



**DCHC MPO Board
Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

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.

Per state law, all MPO Board members and alternates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest and a Real Estate Disclosure form by April 15, 2020. The forms can be found on the web site of the North Carolina State Ethics Commission at this link: <https://ef.ncsbe.gov/>.

3. Adjustments to the Agenda

4. Public Comments

5. Directives to Staff

[20-100](#)

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-100\) MPO Board Directives to Staff.pdf](#)

CONSENT AGENDA

6. January 15, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

[20-118](#)

A copy of the January 15, 2020 Board meeting minutes is enclosed.

Board Action: Approve the minutes of the January 15, 2020 Board Meeting

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-118\) 1.15.20 MPO Board Meeting Minutes_LPA2.pdf](#)

7. Change to DCHC MPO Board Meeting Calendar

[20-115](#)

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

While staff reviewed religious calendars to ensure that there were no conflicts with MPO Board meetings in 2020, staff overlooked the November meeting date, currently scheduled for November 11. November 11 is Veteran's Day, and a holiday for the City of Durham, Durham County, and Chatham County. Staff recommends moving the DCHC MPO Board meeting to November 4 to avoid this conflict.

In addition, staff will be recommending to the TC that it move its April meeting date from April 22 to April 29 in order to avoid conflict with the recently scheduled NCAMPO annual conference.

Board Action: Move the November 2020 DCHC MPO Board meeting from November 11 to November 4.

ACTION ITEMS

8. **Draft FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (5 minutes)** [19-202](#)
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 by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The UPWP must identify MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds. Attached is the draft FY2021 UPWP. The proposed schedule for UPWP development is as follows: draft FY2021 UPWP was reviewed by the Board and released for public comment on January 15, 2020. The MPO Board will be asked to hold a public hearing and approve the plan on February 12, 2020.

TC Action: Recommend the Board hold a public hearing and approve the Draft FY21 Unified Planning Work Program.

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(19-202\) FY21 UPWP Draft.pdf](#)
 [2020-02-12 \(19-202\) FY21 UPWP Public Comments.pdf](#)

9. **Durham Transit Plan FY20 Amendment - Bus Stop Construction (10 minutes)** [20-113](#)

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

In the FY20 Durham Transit Tax Annual Work Plan, \$500,000 was programmed for design of 50 bus stop improvements for GoDurham. Progress on this work has proceeded at a pace that construction can be scheduled on 10 stops in FY20 rather than FY21 as previously planned. In addition, GoTriangle recommends proceeding with procurement of amenities for all 50 stops in order to access better prices and ensure amenities are in stock for installation as each stop is ready for construction. Therefore, GoTriangle, on behalf of GoDurham, is requesting an additional \$1,029,000 of funding from the Durham Transit Tax Fund to be pulled forward from the future funding pipeline into FY20. This is considered a material change to the plan per the existing Interlocal Agreement (ILA) because the request is for more than \$500,000 towards bus service. Therefore, the request must be approved by the governing boards of three parties to the ILA: GoTriangle, DCHC MPO, and the Durham Board of County Commissioners.

SWG Action: Recommended that the Board approve amending the FY20 Durham Transit Tax Annual Work Plan to add \$1,029,000 for construction of bus stop improvements for GoDurham.

TC Action: Recommended that the Board approve amending the FY20 Durham Transit Tax Annual Work Plan to add \$1,029,000 for construction of bus stop improvements for GoDurham.

Board Action: Adopt the resolution to amend the FY20 Durham Transit Tax Annual Work Plan to add \$1,029,000 for construction of bus stop improvements for GoDurham.

