

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

12 December 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on December 12, 2018, 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:

Damon Seils (MPO Board Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Wendy Jacobs (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Durham County
Michael Parker (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Renee Price (Member)	Orange County
Steve Schewel (Alternate)	City of Durham
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	GoTriangle
Karen Howard (Member)	Chatham County
Pam Hemminger (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Heidi Carter (Alternate)	Durham County
Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Mike Fox (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
Richard Hancock	NCDOT, Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT, Division 8
Kathryn Vollner	NCDOT, Division 8
Zach Hallock	Town of Carrboro
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson	Town of Chapel Hill
Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
Geoff Green	GoTriangle
Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
Evan Tenenbaum	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County/TC Vice Chair
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Robert Jahn	DCHC MPO
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham Transportation / TC Chair
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Bill Judge	City of Durham Transportation
Eddie Dancausse	FHWA
Jenny Halsey	TJCOG
Lyndsay Gavin	TJCOG
Drew Joyner	AECOM

Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

Chair Damon Seils called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified and are indicated above. Chair Damon Seils reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated. Chair Damon Seils introduced and welcomed Mark Bell from the Town of Hillsborough and Chairman Mike Fox from the Board of Transportation to the MPO Board Meeting. Chair Damon Seils also announced that Michael Parker would now be the voting member for the Town of Chapel Hill and Pam Hemminger would be the alternate.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. Ethics Reminder

Chair Damon Seils read the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts identified by the MPO Board members.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Directives to Staff

The Directives to Staff were included in the agenda packet for review.

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. November 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

7. Performance Management Agreement on Data Sharing

Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO

Julie Bogle, NCDOT

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve the November 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes and the Performance Management Agreement on Data Sharing. Mike Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. 2019 MPO Board and Technical Committee Meeting Schedule
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

There was discussion about changing the date and time of the January MPO Board Meeting due to the North Carolina Transportation Summit occurring on the same day. Renee Price requested that the MPO Board be provided with registration information. It was decided that the meeting will be held at 1pm on January 16. It was later decided that the January MPO Board meeting would be held in City Council Chambers at Durham City Hall.

Michael Parker made a motion to approve the meeting schedule with the change of date and time for the January DCHC MPO Board Meeting to January 16, 2019; at 1pm. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. Update on US 70 Improvements
Elmo Vance, NCDOT
Mark Pierce, RK&K
Drew Joyner, AECOM

Aaron Cain stated that representatives of the US 70 Improvement project would update the MPO Board. Elmo Vance stated that the purpose of the project was to convert US 70 into a freeway from the East End Connector in Durham County to I-540 in Wake County. Elmo Vance continued that speakers representing U-5518 and U-5720 will brief the MPO Board on their respective projects along US 70.

Drew Joyner stated that U-5518 represents the portion of US 70 that exists just north of I-540 to slightly south of Page Road. Drew Joyner noted that there were various public input meetings and joint meetings with adjoining projects. Drew Joyner noted that U-5518 is split into three sections. Drew

Joyner stated that by early 2019 the project will be advertised by NCDOT as a design-build project, and then in summer 2019 a design-build project team will be selected. Drew Joyner stated that there are three different design alternatives under consideration, known as Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 2 Revised. Renee Price asked if the Brier Creek area is a high crash area. Drew Joyner affirmed that Brier Creek is an area of high accidents, and extensive redesign elements are being considered, including controlled access and an interchange. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Drew Joyner discussed that there will be multiuse paths and sidewalks across US 70, but not along it. Michael Parker asked if the plan included accommodations for potential future mass transit. Drew Joyner responded that the scope of the plan did not include study of mass transit.

