

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

**TECHICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**May 27, 2015**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on May 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room A1, Audit Services on the first floor of Durham City Hall. The following attended:

David Bonk (TC Vice-Chair)	Town of Chapel Hill
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Ellen Beckman (Member)	City of Durham DOT
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	Durham City/County Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham City/County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham City/County Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
Bret Martin (Member)	Orange County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Patrick McDonough (Member)	Triangle Transit
Julie Bollinger (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kelly Becker (Member)	NCDOT, Traffic Operations
Mila Vega (Alternate)	Chapel Hill Planning
Brandon Jones (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Bergen Watterson (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Durmus Cesur	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO

Vice Chair David Bonk called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Chair Mark Ahrendsen was absent from the meeting as he was called to a Budget Meeting. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO TC were identified. Attendees were asked to sign the attendance roster.

**PRELIMINARIES:**

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

Vice Chair David Bonk asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda.

Felix Nwoko distributed an additional agenda item which was a copy of an official letter from the residents of Downing Creek neighborhood. The letter has to be transmitted to the DCHC MPO Board. Vice Chair David Bonk placed the additional item, letter, at the end of the agenda. The Committee learned from Andy Henry that a new green table was updated and the other documents, TIP and MTP, had minor changes, but still good. Andy Henry noted that the other items are already on the agenda.

Lindsay Smart also distributed the updated material of the Draft TIP that may not have been previously circulated, and a CMAQ handout.

**Public Comments**

Vice Chair David Bonk asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**4. Approval of the April 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair David Bonk asked if there was any discussion on the April 22, 2015, Minutes. There were no comments or proposed amendments to the Minutes. Vice Chair David Bonk asked for a motion to approve the April 22, Minutes. John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the minutes and Hannah Jacobson seconded the motion. Vice Chair David Bonk asked if anyone opposed the motion. No one opposed the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**5. FY2016-2025 TIP Development**

68 **Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

69 Lindsay Smart made a presentation on FY2016-2025 TIP Development and reviewed the  
70 draft for accuracy and provided revisions to MPO LPA staff. The recommendations were that the  
71 MPO Board review the draft FY2016-2015 TIP and approve the TIP for release to the public for  
72 reviews and comments.

73 Lindsay Smart discussed her reasons for the recount for the previous material that was  
74 circulated the week prior. Ellen Beckmann and Brett Martin recognized that the previous material  
75 included all projects from 2012-2018 TIP; as well as the draft content from 2016-2025 TIP. Lindsay  
76 Smart explained that all projects were logged into the system database to be available as needed.  
77 However, an error occurred during the export that she did last week. The export of information,  
78 imported all of the projects. Lindsay Smart provided updated handouts more accurately listed the  
79 projects in the TIP.

80 Lindsay referenced that since the subcommittee last convened to look at the draft TIP, there  
81 have been a couple of changes. To develop the draft TIP, information was collected from the STIP  
82 Supplement which was released in December. Several project updates and a PE/design schedule for  
83 a few of the projects were received from NCDOT. Mike Stanley communicated yesterday; some of  
84 the final scheduled requests to the draft 2016-2025 TIP will not be included in the adoption of the  
85 TIP. Lindsay Smart stated the MPO would be able to amend the TIP beginning in October.

86 Questions were raised from Vice Chair David Bonk on those that only apply to the first four  
87 years or all changes? Could there be any differences between what we adopt and what they adopt  
88 initially? In the last 5 Years?

89 Lindsay Smart replied, differences between the STIP and the TIP could exist in the latter  
90 years. No one has requested any changes to earlier years.

Vice Chair David Bonk explained that he understood that it may be Mike Stanley's position and whatever they want to do for the State TIP is fine. However, Vice Chair David believes the question is what are we adopting as the MTIP? And as far as that goes we need to have language in there that we are comfortable with. If there is a difference, then we could work that out as Mike Stanley suggested in future some time. But for purpose of establishing our position, we need to have our language which is consistent with what we want.

Lindsay Smart agreed and said the changes requested by Chapel Hill would be included in the MPO's TIP.

Ellen Beckmann asked that Lindsay Smart reiterate to the NCDOT that Woodcroft Parkway is not a City of Durham Project. It was explained that the City is not prepared or willing to do that project. Lindsay Smart stated that she would communicate this to the NCDOT.

Ellen Beckmann asked for more information on I-40 managed lanes need more financial information before we say we want it so soon. I'm glad that so many projects are in PE Stage, which means starting sooner.

