

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

May 11, 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on May 11, 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
Adam Searing (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Sally Greene (Alternate)	Orange County
Brenda Howerton (Alternate)	Durham County
Lisa Mathis (Alternate)	NC Board of Transportation
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Tom Altieri	Orange County
Josh Mayo	Chapel Hill Planning
Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit
Nick Pittman	Chapel Hill Transit
Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
Brandon Dawson	Chatham County
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Brian Taylor	City of Durham
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Evian Patterson	City of Durham
John Hodges-Copple	Triangle J Council of Government
Matt Day	Triangle J Council of Government
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Brandon Jones	NCDOT Division 5
Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5
Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7

42	Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7
43	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
44	Jeron Monroe	NCDOT Division 8
45	Scott Walston	NCDOT TPD
46	Nick Morrison	NCDOT IMD
47	Brian Mayhew	NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit
48	Brian Murphy	NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit
49	John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit
50	Jacob Rigg	Regional Transportation Alliance
51	Adam Howell	Atkins
52	Kristen Brookshire	Durham Public Schools
53	Keith Chadwell	City of Durham
54	Dave Connelly	Resident
55	Heidi Perov	Resident
56	Edward Harrison	Resident
57	Brian Rhodes	Resident
58	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
59	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO/City of Durham
60	Kayla Peloquin	DCHC MPO
61	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO
62	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
63	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO

64 Quorum Count: 10 of 10 Voting Members

65 **1. Roll Call**

66 Chair Jenn Weaver called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate

67 Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated above.

68 Damon Seils made a motion that the Board Members enter a closed session to discuss a personnel

69 matter. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

70 After the closed session, the Board Members re-entered the general Board meeting and it was

71 determined that a quorum was present.

72 **PRELIMINARIES:**

73 **2. Ethics Reminder**

Chair Jenn Weaver pointed out 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 MPO Board Members.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

Aaron Cain said two items will be added to the consent agenda, the first is a letter of support for the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) Connected Region grant and the second is a letter of support for the City of Durham 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities grant.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Directives to Staff

Chair Jenn Weaver said the directive regarding a safety plan will be discussed at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. Approval of the April 13, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff

6A. TJCOG Letter of Support for Connected Region Project

Lee Worsley, TJCOG

6B. City of Durham Letter of Support for 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities Program

Evian Patterson, City of Durham

Aaron Cain noted a minor change to the April 13, 2022 minutes suggested by Wendy Jacobs.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the amended consent agenda. Karen Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. Triangle Bikeway Study

Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

Dale McKeel said a presentation was given on the Triangle Bikeway in April 2022 and the public comments received so far are included in the attachments. Dale McKeel noted that Wake County has submitted a request for Congressional Community Project Funding to begin design of the bikeway from Raleigh to the Research Triangle Park, and the MPO sent a letter of support for that application.

Chair Jenn Weaver opened the public hearing. There were no requests to speak. Chair Jenn Weaver closed the public hearing.

Wendy Jacobs asked how the public comments will be followed-up on. Dale McKeel said all public comments and responses will be included in the agenda packet next month and comments will be forwarded to the Triangle Bikeway Advisory Committee as well.

8. Durham and Orange Transit Governance Study Update
Adam Howell, Atkins

Adam Howell introduced the Durham and Orange Counties Transit Plan Governance Study that aims to determine an operationally efficient governance structure and form new levels of accountability. Adam Howell summarized the study process, including several iterations of interviews, workshops, and alternatives development. Adam Howell described the existing membership and voting structures of the Staff Working Groups (SWGs), and how consensus was achieved at the workshops. Adam Howell said that although the signatories to the Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) will remain the same, there is a recommendation to extend invitations to additional voting and non-voting members to participate in the SWGs. Adam Howell said consensus was reached on the multi-year vision plan and the annual work programs, however the membership and associated voting structures require further refinement.

