

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**March 9, 2022**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on March 9, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

Jenn Weaver (Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Karen Howard (Vice Chair)	Chatham County
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Leonardo Williams (Member)	City of Durham
Javiera Caballero (Member)	City of Durham
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Sally Greene (Alternate)	Orange County
Lisa Mathis (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Craig Benedict	Orange County
Theo Letman	Orange County
Tom Altieri	Orange County
Josh Mayo	Chapel Hill Planning
Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
Brandon Dawson	Chatham County Planning
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Brian Taylor	City of Durham
Lynwood Best	City of Durham
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Tom Devlin	City of Durham
Evian Patterson	City of Durham
Tasha Johnson	City of Durham
John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Government
Matt Day	Triangle J Council of Government
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Travis Crayton	Research Triangle Foundation
Cha'ssem Anderson	University of North Carolina
Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration

42	David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
43	Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5
44	Bob Deaton	NCDOT Division 5
45	Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
46	Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
47	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
48	Jeron Monroe	NCDOT Division 8
49	Julie Bogle	NCDOT TPD
50	Nick Morrison	NCDOT IMD
51	Chuck Lattuca	GoTriangle
52	DeDreana Freeman	Council Member, City of Durham
53	Caroline Dwyer	Renaissance Planning
54	Chris Lukasina	CAMPO
55	Joe Milazzo	Regional Transportation Alliance
56	Scott Thomas	Resident
57	Heidi Perov	Resident
58		
59	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
60	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
61	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO/City of Durham
62	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
63	Jeohoon Kim	DCHC MPO
64	Kayla Peloquin	DCHC MPO
65	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO

66 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

67 **1. Roll Call**

68 Chair Jenn Weaver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate  
 69 Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated above.

70 **PRELIMINARIES:**

71 **2. Ethics Reminder**

72 Chair Jenn Weaver pointed out the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known  
 73 conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there  
 74 were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts  
 75 identified by MPO Board Members. Chair Jenn Weaver reminded Board Members of the state ethics  
 76 filings due by April 15, 2022.

77 **3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

78 There were no adjustments to the agenda.

79 **4. Public Comments**

80 There were no public comments.

81 **5. Directives to Staff**

82 Chair Jenn Weaver pointed out the updated directives to staff.

83 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

84 **6. Approval of the February 9, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes**

85 Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff

86 **7. CTP Amendment #4**

87 Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff

88 **8. FY23 RFF Call for Projects**

89 Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

90 **9. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #10**

91 Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff

92 **10. City of Durham RAISE Grant Letter of Support**

93 Evian Patterson, City of Durham

94 Wendy Jacobs asked for more information on the City of Durham Rebuilding American  
 95 Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application. Evian Patterson said the  
 96 application asks for \$20 million for construction of the Holloway Street Transit Emphasis Corridor (TEC)  
 97 after the planning phase is complete. Evian Patterson said this TEC will benefit historically disadvantaged  
 98 communities and provide more multimodal options. Wendy Jacobs said this application is a great way to  
 99 build on the Holloway Street TEC work that is already funded by the transit tax.

100 Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Damon Seils seconded the  
 101 motion. The motion passed unanimously.

102 **ACTION ITEMS:**

103 **11. FY2023 Final Unified Planning Work Program**

**104 Mariel Klein, LPA Staff**

105 Mariel Klein reviewed the memo outlining changes that have been made to the FY23 Unified  
106 Planning Work Program (UPWP), such as the addition of three new staff positions. Mariel Klein said page  
107 13 was added to detail Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) planning emphasis areas and  
108 corresponding task codes. Mariel Klein said the special studies line item was revised and moved into the  
109 main table. Mariel Klein said the US 70 Corridor Study allocation has been revised to \$300,000. Mariel  
110 Klein said after all changes were taken into the account, the local match cost shares were recalculated.

