

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

**August 10, 2022**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on August 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom. The following people were in attendance:

Jenn Weaver (Chair)	Town of Hillsborough
Jamezetta Bedford (Member)	Orange County
Michael Parker (Member)	GoTriangle
Leonardo Williams (Member)	City of Durham
Pam Hemminger (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Wendy Jacobs (Member)	Durham County
Damon Seils (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Mark Bell (Alternate)	Town of Hillsborough
Adam Searing (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Ellen Beckmann	Durham County
Nishith Trivedi	Orange County
Josh Mayo	Chapel Hill Planning
Bergen Watterson	Chapel Hill Planning
Matt Cecil	Chapel Hill Transit
Tina Moon	Carrboro Planning
Kent Johnson	Carrboro Planning
Brandon Dawson	Chatham County
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Sean Egan	City of Durham
Evian Patterson	City of Durham
Brian Taylor	City of Durham
Eric Vitale	City of Durham
Erin Convery	City of Durham
Tasha Johnson	City of Durham
Tom Devlin	City of Durham
Matt Day	Triangle J Council of Governments
Charles Lattuca	GoTriangle
Katharine Eggleston	GoTriangle
Jay Heikes	GoTriangle
Meg Scully	GoTriangle
Kurt Stolka	University of North Carolina
Joe Geigle	Federal Highway Administration
Tracy Parrott	NCDOT Division 5
David Keilson	NCDOT Division 5
Pat Wilson	NCDOT Division 7
Stephen Robinson	NCDOT Division 7

42	Bryan Kluchar	NCDOT Division 8
43	Jeron Monroe	NCDOT Division 8
44	Nick Morrison	NCDOT IMD
45	John Grant	NCDOT Traffic Operations
46	Julie Bogle	NCDOT Planning Division
47	Jacob Rigg	Regional Transportation Alliance
48	Kevin Robinson	Town of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation
49	Joe Milazzo	Regional Transportation Alliance
50	John Tallmadge	Bike Durham
51	Frankie Tran	Burlington-Graham MPO
52	Paige Dickerhoof	VHB
53	Kristen Brookshire	Durham Public Schools
54	Heidi Perov	BikeWalk NC
55	Michael Waldroup	Resident
56	Rebecca Winders	Resident
57	Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
58	Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
59	Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
60	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
61	Dolly Hall-Quinlan	DCHC MPO
62	Mariel Klein	DCHC MPO
63	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
64	David Miller	DCHC MPO

65 Quorum Count: 7 of 10 Voting Members

66 **1. Roll Call**

67 Chair Jenn Weaver called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The Voting Members and Alternate  
 68 Voting Members of the MPO Board were identified through a roll call and are indicated above. Chair  
 69 Jenn Weaver mentioned that Karen Howard and Lisa Mathis requested excused absences.

70 **PRELIMINARIES:**

71 **2. Ethics Reminder**

72 Chair Jenn Weaver pointed out the Ethics Reminder and asked if there were any known  
 73 conflicts of interest with respect to matters coming before the MPO Board and requested that if there  
 74 were any identified during the meeting for them to be announced. There were no known conflicts  
 75 identified by MPO Board Members.

**3. Adjustments to the Agenda**

Chair Jenn Weaver stated that Wendy Jacobs requested to pull agenda item 8 – the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Standing Update – from the consent agenda, and make it item 12 in the informational items section.

**4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**5. Directives to Staff**

Chair Jenn Weaver asked Board members if there were any questions or comments about the Directives to Staff. There were no questions or comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**6. Approval of the June 8, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

David Miller, LPA Staff

**7. FY2020-29 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #12**

David Miller, LPA Staff

Pam Hemminger made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Michael Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**8. Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Results**

Katharine Eggleston, Chief Development Officer, GoTriangle

Chuck Lattuca updated the MPO Board on the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR) Feasibility Study. Highlighting the projected growth of the DCHC MPO and CAMPO regions, Chuck Lattuca stated that offering alternative transportation options is important, that many new jobs will be along the corridor, and that households could benefit from a nearby commuter rail system.

Katharine Eggleston recounted Phase 1 of the Study. Katharine Eggleston explained that Phase 2 explored two implementation scenarios: Option 1 being the full corridor from West Durham to Clayton, and Option 2 being a starter service from Raleigh Union Station to Auburn Station in Garner.

