

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

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**July 26, 2023**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on July 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the second floor Committee Room at Durham City Hall, as well as through the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The following members were in attendance:

Nishith Trivedi (Chair)	Orange County
Ellen Beckmann (Vice Chair)	Durham County
Tom Devlin (Member)	City of Durham
Miles Spann (Member)	City of Durham
Eric Vitale (Member)	City of Durham
Aaron Cain (Member)	Durham County
Ryan Eldridge (Member)	Durham County
Tina Moon (Member)	Town of Carrboro
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Josh Mayo (Member)	Town of Chapel Hill
Brandon Dawson (Member)	Chatham County
Jay Heikes (Member)*	GoTriangle
Brandon Jones (Member)	NCDOT Division 5
Chad Reimakoski (Member)	NCDOT Division 7
Julie Bogle (Member)	NCDOT TPD
John Grant*	NCDOT-Traffic
Travis Crayton (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Matt Day (Member)	Central Pines (TJCOG)
Joe Geigle (Non-voting Member)	FHWA
Chassem Anderson (Alternate)	The University of North Carolina
Marie Parker	Town of Carrboro
Matt Cecil (Alternate)*	Town of Chapel Hill
Nick Pittman*	Town of Chapel Hill- Transit
Bill Judge	City of Durham
Tracy Parrott (Alternate)	NCDOT Division 5
Nishant Shah*	NCDOT Division 7
Jeron Monroe*	NCDOT Division 8
Amin Hezaveh	NCDOT-CDE
Nick Morrison*	NCDOT IMD
Wannetta Mallette*	Burlington-Graham MPO
Jay Heikes*	GoTriangle
Shelly Parker*	Go Triangle
John Tallmadge	Bike Durham
Galen Kilpatrick	
Doug Plachcinski	DCHC MPO
Colleen McGue	DCHC MPO

44	Yanping Zhang	DCHC MPO
45	Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
46	Dolly Hall-Quinlan*	DCHC MPO
47	Kelly Fomenko	DCHC MPO
48	Filmon Fishastion	DCHC MPO
49	David Miller	DCHC MPO
50	Adam Spillman*	DCHC MPO

51 Quorum count: 18 of 25 voting members  
52 \*Attended remotely

53 Chair Nish Trivedi called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

54 **PRELIMINARIES:**

55 **1. Roll Call**

56 The roll call was completed using a sign-in sheet for in-person attendees, and the Zoom  
57 participant list for remote attendees.

58 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda**

59 Item # 8 Federal Policy Amendment #1 moved to the Informational Items Section of the  
60 agenda.

61 **3. Public Comments**

62 There were no public comments.

63 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

64 **4. FY2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #16**  
65 **Filmon Fishastion, LPA Staff**

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67 A motion was made by Eric Vitale to approve the consent agenda. Aaron Cain  
68 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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70 **ACTION ITEMS:**

71 **5. 2050 MTP Amendment #1 and AQ CDR**  
72 **Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

73 Andy Henry addressed the 2050 MTP Amendment and the Air Quality Conformity  
74 Determination Report separately. Andy began with the 2050 MTP and noted that if a project is  
75 not listed in the MTP it cannot be funded in the TIP. He stated that since the public comment

76 period began on June 27, we received 50-60 additional public comments against the  
77 amendment. Those comments were mainly against the I-40 auxiliary lane and the NC 55  
78 auxiliary lane. Mr. Henry said that most of the comments are similar, but they were initiated by  
79 an action alert that Bike Durham sent to their membership requesting comments to the Regional  
80 Planning Organization to reject the I-40 widening between NC 55 and the Durham Freeway and  
81 to add a southbound lane to NC 55. Doug Plachcinski asked if there is an inconsistency  
82 between the TIP and the STIP, does the lapse apply to the entire TIP or only the inconsistent  
83 projects. Joe Geigle of FHWA answered that while they have recommended adopting the TIP  
84 and STIP in whole in the past, there have been instances when projects are excluded from the  
85 approval. Matt Day asked if that would raise any issue with Air Quality Conformity, given  
86 there is a deadline coming up and we must submit the report to FHWA in September. Joe  
87 answered that projects less than one mile in distance are considered an operational  
88 improvement and therefore the AQ CDR does not need to be updated. Aaron Cain asked if the  
89 NC 55 project included bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Brandon Jones answered it would  
90 fall under their Complete Streets policy. Andy Henry also interjected that bicycle and pedestrian  
91 accommodations for this project are also in the CTP.

