

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

June 24, 2015

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on June 24, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following attended:

David Bonk (TC Vice-Chair)	Chapel Hill Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Hannah Jacobson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Ellen Beckmann (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Peter Murphy (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Bret Martin (Member)	Orange County Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Patrick McDonough (Member)	GoTriangle
Brandon Jones (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 5
Julie Bollinger (Member)	NCDOT, TPB
Kelly Becker (Member)	NCDOT, Traffic Operations
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Darius Sturdivant (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Lisa Jemison (Alternate)	Research Triangle Foundation
Dale McKeel	City of Durham/DCHC MPO
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Natalie Murdock	GoTriangle
Tammy Bouchelle	GoTriangle
Donnie Brew	FHWA

Quorum Count: 19 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Mark Ahrendsen was not present during the meeting. Vice Chair David Bonk 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 TC were identified and are indicated above. Vice Chair David Bonk reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet.

PRELIMINARIES:

Adjustments to the Agenda

Vice Chair David Bonk asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Felix Nwoko asked to add a Spot 4.0 update to the end of the agenda.

Public Comments

Vice Chair David Bonk 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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Approval of May 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair David Bonk asked if there were any discussion, comments, or suggested revisions to the May 27, 2015 meeting minutes. Ed Lewis requested that lines 226-228 be rephrased. He suggested the revised rephrasing as, "The NCDOT Division project updates were presented with no comments or questions." John Hodges-Copple requested a change to line 112. Line 112 should say; "John Hodges-Copple said that the Federal Government only recognizes the MTIP within the MPO jurisdiction." Bret Martin requested that the extra (t) be struck from his name on lines 117 and line 150. Vice Chair David Bonk asked for a motion to approve May 27, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. Patrick McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2015 MPO TC meeting with the amendments and Laura Woods seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

5. Public Involvement Schedule & Activity Coordination for D-O LRT Project

Tammy Bouchelle, GoTriangle

Natalie Murdock, GoTriangle

Patrick McDonough, GoTriangle

GoTriangle attended the DCHC MPO TC meeting to discuss coordination for public outreach efforts, schedule, and responsibilities with the members of DCHC MPO TC. Patrick McDonough shared a few updates concerning the process. Patrick McDonough discussed the GoTriangle comprehensive public involvement strategy that will be implemented for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project in fall 2015. He discussed the coordination between GoTriangle and the DCHC MPO during the DCHC MPO's public involvement process for the MPO's endorsement of the Preferred Alternative. He noted that the DCHC MPO will need to facilitate public involvement activities to review and endorse the D-O LRT Preferred Alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Patrick McDonough noted that the MPO should do public involvement during the GoTriangle 45-day public involvement period. The GoTriangle 45-day public involvement period would start in August or September. The administrative Draft EIS has been sent to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The DEIS is under review by the partner agencies which are the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the FTA. Patrick McDonough stated that it is not in GoTriangle's control as to when the DEIS is published in the Federal Register. The timing for the publishing of the DEIS is controlled by the FTA. He believes that the FTA may have it published by the last week of August or the first week of September. Patrick McDonough said that GoTriangle has targeted approximately the third week of September for their two public hearings. Patrick McDonough stated that from the point of view of the FTA, the D-O LRT Project is already in the MTP and no amendments are needed. Patrick McDonough stated that the formal action from the MPO Board is to approve a Resolution of Endorsement for the Preferred Alternative that will be identified

95 in the EIS. The deadline for the Board's Endorsement would be the November 11, 2015 MPO Board
96 meeting.

97 Tammy Bouchelle led a brief discussion on public comment versus public hearing and
98 explained that the FTA cautioned GoTriangle to follow specific channels for public comment. The
99 response to the hearing will be open for 45-days instead of 30-days to get robust participation from
100 the public. GoTriangle will use email, website, and two public hearings which will be held in Durham
101 and Chapel Hill. The public comments received by the MPO Board are for MPO's process only, and
102 should be separate from the GoTriangle D-O LRT DEIS public comments and public hearings. The
103 processes will have to be kept separate so that there will be no confusion in the official channels. The
104 functions sponsored by GoTriangle will be considered hearings and the MPO Board meetings will be
105 open for the public to attend and comment.