There were a group discussion of the process for the MTIP and the STIP processes.

After group discussion, Dale McKeel replied that we should tee up the needed amendments for 10/1/15. Andy Henry asked the question; can we approve at September MPO Board Meeting?

Vice Chair David Bonk stated that the state approves STIP in June, and first 4 years of STIP and TIP must match.

Felix Nwoko stated that they need to be in STIP on 10/1/15 so we can do municipal agreements.

John Hodges-Copple said that only the Feds recognize the MTIP. State required first four years of MTIP and STIP match. Vice Chair David Bonk asked why not approve MTIP to match our desired schedule changes? Andy Henry suggested that the TC move forward with the draft MTIP,

and then check what changes might need to be made by the DOT Board and when. Vice Chair David Bonk said to move forward with the public release, then MPO Board adopt in September.

Brett Martin informs the group that the transit projects come out next week. Ellen Beckmann suggested to takeout phrase about "Planning and Environmental studies scheduled to expedite STI project.....". Kumar Neppalli asked what is 5340E? David explained that it is a part of the NC 86 interchange.

Patrick McDonough wanted to know when citizens will get an opportunity to provide feedback to the MPO on project scoping. Downing Creek residents are frustrated with the process. The residents feel they have missed the opportunity to be a part of the changes. Patrick McDonough suggested that the MPO should let the public know more about the scoping of the project. . Vice Chair David Bonk recommended releasing the draft MTIP, as reflected in latest STIP (received from NCDOT) for public comment. It should include a list of projects and issues identified at staff level that the TC recommends changed, present it to the Policy Board for them to release next month (June) for public comment, make changes at August hearing and adopt the TIP in September with all the final changes.

Ellen Beckmann made the motion to recommend the release of the MTIP for public comment at the June Board meeting with a public hearing in August to include changes from staff and then adoption in September with all final changes. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion.

There was a friendly reminder by Dale McKeel to expeditiously make amendments. Brett Martin asked that the projects that will ultimately fall away not be included in the motion. We do not want people to have expectations for projects that will not be included later on in the drat MTIP.

Vice Chair David asked if there were any more questions or comments. No more comments or questions were asked. The motion carried unanimously.

## **6. 2040 metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment**

**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry presented a proposed amendment to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Conformity Determination Report (CDR). The amendment is needed to make sure that the FY2016-2025 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is a subset of the 2040 MTP, which mostly requires a change to the air quality threshold year in the MTP. The CDR documents how the MTIP and MTP meet federal air quality regulations. The action is to recommend that the Board release the 2040 MTP amendment and CDR for a public comment period through July 31st, and conduct a public hearing at the MPO Board's August 12th meeting. The Board can adopt the FY 2016-2025 MTIP, 2040 MTP amendment, and CDR at their September meeting. The public comment period exceeds the MPO's Public Involvement Policy, which requires a 42-day and 30-day comment period for the MTP amendment and CDR, respectively.

Brett Martin suggested combining the two Old NC 86 projects into a single project in the MTP amendment to match the MTIP, and naming the project S Churton Street, which is the more common name. John Hodges-Copple noted that ultimately there are three separate actions for the MPO Board to take: adopt the FY 2016-2025 MTIP; adopt the 2040 MTP amendment; and, approve the CDR. Andy Henry suggested adding the NC 86/15-501 ramp lane addition as a separate project in the MTP amendment to match the MTIP and there was agreement.

Vice Chair David Bonk recommended the MPO Board approve the release of amendment #1 to the MTP and the conformity determination report for public comment. In amendment #1, combine the two old 86 projects into one item.

Bret Martin moved approval of the release of the MTP amendment #1 and CDR for public comment, with the Old NC 86 change. John Hodges-Copple seconded the motion. Vice Chair David Bonk asked if there were any more questions or comments. No more comments or questions were asked. There were no more questions or comments. The motion carried unanimously.

