

DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

28 April 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board met on April 28, 2017, 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:

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
Ed Harrison (Member)	GoTriangle
Barry Jacobs (Member)	Orange County
Pam Hemminger (Member, Excused Absence)	Town of Chapel Hill
Nina Szlosberg-Landis (Member)	NC Board of Transportation
Wendy Jacobs (Alternate)	Durham County
Lydia Lavelle (Alternate)	Town of Carrboro
Michael Parker (Alternate)	Town of Chapel Hill
Theo Letman	Orange County
Tina Moon	Town of Carrboro
Kayla Seibel	Town of Chapel Hill
Patrick McDonough	GoTriangle
Geoff Green	GoTriangle
Meghan Makoid	GoTriangle
Jeffrey Sullivan	GoTriangle
John Tallmadge	GoTriangle
Terry Bellamy	City of Durham Transportation
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Aaron Cain	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO/City of Durham
David Bonk	Citizen
Molly DeMarco	Orange County Transit Advocates

Quorum Count: 8 of 10 Voting Members

Chair Steve Schewel 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 Board were identified and are indicated above. Chair Steve Schewel reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

PRELIMINARIES:

2. 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.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

4. 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.

5. Directives to Staff

Ellen Reckhow asked the Local Planning Agency (LPA) Staff to consult with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) staff about signage on NC 147 in light of the construction of the East End Connector. Ellen Reckhow stated that signage needs to begin in Orange County at the I-85/NC 147 split in order to help people to make good choices and therefore relieve congestion. Felix Nwoko stated that NCDOT has already considered a signage plan, but that the LPA Staff will consult with them to make sure that it extends to the split.

Barry Jacobs stated that there were no signs in the area that state the distance to Greensboro, Burlington, or Hillsborough. Ed Harrison stated that such signs are present past Greensboro, and asked the LPA Staff to look into addressing this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:

67
68 **6. Durham County and Orange County Transit Plan Updates**

69 John Tallmadge and Geoff Green, GoTriangle

70 John Tallmadge discussed changes that were made to the draft Durham County and Orange
71 County Transit Plans in order to produce the final plans, primarily the cost-sharing agreement and
72 making sure that both counties would have sufficient balances to pursue priorities such as the Wake-
73 Durham Commuter Rail project and additional bus service for Orange County. John Tallmadge also
74 reviewed minor changes that were made when the plans were adopted by the Durham County Board of
75 Commissioners and the Orange County Board of Commissioners, and asked the MPO Board to adopt the
76 changes in their motions for each of the plans.

77 John Tallmadge stated that a change made during the Orange County Commissioners' adoption
78 of the plan was the deletion of a specific reference to optional cost cutting measures in relation to the
79 Hamilton and Woodmont stations in Orange County. Ed Harrison pointed out that Woodmont is in
80 Durham County. John Tallmadge clarified that Woodmont is in Durham County, but within Chapel Hill's
81 town boundaries.

82 John Tallmadge and Michael Parker discussed whether funding for the Wake-Durham Commuter
83 Rail project now includes funding for construction from 2028. John Tallmadge stated that the updated
84 cost-sharing split would initially consist of Durham County covering 81.5% of the cost for the Durham-
85 Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project, Orange County covering 16.5%, and 2% coming from private
86 donations. John Tallmadge also reviewed the timeline for modifying the cost-sharing split in the plans.
87 John Tallmadge stated that GoTriangle would work with Durham and Wake County to form
88 private/public partnerships, and consult with other entities such as the Research Triangle Foundation, to
89 pursue additional funding for the Wake-Durham Commuter Rail project.

John Tallmadge drew attention to tables that showed spending for services and projects in each plan. John Tallmadge pointed out that revenues from the sales tax, vehicle registration fee, and vehicle rental tax support spending for the services and projects in each plan.

Ellen Reckhow confirmed that the estimated cost for the D-O LRT includes construction, finance, operational costs, and accounts for inflation based on cost-of-living increases. John Tallmadge confirmed that this was the case and added that the D-O LRT maintenance costs are also included in the estimate. Ellen Reckhow stated that it was important for the community to know that these numbers have been reviewed and that they appear to work.

John Tallmadge briefly discussed reasons for low cash balance periods in each plan.

