

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**21 December 2016**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on December 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, located on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following people were in attendance:

David Bonk (TC Chair)	Chapel Hill Planning
Ellen Beckmann (TC Vice Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Tasha Johnson (Member)	City of Durham Public Works
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Hillsborough Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Lisa Miller (Alternate)	City of Durham Planning
Peter Murphy (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Max Bushell (Member)	Orange County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Scott Walston (Alternate)	NCDOT, TPB
Kelly Becker (Member)	NCDOT, Traffic Operations
Richard Hancock (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
David Keilson (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Jennifer Britt (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 8
Mila Vega (Alternate)	Chapel Hill Planning /Transit
Geoff Green (Member)	GoTriangle
Alison Carpenter (Member)	Duke University
Mary Jane Nirdlinger	Town of Chapel Hill
Terry Bellamy	City of Durham Transportation
Eddie Dancausse	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO

Quorum Count: 20 of 31 Voting Members

Chair David Bonk called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO Technical Committee (TC) were identified and are indicated above. Chair David Bonk reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

## **PRELIMINARIES:**

### **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Chair David Bonk asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda.

Felix Nwoko stated that there would be a party for retiring Chair David Bonk at the end of the meeting.

John Hodges-Copple requested that the agenda item pertaining to the Approval of Amendment #6 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) be removed from the consent agenda so that it could be discussed.

### **3. Public Comments**

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 November 16, 2016 TC Meeting Minutes**

Chair David Bonk asked if there was any discussion on the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Geoff Green stated that he emailed the staff about corrections to the minutes. Tom Altieri made a motion to approve November 16, 2016 minutes as amended. Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### **5. Approval of Amendment #6 to the FY2016-25 Transportation Improvement Program**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Amendment #6 to the DCHC MPO FY2016-2025 TIP includes two requests from the Town of Chapel Hill. The first is to amend project EB-5721, US15-501 Bicycle and Pedestrian Sidepath-Willow to Cleland, to use Surface Transportation Program (STP) rather than Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funds and alter the project timing. The second is a request for a small increase in Surface Transportation Program Block Grant (STBGP) funds and delay of Right-of-Way (ROW) by one year for project C-5179, North Estes Drive. Chair David Bonk described the content of the amendment and reasons for modifying the funding source.

Aaron Cain, Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann, and John Hodges-Copple discussed the source of State STP funds. John Hodges-Copple clarified that these funds are not MPO allocated funds, but state funds.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed whether to amend the TIP to reflect changes to the North Duke Street project. Chair David Bonk asked whether there was a shift in schedule for the North Duke Street project in Durham. Meg Scully and Aaron Cain suggested waiting until January 2017 to bring a TIP amendment related to the North Duke Street project before the TC.

Chair David Bonk discussed costs and sources of funding for the Estes Drive project.

There was additional discussion of whether the TIP should be amended to reflect changes to the North Duke Street project. The TC decided to not include the North Duke Street project in Amendment #6, and concluded that it should be brought forth in January 2017 in TIP Amendment #7.

John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve Amendment #6 to the FY2016-2025 TIP. Geoff Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Process for Updating Durham and Orange County Transit Plans**

Geoff Green, GoTriangle

Geoff Green described the process for updating the Durham and Orange County Transit Plans and the content of the plans. Geoff Green discussed changes in the transit funding landscape, particularly pertaining to commuter and light rail projects, and the increased costs of the proposed Durham Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) and Chapel Hill Bust Rapid Transit (BRT) projects.

Pierre Osei-Owusu and Geoff Green discussed how the election of the new governor might affect transit funding.

Chair David Bonk and Geoff Green discussed the sources for the revenue forecasts that were used for the plans.

Mila Vega provided reasons for the increased costs of the Chapel Hill BRT project and discussed what was included in past and current estimates for the project. Geoff Green commented on changes in the scope of the Chapel Hill BRT project.

Geoff Green discussed the gap in funding for transit projects, reasons for updating the transit plans, and the bodies that need to approve the updated plans.

Tom Altieri offered to help Geoff Green update his presentation to address the triggers for updating both plans.

Geoff Green described the process used by staff working groups and teams to update the plans and the schedule for updating the plans.

Geoff Green and Andy Henry discussed whether there would be sufficient information from the plans to contribute to the financial portion of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Bergen Watterson asked whether there were plans for presentations to local jurisdictions, and Geoff Green stated that the goal was to approach every jurisdiction, including the municipalities.

Chair David Bonk and Geoff Green discussed how work on the plans would affect the upcoming Federal Transit Administration (FTA) application for and the progress of the D-O LRT

This item was information and no further action was required by the TC.

## **7. Draft FY2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Meg Scully, LPA Staff

The DCHC MPO is required by federal regulations to prepare an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. Funding for the UPWP is provided on an annual basis by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the FTA.

The UPWP must identify MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds, including highway and transit programs.

As part of the presentation, Meg Scully reminded the TC that the MPO initiated a cost sharing of the local match required for the Local Planning Agency (LPA) planning activities. Meg Scully walked the TC through the UPWP document, drawing attention to the summary of accomplishments from the FY2016 UPWP and the first quarter of FY2017, and the emphasis areas that the MPO will focus on in FY2018.

Meg Scully drew attention to federal, state, and local funding sources, and pointed out that only funds used for planning purposes need to be programed in the UPWP.

Meg Scully stated that for FY2018, the funding for the LPA goes to staff salaries, operations, and consultants.

