

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2015

The Technical Committee met on March 25, 2015 at 9:04 a.m. in the City Council Committee on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following attended:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ** Tom Altieri | Orange County Planning |
| Than Austin | UNC |
| **Alison Carpenter | Duke University |
| Kelly Becker | NCDOT Traffic Operations |
| **Ellen Beckmann | City of Durham |
| **David Bonk | Town of Chapel Hill (TC Vice-Chair) |
| **Julie Bollinger | NCDOT – TPB |
| **John Hodges-Copple | Triangle J COG |
| **Patrick McDonough | Go Triangle |
| **Hannah Jacobson | Durham City/County Planning |
| Brandon Jones | NCDOT Division – 5 |
| Ed Lewis | NCDOT Division – 7 |
| **Bret Martin | Orange County |
| **Tina Moon | Town of Carrboro |
| ** Linda Thomas Wallace | Durham County |
| **Bergen Watterson | Town of Carrboro |
| ** Scott Whiteman | Durham City/County Planning |
| **Laura Woods | Durham City/County Planning |
| Andy Henry | DCHC MPO |
| Felix Nwoko | DCHC MPO |
| Dale McKeel | DCHC MPO |
| Brian Rhodes | DCHC MPO |
| Meg Scully | DCHC MPO |
| Lindsay Smart | DCHC MPO |

**Voting Member
 ^Temporary or Alternate Non-Voting Member
 Quorum Count: ____ of 25 Voting Members

Vice-Chair David Bonk called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The Alternate Voting Members were identified and indicated above.

PRELIMINARIES:

Adjustments to the Agenda

Vice-Chair David Bonk asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Felix Nwoko stated that there were attachments at your places. The first attachment is a set of questions relating to the upcoming FHWA/FTA MPO certification review. The second attachment is a memo from the USDOT Secretary of Transportation regarding the emphasis areas for UPWP FY15-16. Vice-Chair David Bonk stated that this information would be added to the end of the agenda. He also noted that he would like to add the next steps as it relates to our own TIP process. Vice-Chair David Bonk asked if there was anyone present for public comments.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of February 25, 2015 TC Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair David Bonk asked for a motion to approve the February 25, 2015 TC Minutes. Tom Altieri made a motion to approve the minutes and John Hodges-Copple seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Environmental Justice Report (9:05-9:15)

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart stated that the EJ Report comes back to the TC after being out for public review and comment. The draft went out for public comment and to-date no additional public comments have been received. Lindsay Smart stated that TC members have provided further comments. One of the comments that resulted in revisions to the EJ Report was regarding the evaluation of low income households and how low income households had been identified. Lindsay

71 Smart stated that TC members have helped to identify different income limit thresholds to use. A
72 sixty percent low income limit factor was used with Median Household Income to determine low-
73 income households. During the meeting with FHWA, they approved the draft EJ report and suggested
74 that an extremely low income limit also be included. Lindsay Smart stated that sixty percent of the
75 median household income reduced the income limit to \$33,205. The 30 percent extremely low
76 income limit is \$16,602. The map shows the block groups that are now considered low-income areas
77 and the extremely low-income areas are shown with black hatching. Vice-Chair David Bonk asked if
78 these were block groups or block groups aggregated into zones. Lindsay Smart stated that these
79 were simply block groups. Laura Woods wanted to know if the extremely low-income block group
80 located near downtown was a representation of the Duke University student population. Lindsay
81 Smart stated that this was most likely the case. Lindsay Smart stated that the EJ report discusses
82 some of those extremely low income areas. Vice-Chair David Bonk wanted to know if the way we
83 define income in the EJ report would affect the way we plan for our 2045 Plan update. Lindsay Smart
84 stated that we would meet as a subcommittee for the 2045 MTP to see if we wanted to carry this
85 same methodology forward. Lindsay Smart stated that with fewer block groups defined as low-
86 income households, there were changes to the mapping and the analysis of the overlapping
87 communities of concern. The heat mapping was changed due to the fact that fewer block groups
88 were defined as lower income. Lindsay Smart stated that all draft TIP projects have been mapped.
89 Lindsay Smart stated that when the 2045 MTP is adopted the EJ report will then be updated. Ellen
90 Beckmann wanted to know if FHWA had any comments about the 23 percent threshold for
91 overlapping block groups and comparing our projects and project funding to that threshold. Lindsay
92 Smart stated that FHWA had no comments relating to that methodology. Ellen Beckmann stated that
93 she continued to have concerns about using the twenty three percent threshold for evaluating
94 project and funding distribution. Vice-Chair David Bonk stated that the recommendation for today is

