

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

9:00 AM

Committee Room 2nd Floor Durham City Hall

Regular Meeting

1. Roll Call

Quorum Count was 17 of 22 Voting members present.

Meeting Called to order at 9:06 am by Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair.

Present: 20 - Tina Moon Carrboro Planning, Kumar Neppalli Chapel Hill Engineering, David Bonk Chapel Hill Planning, Hillary Pace Chatham County Planning, Mark Ahrendsen City of Durham Transportation, Ellen Beckmann City of Durham Transportation, Pierre Osei-Owusu City of Durham Transportation, Tasha Johnson City of Durham, Hannah Jacobson City of Durham, Scott Whiteman City/County Planning, Margaret A. Hauth Town of Hillsborough Planning, Ed Lewis NCDOT Division 7 Alternate, Tom Altieri Orange Co. Planning, Bret Martin Orange Co. Planning, Liz Rooks Research Triangle Foundation, John Hodges-Copple Triangle JCOG, Patrick McDonough Triangle Transit, Alison Carpenter Duke University, Aaron Cain City/County of Durham Alternate and Julie Bollinger NCDOT TPB

Absent: 10 - Richard Carter Greyhound, Brian Litchfield Chapel Hill Transit, Linda Thomas-Wallace Durham County, Laura Dale Woods Durham County, Colonel Randall NCCU, Joey Hopkins NCDOT Division 5, Darius Sturdivant NCDOT Division 8 Alternate, Kelly Becker NCDOT Traffic Operations, Lisa Jemison Research Triangle Foundation Alternate and Mila Vega Chapel Hill Planning Alternate

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Mark Ahrendsen stated that there was one item related to #6. Lindsay Smart stated that there was additional information from Secretary Foxx regarding the Mayor's Challenge. Mark Ahrendsen state that this information would be discussed after item #9. Mark Ahrendsen asked that attendees sign in for attendance recording purposes. Dale McKeel briefly discussed the "Bridging the Gap" study that examined the before and after effect of a connective bridge on the use of the American Tobacco Trail. He said that the study looked at economic, health, and transportation impacts and was funded by NCDOT and private funders, and conducted by the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) at N.C. State. He passed around a brochure describing the study results.

Additional Item:

David Bonk stated that Secretary Foxx released a statement reemphasizing 8 goals that were propagated back in 2010 by the former secretary. It focused on the need for bike and pedestrian facilities to be incorporated into the design of roadways to make it a more integral part of the investment process. The challenge was just issued last week and is still unclear as to what it involves. It will focus on 7 challenge areas, part of which is how monies are allocated. This is an opportunity to see how we can help the state respond to the challenge. MPO Staff will further review the details of the challenge. How will this impact the next TIP Process?

Dale McKeel provided additional details on the Mayor's Challenge. He stated that the Challenge is open to cities, towns, counties, and states. He said the Challenge is a year-long effort that officially kicks-off on March 12, 2015 at the Mayors' Challenge Summit in Washington, DC, and that there is a webinar on February 10 that will provide more information on the challenge.

3. Public Comment

Felix Nwoko welcomed Bergen Watterson, new Alternate representing the Town of Carrboro. Bergen Watterson is Town of Carrboro's new transportation planner. Lindsay Smart stated that the Draft STIP meeting location would not be at NCDOT and instead would be located here in the Committee Room on February 11, 2015.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Approval of December 17, 2014 TC Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Draft FY2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (9:05-9:10)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Meg Scully stated that is the third time the TC has seed the [UPWP] draft. The action for today is for the TC to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing at its next meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Ahrendsen that this Informational Report be forwarded as titled: Draft FY2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (9:05-9:10)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff to the DCHC MPO Board, due back by 2/11/2015 The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Amendment #23 to FY2012-2018 TIP (9:10-9:15)

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart stated that no comments have been received on the TIP amendment. The only change that has been made to the amendment is the addition of the four DATA projects. The changes to the four DATA projects are changing funding from one year to the next. The action for today is to recommend that the MPO Board hold a public hearing at the February 11, 2015 meeting.

A motion was made by Margaret Hauth and seconded by Pierre Osei-Owusu to forward to the MPO Board and hold a public hearing.

7. Comments and Questions Memorandum for the Draft FY2016-2025 TIP (9:15-9:25)

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart stated that this is a draft memo for the TC to review and provide comments. The revised memo will then go before the Board for approval. Lindsay Smart stated that she compiled all the notes from the subcommittee meeting. There is plenty of opportunity to discuss and requested changes. Bret Martin suggested adding NEPA document development under the general comments and questions in section #2. Under section #3 Bret Martin suggested adding "depending on whether access to the station is provided in the scope of the station project, independently the Orange Grove Road Project". Bret Martin suggested adding a comment that states "the project needs to be moved sooner than FY 2023". John Hodges-Copple stated that the Light Rail Project should be listed under both Division 7 and Division 5 so that it is listed in both places. Margaret Hauth stated that US 70 Bridge Project to the Eno State Park is a critical project. Margaret Hauth wanted to be sure that the right people would be included in the scoping and discussion. There are needs for pedestrian access in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. Margaret Hauth stated that she will send Lindsay Smart additional information for this project that can be included in the memo.

Ellen Beckmann wanted to know the NCDOT issue with the Woodcroft Parkway extension. Is the issue whether or not the project is eligible for funding, or whether the City or State would maintain the extension. She wanted to know whether the bonus funds would go back to the City of Durham, which contributed funding to the project, or Wake County, which is the project location. Lastly there is a large gap between the level of TAP funding that North Carolina receives and the level that is in the TIP. She asked that NCDOT explain the gap.

David Bonk asked that NCDOT identify the amount of available CMAQ funding and state why the MPO's CMAQ allocation does not go through to 2017 in STIP. He also wanted to know why SRTS project was programmed so far into the future while the funding is available now.