111 Wendy Jacobs thanked Mariel Klein for making the UPWP easier to read and understand. Wendy  
112 Jacobs asked about the timeline for the Durham Freeway plan that is funded at \$450,000 to be  
113 completed after FY23, and said this project could be suitable for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot  
114 Program through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Wendy Jacobs asked how the Durham Freeway  
115 plan can be accelerated to take advantage of the program. Aaron Cain said speeding up the timeline  
116 would be difficult because the MPO does not have access to the necessary funds until July 2022. Aaron  
117 Cain noted that equitable community engagement takes time and resources, and the MPO does not  
118 want to rush the project through while neglecting community engagement. Evian Patterson said he has  
119 already reached out to community partners and everyone is eager to move the study along, however it  
120 does take time to ensure the study is community led. Wendy Jacobs agreed and said she is glad to hear  
121 of early preparations to apply for federal funding. Wendy Jacobs asked why some of the ongoing studies  
122 are not listed in the FY23 UPWP, and Aaron Cain said those are funded out of the FY22 UPWP.

123 Damon Seils made a motion to approve the final FY2023 UPWP, including approval of the self-  
124 certification process and local match. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed  
125 unanimously.

**126 12. Orange County Transit Plan Update****127 Caroline Dwyer, Renaissance Planning**

Caroline Dwyer reviewed the project timeline for the Orange County Transit Plan update with outreach and engagement occurring throughout the development process. Caroline Dwyer stated the draft recommendations of five service improvement projects and two capital projects selected through a prioritization process with consideration of projected transit tax revenues. Caroline Dwyer provided more detail on the recommended service expansions and capital projects. Caroline Dwyer shared a conceptual transit vision map that demonstrates anticipated priorities throughout the region. Caroline Dwyer described public engagement efforts including virtual focus groups, online surveys, and in-person transit stop surveys. Caroline Dwyer said the most recent survey received over 1,000 responses over a diverse geographic distribution and further analysis will be available on the website soon. Caroline Dwyer said the final transit plan is being put together and is slated for adoption in April or May of 2022.

Chair Jenn Weaver thanked all partners who have worked on the transit plan and asked for more information on the mobility on demand project. Caroline Dwyer said the service will become available five days per week. Sally Greene expressed thanks for all of the hard work on the Orange County Transit Plan. Damon Seils noted that many of the Board members in Orange County are on the Transit Plan Steering Committee, and it is great to see the presentation brought to the full MPO Board. Wendy Jacobs asked if regional plans for US 15-501 are being coordinated with Durham, and Caroline Dwyer confirmed that DCHC MPO, GoTriangle, and Durham have been involved in those discussions. There was a discussion on alignment with other regional plans and the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Theo Letman pointed out the mobility on demand will be six days per week in the evenings and all day on Saturdays. Chair Jenn Weaver said it is useful to have lists of needed but unfunded projects that can be used to advocate for more funding.

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

**13. Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Update**  
**Chuck Lattuca, President/CEO, GoTriangle**

152 Chuck Lattuca shared information on commuter patterns in Durham County compared to Wake  
153 and Johnston Counties prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chuck Lattuca described Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)  
154 and commuter rail as complimentary, not competing investments. Chuck Lattuca shared more detail on  
155 the commuter rail study area and stations that has been ongoing for almost two years with local,  
156 regional, and state partners. Chuck Lattuca mentioned some of the lessons learned through the  
157 suspension of the former Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project. Chuck Lattuca described  
158 the positive impacts on affordable housing that commuter rail would provide. Chuck Lattuca provided  
159 detailed information on various public engagement methods and results. Chuck Lattuca stated the next  
160 steps that can occur when the study is complete, with construction optimistically beginning in 2025 and  
161 service beginning in 2030 if all jurisdictions support the plan.

