



**DCHC MPO Board
Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

9:00 AM

Committee Room
2nd Floor Durham City Hall
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

1. Roll Call**2. Ethics Reminder**

It is the duty of every Board member to avoid conflicts of interest. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda**4. Public Comments****5. Directives to Staff**[15-111](#)

Attachments: [2015-10-14 MPO Board Directives to Staff.pdf](#)

5a. Comments from Secretary Nick Tennyson, NC Department of Transportation**CONSENT AGENDA****6. September 9, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes**[15-234](#)

A copy of the September 9, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes is enclosed.

Board Action: Approve the minutes of the September 9, 2015 Board Meeting.

Attachments: [2015-10-14 Minutes 09-09-2015.pdf](#)

7. FFY15 Section 5307/5340 Partial (4/12) Split Letter[15-231](#)**Margaret Scully, LPA Staff****Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Section 5307/5340 funds are allocated to urbanized areas for transit capital and operating assistance and for transportation related planning. The MPO's final 4/12 partial apportionment for FFY 15 for each program was released by FTA and the MPO fixed route transit operators (GoDurham, CHT, GoTriangle, OPT) developed a recommended distribution of this funding. A 'Split Letter' to FTA regarding the allocation of these funds among transit operators will need to be approved. Once the allocations have been approved by the MPO Board, the transit operators will be authorized to seek application or amend current applications for funding via FTA's electronic grants management system. Attached is the letter of recommendation to FTA for the 5307/5340 partial funding split. Also attached is a memorandum with additional information on the 5307/5340 program.

TC Action: Recommend that the MPO Board approve the distribution and endorse the attached letter to FTA for the FFY15 Partial (4/12) Apportionment distribution of Section 5307/5340 funds.

Board Action: Approve the distribution and endorse the attached letter to FTA for the FFY15 Partial (4/12) Apportionment distribution of Section 5307/5340 funds.

Attachments:[2015-10-14 FFY15 5307 final partial split letter.pdf](#)[2015-10-14 FTA Section 5307-5340 FFY15 \(partial\) apportionment Board mem](#)**8. Authorize Durham City Manager on behalf of DCHC MPO to enter into agreement with North Carolina Department of Transportation for the Metropolitan Planning Program Grant (Section 5303) for FY16**[15-237](#)**Meg Scully, LPA Staff****Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

The Metropolitan Planning Program Grant (Section 5303) scope and budget for FY16 was approved by the MPO Board as part of the FY16 UPWP on March 11, 2015. A copy of the grant agreement is attached.

Board Action: Authorize City Manager to enter into agreement with NCDOT.

Attachments:[2015-10-14 CONTRACT 16-08-103.pdf](#)**ACTION ITEMS**

9. DCHC MPO Certification Closeout Presentation (15 minutes)[15-235](#)**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff****Bill Marley, FHWA - NC Division**

On May 21-22, 2015, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly conducted a certification review of the DCHC MPO metropolitan transportation planning processes. The certification review serves as quadrennial oversight of the MPO. The primary purpose of the review is to ensure that the DCHC MPO is following federal guidelines, policies, regulations, and procedures in developing and implementing 3-C (continuing, cooperative and comprehensive) transportation planning process.

Bill Marley, FHWA Review Team Leader, will present the final findings and recommendations from the certification review. .

Board Action: Receive presentation and accept report, findings, and recommendations.

Attachments:[2015-10-14 DCHC MPO Certification Closeout.pdf](#)[2015-10-14 Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Certification Review Report. June 201](#)

10. NCDOT SPOT P4.0 New Project Recommendations Update (15 minutes)[15-233](#)**Lindsay Smart, LPA staff****Felix Nwoko, LPA staff****Kosok Chae, LPA staff****Andy Henry, LPA staff**

The DCHC MPO is limited to submitting 14 new projects in each mode for the SPOT P4.0 prioritization process. The modes include highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian and rail. The DCHC MPO subcommittee for the SPOT P4.0 agreed on an MPO internal methodology in which:

- the DCHC MPO project submittals must be in the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or an adopted local plan;
- the DCHC MPO's jurisdictions and counties can each submit four new projects for each mode, except the City of Durham and Durham County can submit eight new projects;
- the transit operators can submit 10 new transit projects, except Orange Public Transit can submit 5 new transit projects; and
- there is no limit on the number of new rail project submittals by a jurisdiction because there are not more than 14 potential rail projects in the DCHC MPO.

This method yielded the following new project submittals: 32 highway; 31 bicycle and pedestrian; 21 transit projects; and 10 rail projects.

The LPA has invested considerable staff time to mimic the SPOT P4.0 scoring process and to provide potential scoring for all the new projects that the DCHC MPO jurisdictions, counties, and transit operators submitted. The objective of the LPA staff scoring exercise was to provide preliminary guidance on how well a new project might rank based on the SPOT P4.0 methodology. The scores from the DCHC MPO LPA process will not precisely match the final SPOT P4.0 scores because some NCDOT data is not yet available to the MPO or internally at NCDOT. The project list for the new highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian and rail projects are attached, and the highway project list includes preliminary scores, if available. The DCHC MPO will not need to rank transit projects because the MPO has been coordinating with Division 5 and Division 7 and hopes that all 21 projects will be submitted using the submittal limits of the DCHC MPO and those two NCDOT division offices. The rail projects will also not need to be ranked because there are not more than 14 projects.