to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the 2014 EJ Report. Vice-Chair David Bonk asked for a motion. A motion was made by Laura Woods and seconded by Bret Martin. The motion carried unanimously.

6. FFY15 Section 5307/5340 Partial Split Letter (9:15-9:20)

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

Section 5307-5340 funds are allocated to urbanized areas for transit capital, operating assistance, and for transportation related planning. Meg Scully stated that there are two attachments included in the packet. The first item being the actual Draft Split Letter and the other is a memorandum. Meg Scully stated that from FTA we've received the apportionment for Durham as the MPO is a Designated Recipient for 5307/5340 funds. Meg Scully stated that this is a partial split letter. Meg Scully stated that in the past we've used a formula very similar to that which is used by FTA for apportionment. Meg Scully stated that about a year ago OPT came forward requesting that they be considered for the split. Meg Scully stated that OPT has prepared all their documents and will be submitting their official checklist to FTA probably by the next board meeting to be authorized as a direct recipient. Meg Scully stated that the split this year will include OPT because they have certified service data in the National Transit Database for reporting year 2013 on which the 2015 apportionment is based. Meg Scully again stated that this letter is only a partial and that as soon as we get the full apportionment we will come back with the remainder based on the same formula. Meg Scully stated the Transit Subcommittee of the TC has had much conversation and met again last week and agreed that this is acceptable. Meg Scully stated that the action for today is that the TC recommends approval. Bret Martin recommended the MPO Board approve distribution and endorse the attached letter to FTA for the FFY15 Section 5307/5340 Partial Split Letter. Patrick McDonough seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Vice-Chair David Bonk stated that there were a few adjustments to the agenda. Felix Nwoko stated that there were two attachments available for review. Felix Nwoko stated that the TMA Certification is scheduled for the second week in May. Vice-Chair David Bonk wanted to know the role of other TC members in this process. Felix Nwoko stated that member participation would be very much appreciated. Felix Nwoko stated that NCDOT participation is required. Felix Nwoko stated that it would be advantageous to convene a subcommittee prior to certification to review answers to questions and discuss a potential white paper. The certification review is an opportunity to discuss issues that the MPO would like to FHWA aware of, such as the development of the TIP. Vice-Chair David Bonk stated that we would be taking responsibility for MTIP, having a MTIP that highlights and accomplishes our priority goals. Bret Martin stated that the next round of prioritization would start in the fall. The SPOT process starts at the end of 2015. Vice-Chair David Bonk suggested that there is an implicit responsibility on our part to go forward with our own process. This way we as an MPO would say here are our priorities in terms of where funding should go. Here is how we rank projects within categories in terms of the need and the criteria we'd use. This way we would show FHWA that we're taking responsibility for our role in the process. It was his understanding that NCDOT Divisions have the option to change criteria at the division tier. Ellen Beckmann stated that we have such varied needs within our Divisions and regions. Vice-Chair David Bonk stated that FHWA views us as one single entity and not pieces of different entities that somehow have to show compromises. Ellen Beckmann stated that she thinks we would only be able to customize the highway criteria. Patrick McDonough wanted confirmation from NCDOT staff members on hand where NCDOT is with the current SPOT 4.0. Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that they are pretty close to the end of the process. Ed Lewis stated that he could contact Patrick Norman with whom they coordinate with as far as the SPOT process is concerned. Patrick McDonough stated that there are some modifications in SPOT 4.0 from 3.0 that are very good