Katharine Eggleston stated that there is increased federal funding for rail projects, and GoTriangle is investigating opportunities to fund rail infrastructure components of the project. Chuck Lattucca explained that the project's next steps entail GoTriangle obtaining stakeholder input, refining the financial plan and grant strategy, and deciding whether or how to proceed.

Wendy Jacobs stated that she supports Option 2, but asked about the timing of the stakeholder feedback phase in relation to available grant opportunities, as well as who will take the lead on the grant proposals. Chuck Lattucca replied that a grant strategy can be identified once the specific build project is determined, and that grant management responsibilities and potential grant matches will depend on both the chosen project and the available grant funds for the specific project. Katharine Eggleston added that GoTriangle is developing options assessing the scope of the project and identifying matches for the project with eligible sponsors.

Damon Seils asked if funding from IJIA and the New Starts program<sub>s</sub> could be combined to support the project. Katharine Eggleston replied that they can be combined, and while the project is close to the minimum of what would be needed for New Starts program funding, the program's criteria for eligibility is currently being updated.

Jamezetta Bedford asked if other transit projects in the region will be affected due to escalating GTCR project costs. Chuck Lattucca replied that moving forward with the GTCR will have impacts on other projects. Katharine Eggleston added that GoTriangle is being mindful of the committed transit projects in the region as the commuter rail project continues to be explored.

Leonardo Williams stated he is leaning towards Option 2. Chair Jenn Weaver suggested that it would be helpful to have information about how other regions have developed commuter rail projects. Wendy Jacobs said it will be important to highlight the project's benefits beyond simply having a commuter rail while pursuing funding. Michael Parker said that the ultimate goal is to develop a transit

system for the entire region, that similar projects have a 30- to 40-year time horizon, and that this project should be looked at from a systems perspective, rather than a project perspective.

**10. DCHC MPO Certification Review Results**  
**Joe Geigle, Federal Highway Administration**

Joe Geigle shared the joint transportation planning certification review of DCHC MPO, and explained that the review is required by law, is used to verify compliance with current transportation law and planning regulations, and is used as an opportunity to share best practices. Joe Geigle stated that no corrective actions were identified. Joe Geigle said that three recommendations were identified, which include updating the DCHC MPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), adding detail to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) tasks assigned to municipalities, and adding detail to the descriptions that staff calculated for the revenue in the MTP. Joe Geigle commended DCHC MPO for its level of commitment to utilize public engagement to inform its decision making. Joe Geigle shared that this review finds that DCHC MPO meets federal planning requirements.

Chair Jenn Weaver commended MPO staff for a successful review. Wendy Jacobs thanked Joe Geigle and those involved with writing the report. Citizen Rebecca Winders said that she was pleased that reviewers could identify that the public input process has influenced decisions of DCHC MPO.

**11. Status Report on Locally Administered Projects (LAP)**  
**Dale McKeel, LPA Staff**

Dale McKeel shared an overview of the Locally Administered Projects (LAP) program and process, and stated a status report will be provided twice per year per DCHC MPO's adopted federal funding policy from November 2021.

Jay Heikes presented GoTriangle's LAP projects. Pam Hemminger said she is excited for GoTriangle's transit improvements.

Eric Vitale presented the City of Durham's LAP projects. Wendy Jacobs asked where information can be found that identifies where transit stops are located, and Eric Vitale replied that the City

coordinates with GoDurham and GoTriangle, and that an overlaid map of projects could be created to showcase bicycle lanes and transit stops. Jay Heikes added that GoTriangle has done this in the past and will continue to do so moving forward.

Wendy Jacobs asked if the City of Durham investigates traffic crossing safety and signage along bicycle routes, and Bill Judge stated that the City reviews all pedestrian crossings within the limits of each project to see if improvements can be made. Wendy Jacobs asked if the City of Durham plans bicycle lanes with parking on the outside and the bicycle lane on the inside, thereby creating a buffer. Eric Vitale replied that the City looks at installing bicycle lanes within this scenario, though it can be challenging to implement in each circumstance. Wendy Jacobs asked about the longevity of bicycle lane striping, and Bill Judge stated that pavement markings tend to last five years before they lose reflectivity.

Doug Plachcinski said DCHC MPO's Safe Streets for All grant proposal will help implement safety tools and concepts within projects. Chair Jenn Weaver stated that Bike Durham asked if local projects could be delivered more quickly if the City of Durham took responsibility for the street maintenance, and utilized local funds instead of federal funds. Bill Judge replied that federal funds do add complexity and can lead to project delays, but that local funds are limited.