162 Wendy Jacobs expressed appreciation for the big picture, systems thinking approach to the  
163 study. Wendy Jacobs said it is important that the public understand that all multimodal opportunities  
164 are necessary, and that funding presents a major challenge. Wendy Jacobs asked if there are discussions  
165 on doing more in-person engagement as the pandemic seems to be winding down. Chuck Lattuca said  
166 study findings can be shared with the public in May or June 2022. Vice Chair Karen Howard asked if the  
167 study takes the rapid growth in Chatham County into account, and Chuck Lattuca said there is certainly a  
168 need to plan for Chatham County as they grow. Javiera Caballero emphasized that there need to be  
169 multiple modes of transit available to solve broader issues and prepare for more people moving to the  
170 region. Javiera Caballero emphasized the need for state involvement to accomplish these goals. Chuck  
171 Lattuca compared the three legs of a stool to BRT, commuter rail, and local bus, each with a significant  
172 role to allow the stool to stand.

173 Leonardo Williams said he is cautious about the financial expenditures for the necessary but  
174 financially ambitious commuter rail project. Leonardo Williams asked what lessons can be learned from  
175 the suspension of D-O LRT after spending \$160 million on the project and not knowing exactly where the

money went. Chuck Lattuca said there is now a better understanding of the construction issues facing D-O LRT, and for commuter rail, there has been great cooperation with the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) and Norfolk Southern. Chuck Lattuca said work is underway to put together a detailed description of how the \$160 million was spent. Chuck Lattuca added that the funding contributions from Durham will come from the transit plan and half cent sales tax. Michael Parker said that although the cost of commuter rail will be very high, it does not compare to what is being spent on widening and building new highways. Michael Parker said this comparison provides perspective that the state does have a large dollar amount to spend on transportation but are allocating the vast majority of it to highway projects.

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

**14. Durham County Transit Plan Update**

**Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transportation Manager**

**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

Ellen Beckmann said this presentation will focus on the financial metrics of the Durham County Transit Plan and a more project based presentation can be scheduled in the next couple months. Ellen Beckmann described the timeline for the development of the recommended transit plan that is scheduled to be released for public comment in May 2022, with final adoption in the fall. Ellen Beckmann said the recommended transit plan was developed in close coordination with GoTriangle and many other partners. Ellen Beckmann described the current status of Durham Transit Plan financial policies and modeling, and the efforts to change the Interlocal Implementation Agreement (ILA) through the transit plan governance study. Ellen Beckmann said the transit plan governance study recommends that Durham County have a stronger role in financial management of the transit plan.

Ellen Beckmann described key assumptions of the financial model and certain components that are being aligned with Wake County. Ellen Beckmann said bus operating costs have not been well documented and should only include the direct costs to operate the services. Ellen Beckmann stated the

administrative costs in the FY22 work program and the requests for the FY23 work program. Ellen Beckmann reviewed the commuter rail cost-share, of which Durham has a 10% share of the total, or 20% of the non-federal costs. Ellen Beckmann said the Durham County Transit Plan recommends continuing this cost-share in order to leave enough funding for Durham to be responsive to the public input that saw the strongest desire for local bus service. Ellen Beckmann stated the upcoming schedule for development of the final Durham County Transit Plan that should be approved in August 2022.

Damon Seils thanked Ellen Beckmann for the presentation and said he looks forward to the Orange County Transit Plan getting to this stage of development. Wendy Jacobs said there was no transportation staff in Durham County during the planning of the D-O LRT project, so having Ellen Beckmann with Durham County is very beneficial. Wendy Jacobs said she would like for the Durham Board of County Commissioners to receive a presentation on the Better Bus Project and TECs that will be funded by the transit tax. Wendy Jacobs asked if any steps are being taken to address the 13% non-federal funding gap. Ellen Beckmann said she is working with GoTriangle and more specifics are not yet available, although hopefully there will be more opportunities for federal funding through the BIL. Wendy Jacobs said there needs to be more investment in commuter rail from the Durham County Transit Plan, and Ellen Beckmann said that because railroad infrastructure is very permanent, how the regional will change over the next 100 years and the adaptability of the railroad should be considered.