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-113\) GoDurham Better Bus Stops FY20 Work Plan Amendment](#)
[2020-02-12 \(20-113\) GoDurham Better Bus Stops FY20 Work Plan Amendment](#)

10. Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Update (30 minutes)[19-172](#)**Katharine Eggleston, GoTriangle****Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

A presentation providing an update of the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR) project will be given. The DCHC MPO Board, Durham Board of County Commissioners, and GoTriangle Board of Trustees will have two upcoming decision points:

- Amend the Durham County Transit Plan to fund the next phase of study for the GTCR to address key project risks and prepare the project for a subsequent decision on whether to proceed with project implementation; and
- Authorize a Memorandum of Understanding to govern the roles, responsibilities, and goals of the next phase of study for GTCR

The Durham Staff Working Group met on January 29, 2020, and unanimously recommended adding \$2.25 million in additional funding to fund the next phase of study for the GTCR (for a total funding amount of approximately \$2.7 million, which includes already authorized funding). As a material change to the Plan, a public review period is required per the MPO's Public Involvement Plan, as well as the approval of all three parties to the transit tax - DCHC MPO, GoTriangle, and the Durham Board of County Commissioners.

Staff requests that the Board authorize release of information for public review on the funding for the next phase of study for the GTCR. As part of public outreach, a public meeting will take place on Saturday, February 22, from 9:00-11:00 am at the Durham County Health and Human Services Building (414 East Main Street in Durham). The funding request, as well as a draft Memorandum of Understanding on the next phase of study, will come to the MPO Board in March for a vote.

SWG Recommendation: The Durham Staff Working Group recommended approval of an additional \$2.25 million for early project development activities for the GTCR.

Board Action: Receive the presentation on the GTCR update and release the FY20 Work Plan Amendment adding funds for early project development activities for the GTCR for public comment.

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(19-172\) Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Update.pdf](#)

11. SPOT 6 Candidate Project List for Public Review (30 minutes)[19-123](#)**Aaron Cain, LPA Staff**

DCHC MPO staff has worked with local government staff to develop a list of candidate projects that will be submitted for scoring in SPOT 6. The calendar for submission is:

- February 12 - MPO Board Review and Release for Public Comment
- March 11 - MPO Board Holds Public Hearing on SPOT 6 List of Projects
- March 25 - TC Recommends Final List for Submittal
- April 8 - MPO Board Approves Final List for Submittal
- May 1 - Deadline for Submittal of Projects into SPOT Online

At its January 22, 2020 meeting, the DCHC MPO TC reviewed the list of candidate projects (see attachments) for submittal for SPOT 6. At this time, DCHC MPO has a list of 24 highway projects, 28 bicycle/pedestrian projects, 23 transit projects, and 19 rail projects to submit for SPOT 6. Though the number of bicycle/pedestrian projects is above the limit of 24, Divisions 5 & 7 have in the past agreed to submit a few projects on behalf of DCHC. However, Division 7 staff has stated recently that there may not be support for bicycle/pedestrian or any other projects in Orange County due to the disagreement over the widening of NC 54 west of Carrboro. DCHC does not plan to submit any ferry or aviation projects in SPOT 6.

Staff welcomes comments from Board members on the proposed list of projects, and can make adjustments to the candidate list prior to release to the public.

TC Action: Recommended that the MPO Board release the proposed candidate lists for SPOT 6 public review.

Board Action: Release the project candidate lists for SPOT 6 for public review and hold a public hearing at the March 2020 DCHC MPO Board meeting.

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(19-123\) SPOT 6 Highway Candidate List for Public Review.pdf](#)
[2020-02-12 \(19-123\) SPOT 6 Transit Candidate List for Public Review.pdf](#)
[2020-02-12 \(19-123\) SPOT 6 Bike-Ped Candidate List for Public Review.pdf](#)
[2020-02-12 \(19-123\) SPOT 6 Rail Candidate List for Public Review.pdf](#)

12. **Letter to NCDOT Secretary Trogdon regarding Prioritization of Removal of Projects from the Suspension List (10 minutes)** [20-119](#)

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

At its January 22, 2020 meeting, the DCHC MPO TC instructed MPO staff to draft a letter for the Board Chair's signature regarding the prioritization of removal of projects from NCDOT's list of projects suspended from funding. In fall 2019, NCDOT notified MPOs and RPOs that, due to cash flow issues, most projects were suspended from further action. Recently, NCDOT has begun to remove projects from that suspension list. However, there has been no explanation as to how or why projects are chosen to be removed from that list. Furthermore, locally managed projects, for which local governments pay the costs and are then reimbursed by NCDOT, have also been suspended, with no date given for reinstatement of reimbursements. The DCHC MPO TC recommends that the MPO Board formally request an explanation on the methodology of removing projects from the suspension list, and to also state formally that reinstatement of reimbursements to local governments for locally managed projects should be the top priority.