Michael Parker stated the following: 1) it would be helpful to understand what the enabling legislation requires and what cannot be changed, 2) asked how the decision will be made between the two different voting structures proposed for Orange County, and 3) asked if there is any guidance in the study on reporting information back to the counties on the Tax District Administration (TDA). Adam Howell responded that 1) he will work with Aaron Cain to distribute more information on what the

enabling legislation does and does not allow, 2) a draft ILA with two alternative sections on voting structure will be presented for Orange County and legal counsel to make a decision on, and 3) there are already fairly detailed reporting requirements built into the ILA and additional guidance may be added. Michael Parker asked what the timeline is for wrapping up the study. Adam Howell said that June 30, 2022 has been proposed as an initial deadline for the ILA, although negotiations may require more time.

Javiera Caballero stated that the recommendations for Orange County are more in line with what the City of Durham was anticipating in terms of full participation and voting on the SWG. Javiera Caballero stated she would not vote to approve the current recommendation that gives the City of Durham one vote on the SWG. Javiera Caballero asked why the City of Durham is not a party to the ILA, and expressed concern that the City of Durham will not be a full partner for the upcoming decisions that need to be made regarding commuter rail, similar to when the Durham-Orange light rail project was being planned. Adam Howell said that in other counties, the votes are allocated differently due to the higher volume of jurisdictions within that county. Adam Howell recognized that the City of Durham bears responsibility in implementing elements of the transit plan, although all three signatories to the ILA have already agreed that it was fair for the City of Durham to get one vote as they currently do not have a vote.

Wendy Jacobs said the Durham County Board of Commissioners received this presentation at a recent work session and there was support for the recommendations in the study that are anticipated to improve accountability, transparency, and clarity. Wendy Jacobs highlighted what Michael Parker said about reporting back to governing bodies and added the need to report to residents as well. Javiera Caballero asked if there are limits in the enabling legislation that do not allow the City of Durham to be a full partner. Aaron Cain said the MPO is not opposed to the City of Durham having equal voting membership on the SWG, but the other two ILA signatories were opposed. Aaron Cain said he is able to

facilitate a conversation between the City of Durham and Durham County elected officials on these topics. Chair Jenn Weaver said that is a great idea and hopes all of these issues can be worked out.

Jamezetta Bedford said the Orange County Board of Commissioners received this presentation recently and the commissioners all prefer the first alternatives that includes the towns and transit operators as voting members on the SWG to improve collaboration. Leonardo Williams agreed with Javiera Caballero. There was a discussion on the tight timeline for when this meeting amongst elected officials needs to occur prior to the May 26, 2022 SWG meeting. Chair Jenn Weaver thanked Adam Howell and the Atkins team for all of their work on the Governance Study.

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

9. FY23 Durham and Orange Transit Work Programs and Material Changes to the Durham County Transit Plan

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Aaron Cain shared the purpose of the FY23 Transit Work Programs that serve as an annual budget for the county transit tax funds and reviewed the transit improvements that are already being implemented, as well as new projects slated for FY23 in Durham and Orange counties. Aaron Cain discussed the proposed budget for each county. Aaron Cain said the public comment period is coming to an end and all comments will be available soon. Aaron Cain stated the proposed material changes to the Durham Transit Plan, which must be approved by all three current ILA signatories. Aaron Cain stated the next steps for the FY23 Work Programs and consideration of approval of the material changes to the Durham Transit Plan.

Michael Parker asked what defines a material change. Aaron Cain said the current ILA defines a material change for bus service as a change of \$300,000 in Orange County and \$500,000 in Durham County from the adopted Transit Plan. Wendy Jacobs said this discussion highlights the importance of the Governance Study because the work programs are only approved by the GoTriangle Board of Trustees and the study recommends changing that. There was a discussion on the main points of

contention between the City of Durham and Durham County that were outlined in a memo endorsed by the Durham County Board of Commissioners. Ellen Beckmann provided more details on the issues and said the overall point of the memo is that the City of Durham and Durham County should meet to discuss a funding agreement. Aaron Cain outlined the rest of the schedule for the FY23 Work Programs. There was a discussion on the bus speed and reliability improvements. There was consensus that the joint City of Durham and Durham County meeting should be scheduled as soon as possible, ideally prior to the May 26, 2022 SWG meetings.