106 Patrick McDonough stated that having consistent administrative record would mean letting
107 citizens know that they must go through GoTriangle's official process for submitting their comments
108 or changes. This could be accomplished by the MPO Board or any of the public meetings where
109 citizens are invited to share their comments about the project. The MPO Board should notify the
110 citizens of the official process for submitting comments for inclusion in GoTriangle's official record
111 of the project.

112 Vice Chair David Bonk asked: "What if meeting minutes from a town's public meeting are
113 read into the minutes of a Town Council meeting? Can the minutes from the Town Council meeting
114 be submitted to GoTriangle?" Tammy Bouchelle replied to Vice Chair David Bonk saying, "FTA says do
115 we should not do that." Vice Chair David Bonk said that Town Council resolutions include comment
116 and the Council's official action. Tammy Bouchelle responded, "Council resolutions would be
117 accepted as the Town's official submittal." Patrick McDonough stated that they will have one official
118 communication from each jurisdiction. Vice Chair David Bonk asked if resolutions would go to both

GoTriangle and MPO Board. GoTriangle responded that resolutions could go to the MPO Board and GoTriangle but to be a part of the official record the resolution must be submitted to GoTriangle.

Vice Chair David Bonk stated that the MPO Board should solicit public comments at the September meeting and then take action at the September or October meeting. Patrick McDonough said two actions are needed; MPO Board comments during the 45-day period and MPO Board Endorsement of the Preferred Alternative by November.

Vice Chair David Bonk said that a smaller group should get together to talk about how to coordinate the MPO's process with the GoTriangle process and the federal process, and bring back a recommendation to the TC at the July meeting. Ellen Beckmann asked if the MPO Board will receive a digest of all public comments that GoTriangle has received. Patrick McDonough answered "All public comments that have been received are posted to the project website for review."

6. FY 2016-17 CMAQ Call for Projects

Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff

Lindsay Smart gave a brief update on the MPO Board's approval of the FY2016-2017 CMAQ projects. The MPO TC recommended, and the MPO Board approved, the Carrboro Downtown Multi-use Path project remain funded as shown in the attachment and the MPO Board approved for GoDurham and Chapel Hill Transit to revise their applications for bus replacements. The MPO Board approved to fully fund the purchase of three clean diesel buses instead of two hybrid buses. The MPO Board also approved the Jones Creek Greenway be added as a priority to the list and the Carrboro High School Multi-use Path project remain on the list of priorities as an unfunded priority. The next steps are for Carrboro, GoDurham, and Chapel Hill Transit to work with Heather Hildebrandt of NCDOT to incorporate the revised emission analyses into their respective CMAQ project applications that are due to NCDOT by July 15, 2015. Lindsay Smart asked if there were any questions.

Vice Chair David Bonk asked, "Concerning CMAQ, what if anything, have we thought about concerning future funding and future Calls for Projects at this point?"

Lindsay Smart responded that a request was made in the MPO Board letter to the NCDOT in February that NCDOT issue a multi-year Call for Projects so MPOs can program several years of CMAQ funding. There was no response to that specific comment in the response letter from NCDOT.

Vice Chair David Bonk asked, "To clarify, that at this point, we have programmed our CMAQ funds through 2017? So, in theory beginning in 2017, 2018 and beyond there is additional flow of CMAQ money that should be available to the MPO? But at this point we do not know what that number might be nor have we been asked to program anything else."

Lindsay Smart responded, "Right, and we do not know if NCDOT will program one year at a time, two years, three years, or four years. We do not know anything yet."

Felix Nwoko stated that NCDOT may issue a very quick Call for Projects to use any unprogrammed CMAQ money in 2017 or beyond.

7. SPOT 4.0

Felix Nwoko

Felix Nwoko gave brief information regarding two SPOT 4.0 deadlines. September 1, 2015 is the deadline for the NCDOT SPOT office to receive any modifications to Existing projects that have been carried over from SPOT 3.0. October will be the deadline for submitting new projects for SPOT 4.0. Based on these dates, the MPO schedule is for project modifications to be reviewed by the MPO TC in July and then the Board in August. Ellen Beckmann asked when the MPO will know which projects are Existing and which projects are not. Bret Martin stated that the ones that are staying and being carried over are those that received local input points from division engineers, MPOs, RPOs, or projects with NEPA started or complete, or projects that are defined as sibling projects. The MPO will be able to submit 14 new projects per mode.

