

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

September 14, 2016

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on September 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

Steve Schewel (MPO Board Chair)	City of Durham
Damon Seils (MPO Board Vice Chair)	Town of Carrboro
Don Moffitt (Member)	City of Durham
Ellen Reckhow (Member)	Durham County
Bernadette Pelissier (Member)	GoTriangle
Barry Jacobs (Member)	Orange County
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Ed Harrison (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Karen Howard (Alternate)	Chatham County
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Richard Hancock	NCDOT Division 5
Patrick Wilson	NCDOT, Division 7
Julie Bollinger	NCDOT, TPB
David Bonk	Town of Chapel Hill
Geoff Green	GoTriangle
Terry Bellamy	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Ellen Beckmann	City of Durham
Max Bushell	Orange County
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
KoSok Chae	DCHC MPO
Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
Terry Snow	Gannett Fleming
Mila Vega	Chapel Hill Transit

Quorum Count: 8 of 11 Voting Members

Chair Steve Schewel called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Steve Schewel reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was

being circulated. Chair Steve Schewel stated that Vice Chair Damon Seils would be late. Pam Hemminger made a motion to excuse the absence of Brian Lowen, Member, Town of Hillsborough. Bernadette Pelissier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRELIMINARIES:

Ethics Reminder

Chair Steve Schewel 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 MPO Board members.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda.

Felix Nwoko announced that Lindsay Smart has transitioned to Durham Parks and Recreation and introduced Terry Bellamy as the director of the Durham Department of Transportation.

Pam Hemminger made a motion to excuse Chair Steve Schewel and Ellen Reckhow from the October MPO Board meeting. Vice Chair Damon Seils seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ed Harrison announced that he would also be absent from the October MPO Board meeting.

Public Comments

Chair Steve Schewel asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

Directives to Staff

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

Barry Jacobs asked if a discussion of toll roads had occurred or would be scheduled. Felix Nwoko stated that toll roads and managed lanes would be discussed at the November 30, 2016, joint meeting

with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). The location for this meeting will be confirmed in coming weeks. Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO Board would receive a report on this issue from the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) Staff before the November meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. Approval of August 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes

7. FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #1

8. Authorize Durham City Manager on behalf of DCHC MPO to enter into agreement with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the Metropolitan Planning Program Grant (Section 5303) for FY17

9. Approval of Amendment #4 to FY2016-2025 TIP

Chair Steve Schewel asked if there was any discussion of the items on the consent agenda. There was no discussion of the items on the consent agenda. Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Barry Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

10. DCHC MPO Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program Assessment Report

KoSok Chae, LPA Staff

Felix Nwoko, MPO Manager

Terry Snow, Gannett Fleming

Gannett Fleming was hired to assess Traffic Incident Management (TIM) practices in the greater Durham, Orange, and Chatham County areas. Terry Snow, a Vice President at Gannett Fleming, provided a summary of the TIM assessment report and highlighted the importance of executing a 1-page Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Terry Snow gave background information on TIM, presented elements of the TIM assessment, and major and minor issues according to first responders. Terry Snow also highlighted the nine goals of the strategic plan and discussed the next steps for implementing the TIM program.

Chair Steve Schewel and Ellen Reckhow commented that the minor issues identified in the assessment seemed like major issues. Terry Snow clarified that these issues were considered minor because surveyed stakeholders believed that they were being addressed.

Bernadette Pelissier inquired about the source of inaccurate information from incident scenes, a major issue identified in the TIM assessment. Terry Snow shared several possible reasons for this inaccurate information and noted that this was an issue that was being addressed by various agencies.

Don Moffitt asked for some historical background on this project that Felix Nwoko provided.

There was discussion of the financial and staff costs associated with implementing TIM. Pam Hemminger stated that the cost of improving communication by standardizing equipment could be in the millions of dollars.

Chair Steve Schewel asked if there was a MPO TIM coordinator. Felix Nwoko stated that KoSok Chae is the coordinator. There was discussion of the nature of the task forces that would be needed to implement TIM and of how Kansas and Arizona have responded to these issues.

Ellen Reckhow and Bernadette Pelissier inquired about the usefulness of establishing performance measures for TIM and secondary sources for such measures. Terry Snow stated that David Graham of Gannett Fleming is an expert in this field and would serve as a source of this information.

Vice Chair Damon Seils made a motion to authorize Chair Steve Schewel to sign the 1-page MOU on behalf of the MPO. Bernadette Pelissier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. SPOT P4.0 Division Needs Tier Project Priorities and Local Input Points

Dale McKeel, LPA Staff

Dale McKeel presented on the assignment of Local Input Points from the DCHC MPO for the Division Needs tier. Dale McKeel described factors that determined project eligibility and the methodology used to assign points to various projects. He listed several projects and their point assignments.