Mark Pierce stated that U-5720 is the portion of US 70 from Lynn Road to TW Alexander Drive, and he will present two different concept design options; the northern widening alternative and the southern widening alternative. Tony Houser, of RK&K, explained that it is not feasible to widen US 70 on its current alignment due to the vertical curvature of the existing road. Tony Houser stated that, with the northern alternative, there are various changes that need to be made, including but not limited to: interchange reconfigurations; increased and improved signalization; and road realignment. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Tony Houser discussed that a new facility would be constructed next to the existing US 70 with either alternative. Tony Houser added that the existing US 70 could be used as a service road with pedestrian facilities. Tony Houser stated that there are options for the best use of that section of US 70, and input should be provided by community leadership. Tony Houser stated that there is vacant land surrounding US 70. Tony Houser stated that the only access to US 70 in this section will be at only one interchange. Ellen Reckhow reminded the MPO Board that the US 70 project was originally started to address the needs of a growing population that required an alternative to I-40. Tony Houser stated that there are design elements, such as farm land, that needed to be considered from public comments. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs stated that the Leesville Road area near US 70 is under development and the

community of Carolina Arbors is growing. Ellen Beckmann stated that a lift station is planned to open in 2021 near to that area. Tony Houser stated that in the southern alternative, the plan calls for US 70 to travel over Pleasant Drive, whereas in the northern alternative, Pleasant Drive travels over US 70. Tony Houser added that the southern alternative leads to a traffic control issue during construction. Tony Houser added that Mineral Springs Road would be realigned, which would cause issues for that area. Ellen Beckmann proposed different design alternatives for Mineral Springs Road and environs. Andy Henry added that the East End Connector project progressed with unspecified knowledge about the US 70 improvements. Mark Pierce noted that the DCHC MPO and Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) staff will be briefed on public comments to the presented alternatives on January 16. It was discussed that Felix Nwoko would be the signatory for the DCHC MPO. It was further discussed that there is no official role for the MPO Board, but Felix Nwoko will act in the MPO Board's interest. Ellen Reckhow requested that NCDOT keep the MPO Board apprised of ongoing development. There was no action required by the MPO Board.

10. Triangle Transportation Demand Management Program
Jenny Halsey, TJCOG

Jenny Halsey stated that the Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program has been operating for 10 years. Jenny Halsey stated that North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) updated their TDM plan, and Triangle J Council of Government (TJCOG) plans to make updates to their TDM Program accordingly. Jenny Halsey explained that TJCOG applies for funds each year through NCDOT, and every two years through CAMPO and DCHC. Jenny Halsey stated that TJCOG administers a competitive grant program to regional and local service providers, as well as monitors and evaluates the program effectiveness. Jenny Halsey stated that TJCOG designated hotspots throughout the region, which are areas of high trip density and the areas for best TDM opportunities. Jenny Halsey stated that grant applicants describe which hotspot they will cover during the application process. Jenny Halsey stated that the services of the grant recipients cover education and outreach.

Jenny Halsey stated that the grant recipients are required to make a 50% match. Jenny Halsey also stated that surveys are a part of the monitoring and evaluation process, and they are given to grant recipients to then distribute to employees and students. Jenny Halsey stated that survey questions include mode of transportation to and from either work or school and reasons for their chosen mode of transportation, as well as changes that could be implemented to change their travel behavior.

Jenny Halsey stated that the result of the FY17 Triangle TDM Program was that 5.7M (Million) vehicle trips were avoided, and 51M pounds of carbon dioxide were prevented from entering the atmosphere. Michael Parker and Lyndsey Gavin, TJCOG, discussed using a denominator for the Triangle TDM Program, such as the total number of vehicle trips overall in the Triangle. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Jenny Halsey discussed that the strategy for outreach and to grow the Triangle TDM Program is up to the discretion of the grant recipients. Michael Parker asked if changing work hours would be discussed as part of the Triangle TDM Program. Jenny Halsey responded that changing work hours is currently a strategy employed by grant recipients. Chair Damon Seils contrasted the high cost of building new highways to the relative low cost of \$0.5M of the Triangle TDM Program. Chair Damon Seils also suggested having a yearly Triangle TDM Program update presented to the MPO Board.

Ellen Reckhow, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Jenny Halsey discussed the status of Durham County as not currently being a grant recipient from the Triangle TDM Program, although Durham County may already have a TDM program in place. They planned to follow-up after the meeting.

This item is for informational purposes only, no action is necessary.