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

10. Roadway Safety

Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

Brian Mayhew, NCDOT

Brian Murphy, NCDOT

John Grant, NCDOT

Dale McKeel introduced Brian Murphy, Brian Mayhew, and John Grant with the Traffic Safety Unit of NCDOT. Brian Mayhew introduced the safety data trends and performance measures as well as the NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan that aims to reduce all fatalities and serious injuries by half by 2035 and move towards zero by 2050. Brian Mayhew shared graphs of population, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), fatalities and serious injuries for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and reported crashes statewide. Brian Mayhew described the trends and stated that fatalities have been trending upwards since 2011.

Brian Murphy discussed the same performance measures for the DCHC MPO region compared to statewide trends. Brian Murphy reviewed the fatalities and serious injuries that involve an unbelted person in a vehicle, and said he is concerned at that increasing trend. Brian Murphy shared a breakdown of fatalities by municipality and rural areas within DCHC MPO. Brian Murphy shared background information on the requirements for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and how the targets were developed. Brian Murphy said the targets are up to each state and MPO, and while most

198 MPOs adopt the state methodology, an MPO can develop their own targets. Brian Murphy said the
199 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assesses the safety performance measures and determines
200 whether a state DOT has met the targets or not. Brian Murphy said FHWA assessed that NC has not met
201 or made significant progress toward achieving its safety performance targets in 2021. Brian Murphy
202 shared various traffic safety data dashboards available online.

203 Brian Mayhew presented the NCDOT safety and mobility programs that contain three project
204 funding sources and how they are evaluated through a cost-benefit ratio. Brian Mayhew discussed the
205 pedestrian safety corridor study process on NC 54 in Chapel Hill and Carrboro that was used to develop
206 recommendations. John Grant described one successful operations project along NC 98 (Holloway
207 Street) that had high crash rates, and the recommendations were to limit access at one intersection and
208 signalize a different intersection.

209 Chair Jenn Weaver said the MPO is continually investigating ways to make significant changes to
210 meet its safety goals. Damon Seils said there were great examples in the presentation of how data has
211 been used to inform funding decisions and said he is interested in discussing a more systemic approach
212 for avoiding fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways and how the MPO and NCDOT can plan
213 ahead to meet the safety standards. Wendy Jacobs agreed with Damon Seils and said the data is
214 alarming. Wendy Jacobs asked what caused the decline in fatalities from 2007-2011. Wendy Jacobs said
215 she would like to further discuss how to address this crisis. Wendy Jacobs said the Safe Streets for All
216 program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) presents some opportunities. Wendy Jacobs asked if
217 there is data available on how the MPO ranks nationally for fatalities and serious injuries.

218 Brian Mayhew said this is a complex area of study that doesn't necessarily have direct
219 correlations, and the 2007-2011 downward trend of fatalities and serious injuries was likely due to the
220 recession. Brian Mayhew said there is increased attention at the federal level on improving design
221 standards. Lisa Mathis asked if there is data to the number of cell phones used that are leading to

distracted driving and walking. Brian Mayhew said that although there is no granular data, people are using cell phones continuously while driving and our society has become incredibly distracted. Brian Mayhew said that some states have passed rigorous laws on cell phone use while driving, but they are extremely difficult to enforce. Aaron Cain noted an upcoming meeting to coordinate an MPO-wide application to the Safe Streets for All program. Brian Mayhew encouraged the MPO to pursue the grant and said NCDOT is willing to assist with data and other support. Chair Jenn Weaver thanked the presenters for their time and tied this conversation back to the consideration of safety in the development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

11. IJJA Standing Update

Marisel Klein, LPA Staff

12. Draft FY2024-2033 STIP

Kayla Peloquin, LPA Staff

Chair Jenn Weaver encouraged Board members to attend the NCDOT FY2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) webinar on May 17, 2022 hosted by NCDOT. Aaron Cain said MPO staff will provide a presentation to the Technical Committee and MPO Board at the May and June meetings.