143 progress. Vice-Chair David Bonk stated that it is good to be a part of the state process but we mustn't
144 lose sight of our own priorities and request funding that allocates it among modes that are consistent
145 with our goals and objectives. Ellen Beckmann stated that she thinks it would be helpful to bring to the
146 certification process a comparison of the TIP results by mode and tier and compare that to what our
147 MTP priorities would be. Ellen Beckmann stated that we received half of the non-highway funding for
148 the whole state. Vice-Chair David Bonk stated that it seems inconsistent for the Legislature to be able
149 to say or make any rules related to the federal money. The legislature has no legislative authority over
150 MPO's. Felix Nwoko stated that the MPO can transfer STP funds from highway to transit if needed.
151 Patrick McDonough wants to check in and take the temperature of the SPOT work group. Vice-Chair
152 David Bonk stated that there are several questions that need to be raised with the federal certification
153 team.

154 **NCDOT REPORT**

155 Brandon Jones, NCDOT Division 5, stated that at the February TC Meeting there were
156 questions about the Hobson Road project delays. Brandon Jones stated that reasons for the delays
157 were utility relocations on the railroad right of ways. There are also some significant undercuts. The
158 East End Connector ground-breaking ceremony has been scheduled for April 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
159 The location for this event is TBD. John Hodges-Copple thanked Brandon Jones for the Hobson Road
160 update and wanted to know if the cost overruns were already included or likely to be included once
161 the project is completed. Brandon Jones stated that it is basically taking it from where they are right
162 now with the project. There was a question about a project on Guess Road and North Pointe Drive on
163 the NCDOT Let List. Kelly Becker with the Regional Project Office stated that this was a safety project.
164 They are having some crash issues with the Bojangles driveway. Kelly Becker stated that they are
165 revising the traffic signal and adjusting the driveway for Bojangles to help address the crash problem.

166 Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that a hard copy has been made available with the new
167 system. He stated that the STIP Public Meeting was held in Hillsborough. There was good attendance.
168 There were about 10 or 12 citizens that participated. There was a lot of public interest involving the rail
169 station in Hillsborough. Patrick McDonough had a question relating to the Jones Ferry Road-Davie
170 Street Project in Carrboro. Ed Lewis stated that it was a safety project and that the amount of funding
171 they receive depends on how unsafe the project is. Ed Lewis stated that they had to acquire right of
172 way. There is a development that doesn't want a sidewalk in front of their property. NCDOT officials
173 have met with town officials and are trying to work through it. It is an intersection project with the
174 sidewalk pieces added. They are shrinking the project down but not precluding from anything
175 happening in the future. Patrick McDonough wanted to know which portions of the project are
176 disappearing due to the shrinkage. Ed Lewis stated that there wouldn't be a sidewalk in front of the
177 Ridgeway Apartments.

178 Dale McKeel provided updates from recent statewide meetings that he has attended. The first
179 of which was the East Coast Greenway State Committee. The vision is to create an off-road trail from
180 Maine to Florida. This is a very long term project. Here in North Carolina, the main route of the trail
181 comes through the Triangle and involves a lot of the American Tobacco Trail and parts of the Neuse
182 River Trail. There is a Southeast Trail and Greenway Summit. This will be held in 2016. He also
183 mentioned the Transportation Oversight Committee. They are in the process of reviewing applications
184 for funding for the local and regional programs. Vice-Chair David Bonk asked Dale McKeel to provide a
185 quick update relating to the Mayor's Challenge. Dale McKeel stated that there were three communities
186 in North Carolina that accepted the Mayor's Challenge. There was a summit in Washington, DC. The
187 challenges focus on improving bike and pedestrian safety. Dale McKeel stated that he is still in search
188 of a venue to hold the Triangle bike summit. The plan is to have the meeting on April 17, 2015.

Vice-Chair David Bonk asked for an update of the CMAQ allocations going forward. Lindsay Smart stated that the MPO included this in the letter to NCDOT and expects to receive a formal response from NCDOT. Felix Nwoko stated that by September, the area will be in attainment for CO and attainment for ozone.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Felix Nwoko stated that the Strategic Highway Corridor was brought for review by NCDOT and it has finally been approved. Vice-Chair David Bonk suggested that it be included on the list for the upcoming federal certification.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.