Review draft memo and provide comments. Recommend the MPO Board approve the Memorandum (with any comments from the TC) for submission to NCDOT.

8. Community Visualization 2.0 Process Presentation (9:25-9:45)**John Hodges-Copple, Triangle J Council Of Governments (TJCOG)**

John Hodges-Copple gave an update of the computerized ESRI ArcGIS add-on for growth allocations called Community Visualization. The first time growth allocations were used was for the 2040 Plan and updated growth allocations will be used for the 2045 plan. John Hodges-Copple said "We are spending this year updating the software tool." and stated that the suitability factor is one of the most difficult pieces to update. A consultant and focus groups will help update the suitability factors. The private sector focus group meeting will take place on Thursday, February 19, 2015. The public sector meeting will be February 20, 2015. John Hodges-Copple stated that we should have a much more flexible tool and be

able to have more sensitivity of how random development would be assigned. There will be more time to play around with the tool to see what makes sense. There has been interest from water resource planners. David Bonk asked if the intention was to have regular meetings for the project. John Hodges-Copple stated that an every other Friday morning meeting is planned. the meeting participation should broaden over time and participation from university folks is welcomed. Mark Ahrendsen indicated that there was some type of recognition given. John Hodges-Copple responded by stating that the NC Chapter of APA gave an award. He stated that there should be software training sessions in the early fall for the 2.0 Version of Community Visualization. David Bonk asked about any software updates. John Hodges-Copple stated that Version 4 is out now and is the version that will be used. Hillary Pace wanted to know if the license would be provided. Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO will provide the licenses.

This Presentation was received and filed.

9. Draft 2014 Environmental Justice Report Presentation (9:45-10:05)

Lindsay Smart, LPA staff

Lindsay Smart stated that this is a standalone report for the whole urbanized area. Lindsay Smart thanked Hannah Jacobson for creating the report cover. Lindsay stated that the population numbers for the three-county area would be used as the regional benchmark for each demographic group. The three-county average was used for the larger demographic threshold. John Hodges-Copple suggests linking what we do on the transportation side to what we do in other areas. Regardless of what we show, it should be consistent and clear. Bret Martin suggested that we included the disabled population. Lindsay Smart stated that the MPO staff hoped to include a disabled persons demographic dataset but couldn't verify the data and faced time constraints. The MPO hopes to include that data in the next EJ report. David Bonk suggested that we make it clear that this information is county based. Lindsay Smart stated that in future years the area used as the regional threshold can be changed. Lindsay Smart stated the study outcome can be used as a planning prioritization tool for future transportation projects. Ed Lewis stated that the information can also be used for public involvement and public outreach. David Bonk wanted to know how things would be affected if the median income factor wasn't included. Lindsay Smart stated that she wasn't sure exactly how the maps would change if a demographic indicator was removed. Lindsay Smart assumed that there would be fewer overlaps in the data. David Bonk said that he would think it would have a significant impact. Bret Martin supported eliminating the median income factor all together. Ellen Beckmann expressed concern some of the statistics being published could be misused in the future. Lindsay Smart stated that comments can be provided by the MPO TC beginning today until the end of the public comment period in March. Today the TC action is to recommend that the MPO Board release the report for public review and comment. It has to be adopted by the MPO Board's meeting date in April. David Bonk requested that the median income data be reconsidered before the MPO Board releases the draft for public comment. Lindsay Smart stated that she will be meeting with FHWA on Friday to review the entire draft report and consider the low-income dataset more carefully. Lindsay Smart stated that she will provide an update on the outcome of the

meeting with FHWA. Mark Ahrendsen asked for a motion for the MPO TC to recommend that the MPO Board release this draft with an adjustment to the median income factor.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion for the MPO Board to release document for public comment. Laura Woods seconded the motion. The motion carried, Ellen Beckmann opposed.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

10. Reports from Staff

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko stated that the Triangle Regional Model base year is being calibrated. The final Mobility Report Card is coming to the TC soon. The Travel Behavior Survey starts this year. David Bonk asked about a transit survey in the fall. Felix Nwoko replied by saying that one would be conducted at that time. TMA Certification Review is scheduled for April or early May. A subcommittee will be formed to review reports from TMA. FHWA will send out a list of questions and request for documents for desk audit. MPO Staff should receive a schedule soon and will share it with the Technical Committee.

This Informational Report was received and filed.

11. Report from the Chair

Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair

This Informational Report was received and filed.

12. NCDOT Report

Joey Hopkins, Division 5 - NCDOT

Mike Mills (Pat Wilson), Division 7 - NCDOT

Rob Stone (Darius Sturdivant), Division 8 - NCDOT

Julie Bolinger, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT

Kelly Becker, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that a public meeting will be held March 23, 2015 regarding the draft STIP. The meeting will take place from 4-7 pm located at the West Campus office in Hillsborough, NC. Bill Marley, FHWA stated that he will send a schedule along with questions soon regarding the TMA Certification Review. Bill Marley, FHWA will participate in the EJ Report review that is scheduled for Friday, January 30th. Mike Kneis, NCDOT Division 5, introduced Brandon Jones, the new Division 5 Deputy Division Engineer. Mike Kneis stated that the Alston Avenue Project is delayed until July.

This Informational Report was received and filed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

13. One on One Meeting with NCDOT - NCDOT Division 5 Office, Stadium Drive, February 11, 2015

Wake County has shown interest in a commuter rail through their transit evaluation process.

This Informational Report was received and filed.

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 10:48 AM

Next meeting: February 25, 2015 9 a.m., Committee Room

**Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings: One on One Meeting with NCDOT
- NCDOT Division 5 Office, Stadium Drive February 11, 2015**