John Hodges-Copple and Felix Nwoko discussed the special projects that would be undertaken by the LPA for FY18. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and Felix Nwoko discussed who would be managing the CSX study and whether local staff would be involved.

John Hodges-Copple confirmed the list of projects that would be jointly undertaken by the DCHC MPO, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

Ed Lewis and Felix Nwoko discussed the scope of the NC 54 project.

Chair David Bonk, John Hodges-Copple, and Andy Henry discussed what enhanced contributions to the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) might entail.

Meg Scully reviewed the development schedule for the FY2018 UPWP.

Chair David Bonk commended the staff for including an organizational chart in the document.

Chair David Bonk introduced new MPO staff member, Mike Bruff. Meg Scully pointed out that the MPO is fully staffed.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann commented that the city is interested in pursuing a US 15-501 corridor study for the next fiscal year. There was discussion of the scope, timeline, and collaboration needed for a US 15-501 study. Chair David Bonk discussed how a current NCDOT study along the section of US 15-501 from Franklin Street to I-40 would affect a Durham study of US 15-501. Chair David Bonk discussed problems with a past US 15-501 corridor study. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann and John Hodges-Copple commented that NCDOT should be involved in any future US 15-501 study.

Felix Nwoko and Chair David Bonk discussed specifics pertaining to enhanced contributions to the TRM and whether processes are needed to evaluate the impact of these enhancements.

Geoff Green moved to recommend that the MPO Board release the UPWP document for public comment. Max Bushell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **8. 2017 Joint Legislative Agenda**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

On November 30, 2016, board members from DCHC MPO and CAMPO reviewed a draft legislative agenda. Board members provided input at that meeting and suggested that each board review the draft individually and bring a revised document back to a joint meeting at a future date.

Aaron Cain shared the Joint Legislative Agenda with the TC.

Chair David Bonk asked if there was any feedback from elected officials as a result of the discussion that took place at the joint meeting with CAMPO. Ellen Beckmann stated that she received feedback about clarifying the language about the removal of the 10% cap on light rail transit funding, because the cap affects more than light rail transit funding.

Chair David Bonk and Felix Nwoko discussed the process of getting the joint legislative agenda before the legislature.

Chair David Bonk, Richard Hancock, and Felix Nwoko discussed the timetable for the transition period between the two administrations and how the transition might affect the approval of the TIP.

Alison Carpenter asked whether the legislative agenda would be shared with other municipalities, and Aaron Cain stated that input has already been received from other municipalities.

Kumar Nepali made a motion to forward the legislative agenda to the MPO Board for review in January. Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion passed with NCDOT representatives abstaining from the vote.

**9. Release of Division Rankings from SPOT 4.0**

Dale McKeel and Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

On December 13, 2016, NCDOT released the division rankings from Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) P4.0. Dale McKeel reviewed the list of projects that were and were not funded.

Dale McKeel discussed the next steps in this process with the TC.

Chair David Bonk noted that the new administration may want to revisit the TIP before it is approved and stated that this may have an effect on the MPO's approval of the MTP and TIP. Chair David Bonk stated that it might be useful to give the MPO Board a summary of everything that is funded in the TIP, regardless of the level of evaluation.

John Hodges-Copple, Dale McKeel, and Geoff Green discussed the implications of the fact that no vehicle expansion requests were funded.

Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that schedule of projects should be shared with the MPO Board as the MPO Board may be able to negotiate with the state about the definition of a committed project. Chair David Bonk stated that there may be some disagreement between the MPO and the state over projects that are in the second phase, but these disagreements do not affect the viability of the TIP.

This item was informational and no further action was required by the TC.

**10. Election of Technical Committee Officers for 2017**

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

John Hodges-Copple, TJCOG

Max Bushell, Orange County

A committee to nominate a 2017 TC Chair and Vice Chair was formed in November.

Nominations were forwarded to the committee in early December.

John Hodges-Copple, chair of the nominating committee, stated that elections would occur in January 2017. John Hodges-Copple stated that the nominating committee, which consisted of himself, Max Bushell, Kumar Nepali , and Geoff Green, unanimously recommended that Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann become Chair of the TC. The group also unanimously recommended that Margaret Hauth become Vice Chair of the TC.

John Hodges-Copple asked the LPA Staff to review the rules for accepting nominations from the floor before the January vote.

## **REPORTS:**

### **7. Reports from the LPA Staff**

**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

There was no additional report from the LPA Staff.

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

**David Bonk, DCHC MPO TC Chair**

Chair David Bonk thanked the TC for their support and reflected on the work of the TC and the MPO. Chair David Bonk stated that he hoped that the MPO would continue to be forward looking in the face of new challenges and changes in the transportation landscape.

### **10. NCDOT Reports**

There was no report from NCDOT Division 5.

There was no report from NCDOT Division 7.

There was no report from NCDOT Division 8.

Scott Walston, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, stated that the Chatham County Comprehensive Transportation Plan would be forwarded to the North Carolina Board of Transportation in January 2017.



218 Kelly Becker, NCDOT Traffic Operations, stated that a project to eliminate the left lane drop on I-40  
219 westbound near the US 15-501 exit recently received federal funding. Kelly Becker described the work that  
220 would be undertaken to complete the project. Kelly Becker stated that there was no schedule for the  
221 construction of the project but that Division 7, which is contributing funds, has agreed to handle  
222 scheduling for the project.

223 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

224 **11. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

225 There were no informational items.

226 **ADJOURNMENT:**

227 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was  
228 adjourned at 10:24 a.m.