A draft letter to this effect is attached for the Board's review.

TC Action: Request a letter be sent from the MPO Board to Secretary Trogdon regarding prioritization of projects to be removed from the suspension list.

Board Action: Authorize the Board Chair to sign the letter to Secretary Trogdon.

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-119\) Project Suspension Memo from Robert Lewis with Update](#)
[2020-02-12 \(20-119\) Draft Letter to Secretary Trogdon - Project Suspension Re](#)

13. **Discussion of Joint Board Meeting (15 minutes)** [20-117](#)

Wendy Jacobs, Chair

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

The DCHC MPO and CAMPO Boards met jointly on January 30, 2020 to discuss a range of issues, including investment priorities, regional transit, and partner initiatives. The agenda and slide deck from that meeting are attached. This item is an opportunity for the Board to discuss and reflect on items that were addressed at the joint meeting.

Board Action: No action is necessary for this item; it is for discussion and informational purposes only.

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-117\) January 30, 2020 Joint Board Agenda.pdf](#)
[2020-02-12 \(20-117\) January 30, 2020 Joint Board Presentations.pdf](#)

REPORTS:

14. **Report from the Board Chair** [20-101](#)
Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair
Board Action: Receive the report from the Board Chair
15. **Report from the Technical Committee Chair** [20-102](#)
Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair
Board Action: Receive the report from the TC Chair.
16. **Report from LPA Staff** [20-103](#)
Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager
Board Action: Receive the report from LPA Staff.
Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-103\) LPA staff report.pdf](#)
17. **NCDOT Report** [20-104](#)
Joey Hopkins (David Keilson/Richard Hancock), Division 5 - NCDOT
Mike Mills (Pat Wilson), Division 7 - NCDOT
Brandon Jones (Bryan Kluchar, Jen Britt), Division 8 - NCDOT
Julie Bogle, Transportation Planning Branch - NCDOT
John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT
Board Action: Receive the reports from NCDOT.

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-104\) NCDOT Progress Report.pdf](#)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

18. **Recent News Articles and Updates** [20-105](#)
Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-105\) news articles.pdf](#)
19. **2020 Ethics Filing** [20-116](#)
Each voting member and alternate on the DCHC MPO Board is required by state statute to file a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) and a Real Estate Disclosure (RED) with the North Carolina Ethics Commission. These filings are due by April 15, 2020. These filings can be done electronically through the North Carolina State Ethics Commission's web site at this link: <https://ef.ncsbe.gov/>. Attached is additional information on ethics filing.
Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-116\) State Ethics Filing Information for MPO Board \(TAC\) Mem](#)

20. Moving Forward[20-120](#)

House Democrats have introduced a framework for infrastructure spending and priorities. They have dubbed this initiative “Moving Forward”, and it is seen as the beginning of congressional discussions to replace the FAST Act, which is the current federal transportation authorizing legislation. The FAST Act is set to expire at the end of federal fiscal year 2020 (September 30, 2020). More information is contained in the attachments.

Attachments: [2020-02-12 \(20-120\) 2020 Moving Forward Framework Press Release \(1\).pdf](#)
[2020-02-12 \(20-120\) 2020 Moving Forward Factsheet \(1\).pdf](#)
[2020-02-12 \(20-120\) Moving Forward Framework.pdf](#)

Adjourn

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

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings:

NCAMPO 2020 Conference April 22-24, Greenville