Chair Steve Schewel thanked the Orange County Commissioners for their work during the cost sharing negotiations. Wendy Jacobs commended the local counties and municipalities for having strong leadership and relationships.

Ed Harrison inquired whether John Tallmadge would be making the same presentation to the GoTriangle board later in the day, and requested a hard copy of the presentation.

Don Moffitt thanked staffs and various parties who worked on the plan. Don Moffitt thanked the GoTriangle staff in particular for their commitment to the D-O LRT. Don Moffitt stated that the D-O LRT project was about social justice, equity, access to jobs and services, and that it is the right decision for the community and the region.

Ellen Reckhow also expressed thanks to GoTriangle staff, especially given that they had a shorter-than-expected timeframe for updating the plans. Ellen Reckhow stated that Durham and Orange County worked well on negotiations for the plan, and that the counties have a history of collaborating on transformative projects. Ellen Reckhow also thanked Nina Szlosberg-Landis for her work with parties in Wake County. Ellen Reckhow reflected on what the light rail would mean given the projected growth of the region.

Barry Jacobs thanked the DCHC MPO Members, GoTriangle staff, and the county staffs for their work on updating the plans. Barry Jacobs stated that a four-year review of the cost sharing agreement was now built into the plans to make sure that it is equitable to both parties. Barry Jacobs commented that Orange and Durham Counties have philosophical, political, and environmental affinities, and will likely continue to work on a wide range of issues such as greenways, parks, and air quality. Barry Jacobs stated that the plans were an example of collaboration and regional thinking.

Vice Chair Damon Seils stated that even though Carrboro would not have rail access, it will reap the benefits directly and indirectly from the adoption of the plans. Vice Chair Damon Seils stated that Carrboro is one of the most transit dependent and transit-oriented communities in the state, and that it was important for them to have a voice in the decision about the plans. Vice Chair Damon Seils reflected on what the rail projects would mean in light of the rapid growth of the region. Vice Chair Damon Seils thanked MPO and GoTriangle staffs for their work developing the plans, especially given that they have received a lot of criticism over the years.

Lydia Lavelle reiterated the points made by Vice Chair Damon Seils, and drew attention to a joint letter from former mayors of Chapel Hill and Carrboro reflecting on transit in the area. Lydia Lavelle also commented on the bold leadership of former leaders who have made transit viable in the area.

Ed Harrison reflected on opposition to the D-O LRT and what a high capacity transit system would mean for the region. Ed Harrison commented that he was excited about the idea of getting beyond roads, because it is a central idea of the MPO that it cannot build its way out of congestion. Ed Harrison also commented on the positive environmental impacts of the plan.

Michael Parker thanked the County Commissioners responsible for the cost sharing negotiations, GoTriangle staff, and the county staffs for their work on the plans. Michael Parker cited the plans as an example of regional thinking and action.

137 Nina Szlosberg-Landis reflected on the progress and setbacks of the D-O LRT. Nina Szlosberg-
138 Landis stated that the D-O LRT was a priority for the governor and his administration, and that the
139 Cooper administration believes that transit and mobility are key to economic development in the region
140 and the state. Nina Szlosberg-Landis stated that NCDOT has tremendous assets that can be deployed to
141 assist in making the D-O LRT happen. Ellen Reckhow and Nina Szlosberg-Landis discussed whether
142 NCDOT was lobbying against the president's budget proposal which would eliminate the New Starts
143 program.

144 Ellen Reckhow inquired whether two motions were needed, one for the plans and one for the
145 cost sharing agreement. John Tallamadge stated that the MPO Board would not be acting on the cost-
146 sharing agreement, but on the two separate plans.

147 Don Moffitt made a motion to grant Pam Hemminger an excused absence. Vice Chair Damon
148 Seils seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

149 Ellen Reckhow made a motion to approve the Durham County Transit Plan as amended to add
150 reference to the Research Triangle Park Service District and include a cash flow table in Appendix A. Don
151 Moffitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

152 Ed Harrison made a motion to approve the Orange County Transit Plan as amended to delete
153 specific reference to potential cost cutting measures pertaining to the Hamilton and Woodmont light rail
154 stations. Vice Chair Damon Seils seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

155 **REPORTS:**

156 There were no reports.

157 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

158 There were no informational items.

159 **ADJOURNMENT:**

160 There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at
161 9:46 a.m.