Felix Nwoko briefly discussed the Downing Creek letter to DCHC MPO Board. Patrick McDonough is sending the letter to FTA the first week of June. Downing Creek residents have concerns regarding the light rail safety crossing standards. Also, there is not enough traffic for a grade separation at that location. The MPO Board will act in December meeting at the latest. The MPO is required to do public input. Felix Nwoko said that LPA will discuss what to do. Patrick McDonough stated that the MPO should work hand in hand with GO Triangle. Technical Committee process is also important. Patrick McDonough recited one comment that the property owners have asked; "How many more meetings do I have to go to, to say I don't want the rail line in my parking lot." The public is required to go to so many different meetings to get their voices heard. Patrick McDonough discussed that there is a meeting in September and MPO Board meeting in October. Let the Policy Board know what is going on so that they can factor in all that is going on with new changes and consider the potential for public involvement fatigue on behalf of the public. John Hodges-Copple commented that the Board will not want to vote until they have seen all of the comments, which runs until mid-October. Half of the GO Triangle Board is Wake County Board Members, so they want to see the MPO's action before they vote. No motion was made on this discussion.

The Technical Committee moved on to discussion of CMAQ funding availability. Lindsay Smart started the discussion with review of the original nine priorities that were submitted in 2011, that were reviewed by the Technical Committee and approved by the Board. There were applications submitted for the first eight. At that time there was an estimated amount of CMAQ funding and now the funded amount is less. The DOT has asked us to submit a list of priorities with the new amount. Everyone that was on the original priority list has already contacted the MPO. Ellen Beckmann noted that Durham removed three station areas bike and pedestrian access projects. After Durham has made their decisions, there will be \$281k left in CMAQ. The remainder of the CMAQ discussion was focused allocating the balance of unprogrammed funds to fully fund the two bus replacement projects of GO Durham and Chapel Hill

Transit (per transit agency confirmation of cost estimates and type of bus to be purchased). Also to allocate the remainder to the Carrboro Jones Creek Greenway (pending confirmation by Carrboro that local match will be available).

Vice Chair David Bonk recommended supporting the 2011 priorities and adding Carrboro Jones Creek Greenway project to the list. Motion by John Hodges-Copple, seconded by Bret Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS:**

### **7. Report from Staff**

#### **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko reports that they had a successful Certification Review on Thursday, May 21, 2015, and Friday, May 22, 2015. The Review followed the usual process and had a closeout session. There were no corrective actions (first for the DCHC MPO and very rare nationwide). Meg Scully reported on the recommendations and commendations that were noted by FHWA and FTA during the preliminary report. There were five commendations. They were as followings: (1) Environmental Justice (EJ) Report. (2) Interactive Website & funding database (project tracking) – “very impressive” (3) Great relationship and collaboration between the MPO and transit operators. (4) Increased cooperation with NCDOT (improved from last certification). (5) Statewide and inter-agency coordination on air quality process. There were ten recommendations. They were as follows: (1) Freight Advisory Committee – involve freight community and providers in the MPO planning process. (2) Provide linkage between freight and economic development. Need national attention on freight. (3) Focus on efficient movement of people and Freight - Interstate Highways are important for the movement of people and good –“don’t forget highways.” (4) Engage Environmental Justice (EJ) community leaders. (5) Consider mapping and evaluating specific minority races individually in future EJ reports. (6) Consider including two additional



EJ analyses (performance targets and Benefits/burdens by project types). (7) Make Title VI more conspicuous. (8) MPO and NCDOT work to resolve project selection issues with STI process. (9) Develop an enhanced methodology for measuring the effectiveness of the MPO public involvement. (10) Improve lack of on-going coordination in development of environmental documents.

Felix Nwoko stated that based on the overall findings, the FHWA and FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the DCHC MPO TMA substantially meets the Federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until May 2019.

In summary, the DCHC MPO staff, TC staff members and Board were commended for their commitment in working together to ensure that the products of the transportation planning process are serving the citizens of the urbanized area. Overall, it was a successful review.

## **8. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

**Mark Ahrendsen, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

Vice Chair David Bonk stated that there was nothing to report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair.

## **9. NCDOT Reports:**

**Joey Hopkins (Brandon Jones), Division 5 –NCDOT**

There was no report from the Division 5 – NCDOT.

**Mike Mills (Ed Lewis), Division 7 –NCDOT**

There was no report from the Division 7 - NCDOT

**Rob Stone (Darius Sturdivant), Division 8 – NCDOT**

There was no representation from Division 8- NCDOT and no report.

**Julie Bollinger, Transportation Planning Branch**

The representative left early and there was no report from Transportation Planning Branch.

**Kelly Becker, Traffic Operations**

235 The representative left early and there was no report from Traffic Operation.

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237 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

238 **12. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

239 There was no discussion on any of the recent news, articles or updates.

240 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

242 11:40 a.m.