167 Ellen Beckmann asked a question. "What is the Division's process?" Ed Lewis stated that the
168 Divisions may submit seven new projects per mode and we can add one if we delete an Existing
169 project. Vice Chair David Bonk said we need to know by July MPO TC meeting and the August MPO
170 Board meeting. Bret Martin said that there is a minimum project cost requirement of \$40k for transit
171 project submittals, so many transit projects all fall out. Bus shelters will have to be submitted in
172 groups by corridor to meet the minimum cost requirement.

173 **REPORTS:**

174 **8. Reports from the LPA Staff**

175 **Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

176 Felix Nwoko briefed the TC on the MPO Regional Freight Plan. Consultant selection/contract
177 approval is complete and the kick-off meeting may take place at the RDU airport in late July or early
178 August. The ITRE is moving ahead with the household survey. RSG, a consultant for the project, will
179 do the survey. The survey is more enhanced than the one that was conducted in 2006. The plan is to
180 have a kickoff meeting in July for some of the more technical MPO TC staff.

181 Vice Chair David Bonk asked Andy Henry to give a report on the CTP and MTP processes.
182 Andy Henry stated that we are moving along with the CTP. We have prepared the highway projects
183 and we want to get the highway projects out to the TC staff from each jurisdiction so that they can
184 give us feedback. Vice Chair David Bonk asked for the timeframe of completion. Andy Henry stated
185 that he would have preliminary mapping ready for TC staff this month. MPO staff will start the
186 demographic data analysis for the 2045 MTP in the fall.

187 **9. Report from the DCHC MPO TC Chair**

188 **David Bonk, DCHC MPO TC Vice Chair**

189 No report was given by the TC Vice Chair.

190 **10. NCDOT Reports**

Brandon Jones, NCDOT Division 5, stated that the East End Connector project is moving along. The tree clearing along the Durham Freeway is noticeable and shows that the project is moving forward. One big project change is the Alston Avenue project is now going to begin in February 2016. Brandon Jones asked if there were any questions. John Hodges-Copple asked about the NC 147 speed limit signs that are 55 MPH almost all the way to downtown except for a very short segment after the construction and before downtown, where the speed limit is 60 MPH. He wanted to know if NCDOT could keep the speed limit 55 MPH for the entire segment. Brandon Jones said that he will check on the speed limits. Vice Chair David Bonk asked about the Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road project. The project is on two different roads and the two roads are not on the same schedule, so they need an update that is specific to each road. Brandon Jones said he would provide an update on the schedule for the two project segments.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that the Division 7 projects on the Active Construction Projects report are moving along. Ed Lewis asked if there were any questions. Vice Chair David Bonk asked about the coordination for the improvements at Franklin, Main, and Brewer. Ed Lewis reported that the next step would be a meeting with stakeholders. David Bonk also asked about the next steps for the roundabout at the intersection of Mt. Carmel Church Rd and Bennett Rd. Ed Lewis stated that they have a firm to do the engineering for three roundabout projects, including this one. He stated that the TC members would be invited to the scoping meeting.

Darius Sturdivant, NCDOT Division 8, stated that the information packet that was distributed with the meeting agenda is outdated. A new information packet is available and has been distributed to the MPO TC. Projects are moving along as scheduled. Darius Sturdivant asked if there were any questions about the projects. No questions were asked by the MPO TC.

Julie Bollinger, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch – No report was given by NCDOT TPB.

Kelly Becker, NCDOT Traffic Operations – No Report was given by NCDOT Traffic Operations.

215 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

216 **10. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

217 Division 5 has hired a new planning engineer. David Keilson will be transitioning from working
218 for the Division 12 office to the Division 5 office this summer and will be the new planning engineer for
219 Division 5.

220 **ADJOURNMENT:**

221 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was
222 adjourned at 10:22.

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