period is required because the Durham Belt Line project requested over \$1 million. Anne Phillips pointed out that NCDOT has asked for two projects, I-3306A and I-3306AC, to be fast-tracked to meet an August let date and GoTriangle has asked for the RTC to be added to the TIP to support their efforts to secure federal funding.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to release TIP Amendment #6 for a 21-day public comment period. Lisa Mathis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. SPOT 6.0 Draft Local Input Points Methodology
Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

Anne Phillips reviewed the changes to the Local Input Points Methodology, last adopted in 2018 for Strategic Transportation Prioritization (SPOT) 5.0. Anne Phillips asked that any comments on the Methodology revisions be sent to her.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to release the draft Methodology for a 21-day public comment period. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. FY21 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #3
Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager
Tim Schwarzauber, Chapel Hill Transit

Aaron Cain introduced Tim Schwarzauber, the grants compliance manager of Chapel Hill Transit. Tim Schwarzauber mentioned that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires the grant to be included in the UPWP in order to release the funding.

Vice Chair Jenn Weaver made a motion to approve FY21 UPWP Amendment #3. Jamezetta Bedford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

15. Report from the MPO Board Chair

Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair

Chair Wendy Jacobs mentioned an article speculating long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on work schedules, which in turn affect transit demand and ridership.

16. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann acknowledged previous comments on SWG processes and will follow up with SWG members and MPO staff. Ellen Beckmann mentioned the funding for the Durham portion of the Durham/Orange Transit Governance Study will be brought before the GoTriangle Board in May for approval.

17. Report from LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager

Felix Nwoko introduced a new MPO staff member, Mariel Klein, who will be the MPO's financial administrator.

18. NCDOT Reports

Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

Lisa Mathis gave an update on last month's NCBOT meeting and said NCDOT is hoping to gain a better understanding over the next few months of the impact of project cost increases and scope changes on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Lisa Mathis shared statistics on recent litter collection efforts.

Brandon Jones (David Keilson/Richard Hancock), Division 5 - NCDOT

268 David Keilson said Alston Avenue has reopened to through traffic and the Holloway
269 Street/Alston Avenue intersection is expected to reopen in mid-June. David Keilson said the East End
270 Connector will likely open in late summer or fall.

271 **Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT**

272 Pat Wilson had no additional report.

273 **Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT**

274 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

275 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT**

276 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

277 **John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

278 There was no additional report.

279 **Bryan Lopez, Integrated Mobility Division-NCDOT**

280 There was no additional report.

281 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

282 **19. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

283 There was no discussion on informational items.

284 **ADJOURNMENT:**

285 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at

286 11:18 a.m.