REPORTS:

13. Report from the MPO Board Chair

Jenn Weaver, Board Chair

Chair Jenn Weaver said it was emphasized to attendees of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) tour in March 2022 that a regional transportation plan was critical to the transportation successes in South Florida. Chair Jenn Weaver said TJCOG has agreed to spearhead this effort for the Triangle and

Lee Worsley with TJCOG hosted an initial regional meeting to discuss how to proceed with a regional transportation plan.

14. Report from the Technical Committee Chair
Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair

Ellen Beckmann said the April TC meeting was cancelled and had no report.

15. Report from LPA Staff

Aaron Cain stated that once the NC State of Emergency is lifted the Board members will have to be present in person to count for the quorum. Aaron Cain said Board members should plan on being in person at Durham City Hall for the August Board meeting and MPO staff is investigating a hybrid option.

Wendy Jacobs mentioned the letter from Chris Lukasina on behalf of the NC Association of MPOs (NCAMPO) on next steps for the FY2024-2033 STIP that stated concerns over the STIP development process. Wendy Jacobs asked what the next steps are for the draft STIP development and said that staff should engage with NCDOT division engineers throughout this process. Wendy Jacobs asked if the scope of work for the corridor studies (US 70 and US 15-501) will be brought before the Board so there can be discussion on alignment with the 2050 MTP. Aaron Cain the contract for the US 70 study will be brought before Durham City Council on May 16, 2022. Aaron Cain said MPO staff is still discussing the US 15-501 study.

16. NCDOT Reports
Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation

Lisa Mathis reported on the Build NC bonds closing May 19, 2022, the proceeds of which will be used to continue delivering projects and improving infrastructure statewide. Lisa Mathis said the spring litter sweep has ended and nearly 800,000 pounds of trash were collected. Lisa Mathis said the MPO is an important conduit through which our communities can access resources in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Lisa Mathis said the Brookings Federal Infrastructure Hub is a useful

resource for learning more about IJJA. Lisa Mathis said NCDOT is available to provide technical assistance and letters of support for grant applications.

Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT

Brandon Jones said the East End Connector will be completed soon and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on June 30, 2022. Brandon Jones referenced an earlier question regarding coordination efforts with division engineers to determine swaps for the draft STIP. Wendy Jacobs said the letter from NCAMPO recommends that division engineers or regional STIP unit staff provide presentations to MPO Boards. Aaron Cain said that is a concern shared by many MPOs, although DCHC MPO staff are willing to provide the presentations while NCDOT division staff will be present to answer questions. Brandon Jones said much collaboration is needed to finalize the draft STIP and swaps must be finalized by September 30, 2022.

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

Pat Wilson said the Franklin Street repaving in Carrboro will begin May 23, 2022. Pam Hemminger thanked Pat Wilson for the work on this project and stated that message boards were a great way to disseminate information to residents on the Estes Road project.

Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT

Bryan Kluchar said the initial draft STIP only provides the Chatham County US 15-501 project with preliminary engineering funding and the project must be rescored in Prioritization 7.0, although there is a swap opportunity.

Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT

Scott Walston said the NC statewide freight multimodal plan update forums will occur on May 17, 2022 and May 19, 2022.

John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

John Grant had no report.

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

298 Nick Morrison said the FY22 multimodal planning grant program application closed on May 9,
299 2022, and IMD staff hopes to send out award letters out at the end of the summer. Nick Morrison said
300 the Watch For Me NC program is hosting five free virtual workshops on bicycle and pedestrian topics
301 and more information is available at www.watchformenc.com.

302 **ADJOURNMENT:**

303 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
304 11:37 a.m.