92 Ellen Beckmann asked if all the work is going to be on the western side of the road, and  
93 if so, can you attach the eastern side for Bike/Ped improvements. Brandon Jones responded if  
94 it's something that requires them to impact property on the east side that's not part of the west  
95 side improvements that may be another conversation. Brandon Jones stated these are short  
96 improvement projects for operational and safety. Doug asked for the distance. Brandon said  
97 about one half mile long. There was additional discussion on the amendment. Eric Vitale asked  
98 about the NC 55 project and whether the TIP had been updated, yet. Kelly Fomenko reminded  
99 participants that the three projects I- 5707, U-5934, and U-5937 were all added in the FY 2016  
100 to 2025 STIP. Nish Trivedi reiterated that these projects have gone through the state  
101 prioritization process and have been funded and added to the TIP, and now they are going

102 through the MPO process. Eric Vitale asked if one of the projects was the Meridian Parkway  
103 U-6118. Kelly responded no but that project was scheduled to be updated in the FY24-33 TIP  
104 with the First Amendment. Jay Heikes reminded everyone that when the MPO Board passed a  
105 resolution swapping U-6118 into the STIP it did include the transit accommodations and  
106 bike/ped accommodations. Mr. Heikes asked Division 5 if the I-40 auxiliary lane would include  
107 full depth full width shoulder along the section where the auxiliary lane would be installed  
108 between NC 147 and NC 55. Brandon said it was something they could investigate. Ellen  
109 Beckmann made a motion to adopt MTP Amendment #1 and the Air Quality report and  
110 suggested including more details on the types of improvements that will be incorporated in the  
111 two auxiliary lane projects. The motion was seconded by Aaron Cain. The motion passed  
112 unanimously.

**6. SPOT P7.0 Project Candidates Lists for Public Review**  
**Colleen McGue, LPA Staff**

Colleen McGue stated this is the seventh iteration of the SPOT process and the MPO is not submitting any Aviation or Ferry projects. They do have Bike Ped, Highway, Rail and Transit lists. The MPO is only allowed to submit 24 projects per mode, and they have more projects on the list than we have slots, specifically for Bike Ped and Highways. The MPO is looking for these longer project lists to be released for public comment at the Aug 9<sup>th</sup> MPO Board meeting; a public hearing will occur on September 13<sup>th</sup> and the lists with 24 projects to be approved on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mrs. McGue stated the costs had increased on some of the Transit projects due to the bundling of electric charging and electric buses. She also noted during the subcommittee meeting there was discussion about the pedestrian projects on the Rail list and which list they should be on. The SPOT office indicated they should be on the Rail list. The MPO left them on that list and bundled them together.

Mrs. McGue received information from the DOT regarding P7 that Division 5 had a negative \$14.1 million, Division 7 had \$120 million, and Division 8 had \$98.2 million. Brandon Jones clarified this is for Division level projects only and that the regional levels are different. Region C, which includes Divisions 5 and 6, is \$1.348 billion. Doug Plachcinski interjected that in the region there are also projects that are programmed that had quite a bit of cost escalation. Brandon Jones also stated Division 5 had project escalations prior to the STIP that caused increases to impact the balance. Kelly stated carryover projects are also being evaluated. Brandon Jones gave the statewide money total as \$2.9 billion. Nish Trivedi asked for Region B totals. Brandon Jones stated \$613 million. Tina Moon asked if projects listed in the STIP would be given priority if there's escalation. Colleen answered yes. Eric Vitale read a comment from the City of Durham that stated they were recommending when the project lists are released to the public that the carryover list is also released for inclusivity. Eric also asked if there was availability for spots on NCDOT's list. Colleen answered that is not known at this time, but the

MPO is coordinating with the Divisions on this. Aaron Cain wanted to be sure if we are looking to release all 51 projects. Colleen answered yes.

Tina Moon suggested adding a summary explaining the financial issues involved in the SPOT process. A motion was made by Eric Vitale to release the SPOT P7.0 for public comment. A second was made by Tom Devlin. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. FY2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program**  
**Kelly Fomenko, LPA Staff**

Kelly Fomenko shared the FY2024-2033 STIP. Kelly Fomenko shared there were approximately 65 public comments received on this item. The projects most commented on were the I-5707 which was included in the MTP Amendment; the U-5934 which has right-of-way in 2028 and is not technically in the first four years of the MTP, and U-5937 which is only funded for preliminary engineering and does not need to be in the first decade of the MTP because construction completion will be outside of that timeframe. Josh Mayo asked for elaboration on the Durham Freeway project. Kelly stated the projects are proposed widenings, but she could not give details. Ellen Beckmann asked if there was an opportunity to change the description of the two projects to be as inclusive as possible to reflect what comes out of the study. Kelly answered based on the conversation regarding the MTP she believes we could add the description in there as a memo. Much discussion was held over changing descriptions of a project. Kelly stated she doesn't know what it takes to get it done but the MPO will have a discussion and work to get it done. Doug Plachcinski suggested the MPO working with Division 5 to come up with inclusive language to bring back to the board.

A motion was made by Josh Mayo to approve the FY2024-2033 TIP with the exclusion of U-5934 pending the addition of transit accommodations. The motion was seconded by Ellen Beckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

167 **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

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169 **8. Federal Funding Policy Amendment #1**

170 **Filmon Fishastion, LPA Staff**

171 Filmon Fishastion shared that the board was only making administrative changes to the

172 policy to make sure the policy is closely aligned with CMAQ applications. The board is taking

173 comments until August 11, 2023. In addition to receiving comments, Doug Plachcinski

174 suggested that the TC set up an optional workshop meeting for members who would like to

175 participate. Eric Vitale is asking if the board could revisit the policy. Doug Plachcinski

176 recommended making the workshop a meeting to revisit the policy.