Chair Steve Schewel asked why the Bryant Bridge North/Goose Creek Trail West bike/pedestrian project was the highest scoring project. Dale McKeel stated that the Bryant Bridge project would connect existing trails. Other factors such as population and employment density and the number of bike and pedestrian crashes had also been considered in order to rank these projects.

Barry Jacobs suggested using a map that showed all projects so that MPO Board members would have a better idea of where projects outside of their jurisdictions were located.

Ellen Reckhow questioned the need for sidewalks on Guess Road because of sidewalks that were built during an earlier project. She was informed that there were still sidewalk gaps on Guess Road.

Ellen Reckhow inquired about whether a priority list was being followed for these projects and whether factors such proximity to schools had been considered. Chair Steve Schewel stated that proximity to schools was a factor in the DurhamWalks Plan. There were comments on a need for a sidewalk on Fayetteville Road in Durham because of nearby schools. Dale McKeel stated that all of the projects are two miles from schools

Vice Chair Damon Seils stated that this presentation was about how scores are being generated for projects. The LPA Staff had already received input on how projects were prioritized by local jurisdictions. Don Moffitt stated that the City of Durham has a sophisticated methodology for ranking projects and offered to share it with Ellen Reckhow. Vice Chair Damon Seils pointed out that while priorities at the local jurisdiction level were important, projects also needed to be able to score well.

Ellen Reckhow was informed about existing projects on La Salle Street, Campus Walk, and Morreene Road.

Chair Steve Schewel asked if it was too late to get input for updating bike and pedestrian plans for the City of Durham and was informed that it was not too late.

Ed Harrison pointed out that the Chapel Hill and Carrboro projects were all in the state right of way, and that he hoped that someone in the state government would notice this.

Chair Steve Schewel mentioned that in Durham there was 15 million dollars in the Capital Improvement Program for sidewalk construction for the next five years, and that there are state and local funds to help build needed sidewalks.

Ed Harrison and Vice Chair Damon Seils discussed current conditions and the merits of installing bike lanes on Estes Drive in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

There was clarification about the location of the Fayetteville Road project in Durham.

Barry Jacobs asked whether the Orange Grove Road extension in Hillsborough would go under the railroad and was informed that it would.

Ed Harrison asked about the specifics of the NC 751 widening in Durham between South Roxboro and Woodcroft Parkway, and was told that it includes a four-lane road with median, bike lanes, and sidewalks. There were comments on the Eno Mountain Road realignment in Hillsborough.

Dale McKeel explained that the Elliot Road extension in Chapel Hill received a score of 25 points which means it will not be funded, but would be rescored in a couple years.

Ellen Reckhow asked why transit projects had not scored well, and was told that the best projects had been submitted. Dale McKeel mentioned that transit projects that cross county lines may be eligible for other sources of funding.

Ed Harrison asked about the meaning of the term “vehicle expansion” and was told that it meant adding more vehicles to a route.

Dale McKeel stated that he was confident that division engineers would assign points to projects that already have points. David Keilson, NCDOT Division 5, stated that draft division tier points were released early on in this process and that these points will be revised and submitted for public comment by the end of October. David Keilson stated that his department was striving to align points with their planning partners.

166 Ellen Reckhow asked if there would be any flexibility once the project is released and Dale
167 McKeel clarified that he was requesting flexibility. Dale McKeel stated that points have to be entered
168 into the system by the end of October.

169 Chair Steve Schewel and Dale McKeel discussed the ranking of the Duke Beltline project and the
170 fact that only five or six projects were likely to be funded.

171 Don Moffitt asked about the roundabout at Barbee Road and Herndon Road on behalf of the
172 Mayor of Durham and if funding for that project would be jeopardized by the listed projects. Ellen
173 Beckman stated that there was no relationship between the list and funding for Barbee Road. Ellen
174 Beckman stated that the Durham City Council would be asked to approve \$100,000 of city funding to
175 supplement additional state funding for this project. Ellen Beckman stated that the Barbee Road project
176 is still short of funding and has been bid three times. Prices keep going up and additional funds have
177 been allocated to this project.

178 Vice Chair Damon Seils made a motion to release the list of projects, grant flexibility to the LPA
179 Staff to work with partners on maximizing projects, and to schedule a public hearing for October 12,
180 2016. Pam Hemminger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

181 Pam Hemminger commented that she and the Mayor of Carrboro had invited North Carolina
182 Representative John Torbett from the Transportation Committee to ride bus routes on the list to see
183 how heavily used they are.

184 **12. 2040 MTP Amendment #2 – Chapel Hill BRT – Public Hearing**

185 Felix Nwoko, MPO Manager

186 Felix Nwoko stated that the purpose of Amendment #2 is to include the Chapel Hill North-South
187 Corridor LPA Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the 2040 MTP. The MPO Board released this Amendment for
188 public comment at their August meeting. To date, no comments have been received.