In addition to the DCHC MPO LPA's preliminary scores, the Technical Committee (TC) has recommended the use of the SPOT Online raw scores for project selection guidance. The LPA staff will enter the new highway and bicycle and pedestrian projects into the SPOT Online tool, when it becomes available on October 19th, and extract the raw SPOT Online scores. It should be understood that these SPOT scores will not precisely match the final SPOT score because some scoring data are still not available to the NCDOT and the NCDOT will not apply the scaling factor to the raw scores until the winter 2015/2016.

The TC will review all the new project submittals at their October 28th meeting using

both the DCHC MPO LPA's scores and the SPOT Online tool raw scores as guidance, and select 14 new projects from each mode for submittal to the SPOT P4.0 scoring process. The MPO Board will receive the TC's recommendation at the Board's November 11th meeting.

TC Action: That the LPA staff use the SPOT P4.0 Online tool to obtain raw SPOT 4.0 scores, and include those scores in the consideration of new SPOT projects at the October TC meeting.

Board Action: Receive SPOT P4.0 update on new project selection process.

Attachments: [2015-10-14 SPOT-DCHC MPO P40 New Highway Projects.pdf](#)
 [2015-10-14 SPOT-DCHC MPO P40 New Transit Projects.pdf](#)
 [2015-10-14 SPOT-DCHC MPO P40 New B-P Projects.pdf](#)
 [2015-10-14 SPOT-DCHC MPO P40 New Rail Projects.pdf](#)

11. STP-DA and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) (10 minutes)[15-232](#)**Margaret Scully, LPA Staff****Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff****Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

In August, 2014, the DCHC MPO Board approved a formula and policy to allocate STP-DA and TAP funding to sub-recipients. The formula included funds that had previously been unobligated as well as expected funds for STP-DA and TAP for FY15 and FY16. A 30 percent inflation factor was then added to the total prior to distribution through the formula for the purposes of expediting project delivery. This formula is included as an attachment for reference.

Now, STP-DA and TAP funding must be allocated for FY17 and later years. DCHC MPO LPA staff recommend a formula and policy in which an annual estimated allocation, based on prior year allocation, be used to project annual funding levels to 2025 to be consistent with the TIP/STIP. Each year, the DCHC MPO receives approximately \$4,469,000 in STP-DA funding and \$350,000 in TAP funding. Attached are the formula and policy (edited to illustrate the proposed change), using these funding levels as inputs, to allocate funding to sub-recipients. A TC subcommittee met to discuss the change.

A Call-for-Projects will be held at a later date for STP-DA and TAP funded regional bicycle and pedestrian projects. TAP projects will be selected on a competitive basis.

TC Action: Recommend approval of the formula and policy to distribute STP-DA and TAP funds to sub-recipients for FY2017 through FY2025.

Board Action: Approve the formula and policy to distribute STP-DA and TAP funds to sub-recipients for FY2017 through FY2025.

Attachments:[2015-10-14 FY17-FY25 STPDA TAP Distribution Proposed.pdf](#)[2015-10-14 FY 15-16 STPDA and TAP policy old approved Aug 2014.pdf](#)[2015-10-14 DCHC Policy 3 - DCHC MPO federal funds proposed - 2015-10-14](#)**12. Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DOLRT) Project Status Report**[15-238](#)**Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair****Patrick McDonough, GoTriangle**

GoTriangle staff have provided two sets of written responses to typical comments received to date on the DOLRT during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement public comment period. Both documents were forwarded by LPA staff to Board members. The official comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ended on October 13, 2015, and on November 11, 2015, the Board will vote on a resolution to support the NEPA preferred alternative of the DOLRT project.

Board Action: Recieve status report.

REPORTS:

13. Report from the Board Chair [15-116](#)
Mark Kleinschmidt, Board Chair

Board Action: Receive the report from the Board Chair.

14. Report from the Technical Committee Chair [15-115](#)
Mark Ahrendsen, TC Chair

Board Action: Receive the report from the TC Chair.

15. Report from LPA Staff [15-117](#)
Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

Board Action: Receive the report from LPA staff.

Attachments: [2015-10-14 LPA staff report.pdf](#)

16. NCDOT Report [15-118](#)
Joey Hopkins (Brandon Jones), Division 5 - NCDOT
Mike Mills (Pat Wilson/Ed Lewis), Division 7 - NCDOT
Rob Stone (Darius Sturdivant), Division 8 - NCDOT
Julie Bollinger, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT
Kelly Becker, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

Board Action: Receive the reports from NCDOT.

Attachments: [2015-10-14 NCDOT Progress Report.pdf](#)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

17. Recent News Articles and Updates [15-100](#)

Attachments: [2015-10-14 news_articles.pdf](#)

Adjourn

Next meeting: November 11, 9 a.m., Committee Room

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings:

The Next 50 Years in Highway Safety: Connecting People and Technologies, a UNC Highway Safety Research Center's transportation symposium, will be held at the Friday Center on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 9 a.m.-4p.m.. Visit www.hsrc.unc.edu/50years for further information.