Leonardo Williams thanked Ellen Beckmann for the perspective derived from the financial information, but cautioned that commuter rail is a very expensive investment that is not a direct reflection of the priorities of the community. Leonardo Williams said he is interested in looking for other ways to fill the funding gap and that all stakeholders need to be brought to this discussion. Javiera Caballero agreed with Leonardo Williams and added that the City of Durham cannot deliver for its residents without proper funding.

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



**15. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Updates**

**Yanping Zhang, LPA Staff**

**Jaehoon Kim, LPA Staff**

Yanping Zhang provided an update on the Congestion Management Process (CMP), a federal requirement to provide up to date performance measures of the transportation system to inform development of strategies for congestion mitigation. Yanping Zhang described the various development cycles, the eight steps of the CMP, and how the CMP integrates with the planning process. Yanping Zhang described traffic count data, travel time and speed data, crash data, transit data, and other related data. Yanping Zhang reviewed the upcoming schedule for the development of the CMP Work Plan culminating in the final CMP report due by the end of June 2023. Yanping Zhang provided updates on system measures including Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) and transit ridership as well as mobility measures such as travel time reliability. Yanping Zhang pointed out the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the data trends for the past several years.

Chair Jenn Weaver thanked Yanping Zhang for the presentation and asked if the MPO will transition to a two-year cycle. Yanping Zhang said the MPO will continue the four-year development cycle but will provide performance measure updates annually.

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

**REPORTS:**

**16. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

**Jenn Weaver, Board Chair**

Chair Jenn Weaver asked what Board members think about an in-person Board meeting in April. Aaron Cain said the City Hall committee room is not well set up for a hybrid meeting and using the council chambers would be difficult as well. Aaron Cain said the Durham County Library may have a suitable room and staff is investigating. Aaron Cain said once the state of emergency is lifted, Board members need to be in person in order to vote per state law. Javiera Caballero suggested looking into creative options such as alternating in-person and remote meetings given the issues of climate change,

congestion, and commuting. Aaron Cain said he will gather more information from the MPO bylaws and state laws. Chair Jenn Weaver said information will be sent out on meeting arrangements prior to the next Board meeting. Chair Jenn Weaver said the executive search committee for the new director will meet next week for primary candidate screening.

**17. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**  
**Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

Ellen Beckmann said the transit plans governance study workshop was held in-person last week and went very well. Ellen Beckmann said a meeting summary from the workshop is being finalized, and an update can be given next month. Ellen Beckmann acknowledged the MPO Board and staff for actions taken over the last few months that have resulted in positive press regarding the 2050 MTP adoption. Ellen Beckmann said the Complete Streets discussions are also receiving positive attention.

**18. Report from LPA Staff**

Aaron Cain introduced Kayla Peloquin as the new transportation planner and said Jake Ford will be leaving the MPO.

**19. NCDOT Reports**  
**Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

There was no report.

**Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT**

Tracy Parrott said he anticipates the draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to be released in April 2022. Tracy Parrott discussed contributing factors to the funding shortfall and how projects are being prioritized for the limited funding. Tracy Parrott said NCDOT will release trainings and communicate with the MPO on the flexibility option for swapping projects in the draft STIP. Tracy Parrott provided a few project updates.

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

Pat Wilson had no additional report. Michael Parker asked if there is a tentative start date for the Franklin Street repaving. Pat Wilson said the project will tentatively begin in May. Michael Parker asked if work will occur at night, and Pat Wilson said that is likely and he will follow up with more details.

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

There was no report.

**Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT**

Julie Bogle had no additional report.

**John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

There was no report.

**Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT**

Nick Morrison said recorded training sessions are available on the Complete Streets Connect website. Nick Morrison said the FY23 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) call for projects opened February 16 and applications are due March 18. Nick Morrison said NCDOT is updating the NC bicycle route system and a public input map is available to submit feedback through March 14.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**20. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

There was no discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.