189 Chair Steve Schewel declared the public hearing open. There were no comments from the
190 public.

Don Moffitt inquired about how the public comment process was publicized. Pam Hemminger stated that there was an email blast to local citizens in addition to putting it on local websites. There were further comments about the significance of the public's lack of input. Vice Chair Damon Seils commented that there had been extensive public participation over the last two years and that the federal government had responded well to this issue.

Chair Steve Schewel declared the public hearing closed.

Felix Nwoko stated that he would bring Amendment #2 back to the MPO Board in October for approval. No further action was required by the MPO Board.

13. Pickett Road Closing

Felix Nwoko, MPO Manager

The MPO Board directed the LPA Staff to look into closing the unpaved portion of Pickett Road due to the installation of a traffic signal on Randolph Road and the recent official opening of the Hollow Rock Nature Park. Felix Nwoko stated that closing this part of the road was discussed by the Technical Committee (TC) in 2011, but that the TC recommended keeping the road open because of traffic issues that might have resulted from closing the road. Felix Nwoko stated that although the new traffic signal has resulted in different conditions, the MPO has no direct role in closing the road. This is the responsibility of NCDOT Division 7 and the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Felix Nwoko recommended that the MPO Board request that Orange County initiate the abandonment process.

Barry Jacobs recommended getting feedback from the Durham City Council and County Commission on the issue of closing the road before approaching Orange County.

Ellen Reckhow stated that she was hoping for a more positive response to closing the road now that conditions had changed.

Chair Steve Schewel asked Terry Bellamy to look into closing the road. Ellen Reckhow agreed that this would be a good idea given that the county government does not have transportation staff and a more technical review might be helpful in light of recent changes.

Ellen Reckhow made a motion to have the Durham Department of Transportation review this issue. Bernadette Pelissier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Moffitt commented that based on his experience, many people wanted the road to stay open. Don Moffitt suggested holding a public hearing before coming to a conclusion on this issue.

14. 2045 MTP – Socioeconomic Data – Guide Totals

Felix Nwoko, MPO Manager

Felix Nwoko presented the 2045 population and employment County level forecasts for the 2045 MTP to the MPO Board. Felix Nwoko stated that these forecasts would feed into the CommunityViz land-use and travel demand models. Felix Nwoko stated that draft “guide totals” have been developed for the growth types of single family housing, multi-family housing, and five categories of employment.

Felix Nwoko discussed the sources for the population and employment forecasts. For population growth, the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSMB) only forecasts until 2035. The methods of the OSMB were used to project to 2045. Data from two third party sources, InfoUSA and Woods and Poole, was used to project employment data. Felix Nwoko stated that this was a preliminary forecast and that the MPO Board would be asked to accept these forecasts in October for the purposes of beginning scenario analysis.

Felix Nwoko asked the MPO Board for comments on these forecasts and noted that this was the first in a twelve step process. He stated that these forecasts were created with the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) and CAMPO.

Ellen Reckhow commented on the projected 50 percent population and employment growth in Durham and stated that she did not see how mobility could be maintained with current streams of

revenue. Ed Harrison commented on these numbers in relation to an earlier 2020 projection for Durham. David Bonk stated that these projections are helpful for indicating where growth will occur and figuring out the cost of maintaining mobility, but that there will likely be a shortfall between what we need to do and what we can do.

Ellen Reckhow commented that a gathering of state MPOs to discuss these growth patterns and needs might be useful. Chair Steve Schewel stated that the November meeting with CAMPO may be a step in this direction. Pam Hemminger stated that this was also a topic of interest for metropolitan mayors.

Barry Jacobs stated that as one of two states where counties do not fund roads, the needs of 2045 cannot be met if counties do not get involved in funding roads. Barry Jacobs suggested looking at how other states fund roads when counties are more involved. Ellen Reckhow stated that growth was primarily urban and that growth outside of the city has stayed flat. Ellen Reckhow questioned whether turning to counties for funding was a solution.

Vice Chair Damon Seils asked Felix Nwoko for clarification on the kind of feedback he was seeking. Felix Nwoko stated that he would accept feedback on the sources of the projection. For example, Woods and Poole tends to project higher growth than other sources. Felix Nwoko stated that he was interested in hearing whether the MPO Board thought the projected growth would materialize.

No further action was required by the MPO Board.

15. Goals/Objectives/Performance Measures

Felix Nwoko, MPO Manager

The MPO conducted a public input process for the draft 2045 MTP Goals & Objectives. The MPO Board provided input and comments but no changes have been made to the goals and objectives. Preliminary Performance Measures have been developed based on the draft goals and objectives. There are 72 performance measures and the LPA Staff recommends scaling back these performance measures.

There was some discussion of the similarity of goals #8 and #2, and goals #4 and #5 and whether they should be combined.