Josh Mayo presented the Town of Chapel Hill's LAP projects. Tina Moon presented the Town of Carrboro's LAP projects.

**12. IIJA Standing Update**  
**Mariel Klein, LPA Staff**

Mariel Klein shared current and pending Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grant applications from DCHC MPO and its member jurisdictions, information on current notice of funding opportunities, and mentioned the creation of the DCHC MPO IIJA Project Catalog, where DCHC MPO jurisdictions can submit project ideas that may be eligible for future grant opportunities. Wendy Jacobs asked what strategy was being followed to meet grant proposal deadlines, and Aaron Cain replied that

proposals can be submitted when ready, as IJIA programs are being funded annually over the next five years. Sean Egan added that clarity around the GTCR study will be critical for developing grant proposals.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **13. Report from the MPO Board Chair**

**Jenn Weaver, Board Chair**

Chair Jenn Weaver stated that she would be contacting members to create subcommittees to consider DCHC MPO's boundary adjustments and the revised MOU, and review its governance study implementation.

##### **14. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

**Ellen Beckmann, TC Chair**

Ellen Beckmann shared that the Durham Transit Plan has been released for public comment, and expects to present a report of recommendations in October. Ellen Beckmann said that the Durham Transit Plan will need revisions based on new information about the GTCR study, and that dialogue is ongoing with GoTriangle and other partners.

##### **15. Report from LPA Staff**

**Doug Plachcinski, Executive Director, DCHC MPO**

Doug Plachcinski stated that NCDOT expressed interest in moving forward with express design on two projects along NC 751 (from South Roxboro St. to Woodcroft Pkwy., and from NC 54 to Southpoint Autopark Blvd.). Doug Plachcinski said these projects are not included in the TIP and STIP. Board members affirmed that NCDOT should not move forward with express design on these projects at this time.

Doug Plachcinski shared updates about UPWP projects, Prioritization 6.0/FY 2024-2033 TIP Development, the US 70 Corridor Study, the US 15-501 Corridor Study, and the Congestion Management Plan. Doug Plachcinski announced the resignation of LPA staff member, Mariel Klein.

**16. NCDOT Reports**

**Lisa Mathis, NC Board of Transportation**

There was no report.

**Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 - NCDOT**

Tracey Parrot announced that the Draft FY 2024-2033 STIP swap deadline has been rescheduled for March 17, 2023. Tracey Parrot stated that the NC 751 projects referenced by Doug Plachcinski in his report were identified as areas of need by NCDOT. Wendy Jacobs asked for NCDOT's perspective on accidents occurring on Cornwallis Road, Kerley Road, and Guess Road. John Grant replied that NCDOT is investigating improvements on Cornwallis Road and Kerley Road, and it is talking to City of Durham staff to improve crossings along Guess Road.

**Wright Archer (Pat Wilson, Stephen Robinson), Division 7 - NCDOT**

Pat Wilson stated that paving on Franklin Street in Chapel Hill, and on Main Street in Carrboro, is underway. Pat Wilson stated that the I-40 widening project may have upcoming night lane closures. Pam Hemminger said that she has received positive feedback about the Town of Chapel Hill's new bicycle lane markings.

**Patrick Norman (Bryan Kluchar), Division 8 - NCDOT**

Bryan Kluchar stated that the US 15-501 project in Chatham County has a new let date of 2030 in the revised draft STIP.

**Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division - NCDOT**

Julie Bogle announced the IJJA's new Carbon Reduction Program, and that information was sent to DCHC MPO describing the program. Doug Plachcinski said that the MPO is currently reviewing the information.

**John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT**

There was no additional report.



**Nick Morrison, Integrated Mobility Division – NCDOT**

Nick Morrison announced that the Great Trails State Plan has been updated and is on the NCDOT website. Nick Morrison stated that selections will be made today for the 2022 IMD Multimodal Planning Program grant opportunity.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

**17. Recent News Articles and Updates**

Chair Jenn Weaver encouraged MPO Board members to review the attached news articles.

**18. NCDOT Fall Litter Sweep Information**

Chair Jenn Weaver encouraged MPO Board members to review the NCDOT Fall Litter Sweep information.

Heidi Perov provided details about the annual BikeWalk NC Transportation summit to be held in Greenville from October 27-29, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.