11. Discussion of Items from Joint DCHC-CAMPO Board Meeting

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG

Aaron Cain stated that the Board directed staff from the MPO and TJCOG to make edits to the two policy sheets, Active Transportation and Transportation Demand Management (TDM)/Technology, which were based on comments received from MPO Board members. Aaron Cain discussed making the

language friendlier to individuals unfamiliar with transportation specifics. Chair Damon Seils stated that legislative delegation meetings are scheduled for January 2019, and he added that having policy sheets would be helpful to distribute among legislators. Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs and Ellen Reckhow discussed the need for language advocating for allowance for funding of multiuse paths. Renee Price requested adding language to include Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPO). There was discussion about what audience this policy document hoped to reach and the formatting of information therein. There was a nonverbal consensus among attendees of allowing for MPO staff to make edits and then sending the revised document to MPO Board Members. Chair Damon Seils stated that it is useful for the DCHC MPO to be applicable to different audiences and that the document is able to be changed over time as needed.

No action is required for this item, it is for informational and discussion purposes only.

12. Commuter Rail Project Sponsorship
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that, as part of its process for the Durham-Wake Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) project, Wake Transit and CAMPO undertook a formal process to name GoTriangle as the project sponsor for the CRT. Aaron Cain added that a similar memo for the DCHC MPO Board was drafted using the memo adopted by the CAMPO Executive Board in November as a template. Upon the DCHC MPO Board's approval, LPA Manager Felix Nwoko will send a letter to GoTriangle acknowledging their designation of GoTriangle as the project sponsor for the Durham-Wake CRT. The MPO Board requested updates every six months, or as needed.

Michael Parker made a motion to direct staff to draft a letter to GoTriangle approving of their designation as the project sponsor for Durham-Wake CRT. Renee Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Amendment #8 to the FY2018-2027 TIP
Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that Amendment 8 to the FY2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) includes: changes to a bike/ped project in Durham (EB-5514); the flexing of Orange County STBGDA funds to transit (TP-5151); two funding changes at the request of NCDOT (P-5717 and U-5745); and an adjustment to U-4726 to ensure sufficient funding in the correct project number for various bike/ped projects in DCHC. Aaron Cain and Andy Henry added that funding for the sub-projects in U-4726 have previously been approved.

Michael Parker made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve Amendment 8 to the FY2018-2027 TIP. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Election of Officers for the DCHC MPO Board

Damon Seils, Chair, DCHC MPO Board

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Mark Marcoplos read the decision from the nominating committee that recommended Damon Seils to remain as the Chair and Wendy Jacobs to remain as the Vice Chair of the DCHC MPO Board.

Michael Parker made a motion to re-elect Damon Seils as he Chair and Wendy Jacobs as the Vice Chair for the 2019 term of the DCHC MPO Board. Ellen Reckhow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

15. Report from the Board Chair

Damon Seils, Board Chair

Chair Damon Seils reiterated Mike Fox's invitation to attend the North Carolina Transportation Summit on January 9-10 at the Raleigh Convention Center.

16. Report from the Technical Committee Chair

Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann stated that there were several public meetings for projects in Durham, including: Cornwallis Road grade separation project, Fayetteville Road widening, Hillandale Road

bike/ped project, Carpenter Road/Fletcher Road bike/ped project, NC 54 sidewalk, and the Durham wayfinding project. Ellen Beckmann also stated that her term as TC Chair will end, and the Chair and Vice Chair will be elected in January 2019.

17. Report from LPA Staff
Andy Henry, LPA Staff

Andy Henry reported that the comment period for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report will end on January 8, 2019, and the MPO Board will be able to adopt it at their next meeting on January 16.

18. NCDOT Report

David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, discussed that the on-ramp from Highway 98 to US 70 West is now open. David Keilson discussed the Alston Avenue project updates, including two road closures along Alston Avenue for six month periods each. David Keilson stated that the Chapel Hill Road bike/ped project (EB-4707B) is scheduled to finish in March 2019. David Keilson also stated that the roundabout at Hope Valley Road and University Road is scheduled to be let in January 2019. Ellen Reckhow discussed the unsightliness of certain roundabouts, and Ellen Beckmann stated that she will discuss the roundabout issue at the next TC meeting on January 23.

Patrick Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there were no additional updates. Pam Hemminger and Patrick Wilson discussed ongoing meetings with NCDOT about widening I-40.

Bryan Kluchar, Division 8, stated that there were no additional updates.

There was no comment from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD).

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

17. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

No informational items were discussed.

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ADJOURNMENT:

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

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11:34 a.m.