Ed Harrison suggested keeping the last objective; improve delivery for all modes, because it was important to the NCDOT staff.

Chair Steve Schewel asked to discuss these performance measures next month so that the MPO Board could keep the goal of scaling back performance measures in mind. Chair Steve Schewel also asked Felix Nwoko for recommendations from the staff working on this issue about the least useful and hard to measure objectives.

No action was required by the MPO Board.

16. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Update

Felix Nwoko, MPO Manager
Julie Bollinger, NCDOT

The draft Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) was submitted to the NCDOT for their internal review. The first step of this process, the peer review, is complete and staff is making suggested modifications so the process can move to the management review step.

Julie Bollinger presented elements of the required NCDOT CTP format to the MPO Board. Julie Bollinger described the differences between the MTP and the CTP and the schedule for adopting the CTP.

Julie Bollinger stated that the maps were the key product of the plan. She called attention to maps for all modes and emphasized the meaning of the symbols on each map. She also highlighted the tables that corresponded to each mode of transportation.

Ellen Reckhow asked about the meaning of the terms "4D" and "ADQ." Julie Bollinger stated that "4D" referred to cross-section numbers, and "ADQ" meant that a road was adequate and that there were no recommended improvements.

Julie Bollinger stated that the LPA Staff chose not to show sidewalks on the maps, and instead referenced local government policies. Julie Bollinger also clarified that the MPO Board and the NC Board of Transportation would adopt only the maps, but that there would be a report of supporting information.

Julie Bollinger stated that the CTP will replace old thoroughfare plans for the area.

Vice Chair Damon Seils asked about how this terminology would be replaced and for whom.

Julie Bollinger stated that thoroughfare plans were highway focused, and that the CTP included all modes. Julie Bollinger explained that general statutes referenced thoroughfare plans in the past, but would now use the CTP. Barry Jacobs noted that although Hillsborough adopted a thoroughfare plan, Orange County did not. He inquired as to whether the MPO Board could obtain thoroughfare plans for review.

There was continued discussion of thoroughfare plans. MPO Board members weighted the merits of taking the CTP to local governments for their input.

Julie Bollinger clarified the schedule for adopting the CTP.

There was some discussion of the importance of complete streets for planning purposes.

Pam Hemminger asked about the implications of local jurisdictions rejecting the CTP. Felix Nwoko stated that he would consult with the legal department to figure this out. Felix Nwoko clarified that Statute 136 calls for the MPO to replace thoroughfare plans with the CTP.

Chair Steve Schewel concluded that the MPO Board should review the CTP by the end of November, that the LPA Staff would provide current thoroughfare plans through a web link, and that a public comment process which includes workshops and a public hearing would also be initiated.

No further action was required by the MPO Board.

REPORTS:

17. Report from the DCHC MPO Board Chair
Steve Schewel, DCHC MPO Board Chair

Chair Steve Schewel stated that the meeting with CAMPO has been scheduled and that Felix Nwoko has sent out a proposed agenda for the meeting. Chair Steve Schewel asked the MPO Board to let Felix Nwoko know if they had any suggestions for the agenda.

18. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair
David Bonk, DCHC MPO TC Chair

There was no report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair.

19. Reports from LPA Staff
Felix Nwoko, MPO Manager

There was no additional report from the LPA Staff.

20. NCDOT Reports:

There was no report from NCDOT Division 5.

Don Moffitt asked about the roundabout at Barbee Road.

Richard Hancock stated that the latest information he had was in regards to a redesign of the project due to cost issues. Richard Hancock noted that the project should have been let in July and that he was not sure about the readjusted let date. He noted that the project has been bid three times but came up short due to rising costs. Richard Hancock stated that this issue would be on the next Durham City Council agenda.

Pat Wilson, NCDOT Division 7, stated that there would be a late October/early November meeting for the Greensboro/Estes project in Carrboro. Pat Wilson stated that his department wanted to meet with elected officials two weeks before the meeting and they were having trouble trying to find a date that works for all parties.

Pam Hemminger asked for an update on Bennett Road/Mt. Carmel Church Road. Pat Wilson stated that there was an historic well and property in the area and that a consultant was hired to design a project that excludes these areas and to maximize site distance. The project is awaiting final

approval from the historical property folks. The town has also requested a sidewalk on this project and the final design still needs to be shared with the town.

Pam Hemminger asked for an update on the Merritt Mill/Franklin project in Carrboro. Pat Wilson stated that his department was looking at potential alternatives, and would need to make an evaluation before approaching the public about this project. Pat Wilson stated that more money would be requested if needed, that the town staff was part of the discussion, and that this project has an anticipated 2017 let date.

There was no report from NCDOT Division 7.

There was no report from NCDOT Division 8.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

21. Recent News, Articles, and Updates

There were no informational items to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37am.