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178 **9. Proposed US 15-501 Study Scope**

179 **Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director**

180 Doug Plachcinski made the TC aware that NCDOT moved forward with an express

181 design for the US 15-501 corridor that resulted in a lot of concern around widening projects and

182 the impacts on the environment. The MPO board asked that we reconsider a scope to study the

183 US 15-501 corridor again. Doug said that staff took the scope and restructured it to include

184 partners to set up a core technical committee that will advise the project as it moves forward.

185 The proposed scope will allow all stakeholders to come together in the beginning and indicate

186 what their priorities are. The goal is to come up with a preferred alternative at the end of the

187 planning study that fulfills NCDOT's need for avoiding traffic congestion on I-40 generated by

188 15-501 corridor while meeting the needs of partners. Nish Trivedi asked was this scope based

189 on letters received by the board. Mr. Plachcinski answered "not directly" but the TC referenced

190 the opportunity to have that consensus and not wait until the end of the study process and have

191 a community feel the outcome does not match their vision. Eric Vitale asked if the project was

192 going to be funded completely by the MPO through the UPWP and what is the estimated cost.

193 Doug answered he does not have an idea what the cost would be. Eric Vitale also asked if the

work on the unadopted study could be used for this study. Doug explained that the board would do their best because a lot has changed since that study. Brandon Jones asked if there was a requirement in the study that determined each alternative developed has a thorough traffic analysis associated with it. Doug Plachcinski answered yes. Eric Vitale asked what would be done differently with this study to avoid the result from the last study. Mr. Plachcinski shared the technical analysis and started with the consensus on what the board didn't like about the last study. Tina Moon asked if it would be helpful to have a vision statement. Mr. Plachcinski stated the process will involve that. Ellen Beckmann wanted to make sure the study is considering bus transit from the start. Much discussion was held over presenting the scope the correct way with comments from Tina Moon and Bergen Watterson. Aaron Cain made a motion to approve the US 5-501 study scope. It was seconded by Bergen Watterson. The motion passed unanimously.

**10. Regional Travel Demand Model**  
**Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, DCHC MPO Executive Director**

Doug Plachcinski explained that every so often the board adopts the regional travel demand model. He explained the model is guided by an executive committee that is comprised of staff from NCDOT, the two MPOs, and GoTriangle. It is supported by TJCOG and ITRE at NC State. With the delivery of TRM Version G2.1.3, the board has been asked to adopt the official model based on the recommendation from the TRM Executive Committee. Mr. Plachcinski believes the new model is an example of best practices. If the model is adopted, it will be the model ITRE would provide to consultants that would use travel demand model components for evaluating projects. The MPO would use it for air quality conformity work.

Eric Vitale made a motion to approve the Travel Regional Model (TRMG2V1.3). It was seconded by Travis Crayton. The motion passed unanimously.



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**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**11. US 70 Multimodal Corridor Study**

**Nish Trivedi, Orange County**

Nish Trivedi gave a presentation on the update to all member agencies on the progress of the US 70 Multimodal Study from NC 751 in eastern Orange County to NC 119 west of Mebane in Alamance County.

**12. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan Update**

**Colleen McGue, LPA Staff**

Colleen McGue gave an update on the SS4A Vision Zero Action Plan and gave the TC a peek at what is being looked at as far as draft scope of work. A stakeholder forum was planned following the TC meeting to gather ideas and input on the draft scope. She stated that the comments would be evaluated and consolidated and some of them would be incorporated into the scope of work.

**13. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update**

**Yanping Zhang, LPA Staff**

Yanping Zhang gave an update on the CMP. He states the process is focused on performance measures and outlined the performance measures being utilized for the study.

**14. Report from Staff**

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

Doug Plachcinski stated the TC would be moving forward and setting up one-on-one meetings with the local member staff to discuss MPO operations; noted changes to CMAQ applications on a quarterly cycle; working with NCDOT on the grant agreement between TJCOG and the MPO; referenced the Board Retreat scheduled for August 22.

247 **15. Report from the Technical Committee Chair**

248 **Nish Trivedi, TC Vice Chair**

Nish Trivedi reminded the TC that Orange County has two requested proposals that are closing Friday for Orange County. Vice Chair Ellen Beckmann stated that Interlocal Agreement (ILA) pertaining to the transit studies continues.

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251 **14. NCDOT Reports**

252 **Brandon Jones (David Keilson), Division 5 – NCDOT**

253 Brandon Jones said that the Alston Avenue project has an anticipated completion date  
254 of the end of 2024.

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

257 Pat Wilson had no additional report.

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

260 Bryan Kluchar had no additional report.

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262 **Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Division – NCDOT**

263 Julie Bogle had no additional report.

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265 **John Grant, Traffic Operations – NCDOT**

266 There was no additional report.

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

269 Working with partners. There was no additional report.

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271 **Adjourn**

272 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Nish Trivedi at

273 10.55 a.m.