



**Technical Committee
Meeting Agenda - Final**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

9:00 AM

Committee Room 2nd Floor Durham City Hall

101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

1. Roll Call
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
3. Public Comment

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the January 22, 2020 TC Meeting Minutes

[20-122](#)

A copy of the January 22, 2020 meeting minutes is enclosed.

TC Action: Approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 TC meeting..

Attachments: [2020-02-26 \(20-122\) 1.22.20 TC Meeting_LPA2.pdf](#)

ACTION ITEMS

FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment # 2 (5 minutes)

[20-121](#)

Felix Nwoko, 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. The UPWP identifies MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds. Changes to the UPWP budget requires an amendment approved by the Board. Amendment #2 of the FY2020 UPWP proposes to de-obligate a portion of PL funds programmed for the Triangle Bikeway plan development.

The attached memorandum and resolution provide details.

TC Action: Recommended the Board approve the FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #2.

Attachments: [2020-02-26 \(20-121\) FY20 UPWP Amend 2 -staff memo.pdf](#)

[2020-02-26 \(20-121\) FY20 UPWP Amend #2 resolution with table.pdf](#)

Revision to Approved FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (5 minutes)

[20-125](#)

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

The DCHC MPO is required by federal regulations to prepare an annual UPWP that details and guides the urban area transportation planning activities. The UPWP must identify MPO planning tasks to be performed with the use of federal transportation funds. On February 17, 2020, the Board approved the FY2021 UPWP. This revision is necessary to incorporate carry over funds from FY 20 UPWP Amendment 2. The revised FY2021 UPWP and a memorandum describing the document revisions are attached. Included in the revised document are resolutions and Title VI Assurance supporting the proposed revision to the FY2021 UPWP.

TC Action: Recommended the Board approve the revision and accompanying resolutions.

Attachments: [2020-02-26 \(20-125\) FY21 UPWP revisions Memo 3.11.20 - Copy.pdf](#)
[2020-02-26 \(20-125\) FY21 UPWP FINAL Board 021220 - Copy.pdf](#)

Memorandum of Understanding for Next Phase of Study on Commuter Rail Transit (20 minutes)

[20-124](#)

Katharine Eggleston, GoTriangle

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Two high-level studies have been conducted on a potential Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR) project. The first study, the Major Investment Study (MIS), looked at the feasibility of commuter rail from Durham to Garner, as well as four Bus Rapid Transit corridors in Wake County. That study, completed in spring 2019, concluded that commuter rail could operate in the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) corridor from Durham to Garner. Subsequent to the MIS, a second study was undertaken to look closer at potential scenarios with an eye toward potential federal funding eligibility. In addition, this second study expanded the scope of potential commuter rail in the NCRR corridor from Mebane to Selma.

This second GTCR study found that there are two potential scenarios that may be eligible for federal funding, pending additional analysis: West Durham to Garner and West Durham to Clayton. This study also refined ridership estimates based on the STOPS model and the Triangle Regional Model, and provided more definitive, but still planning-level, infrastructure assumptions and cost estimates for these scenarios. For GTCR to proceed, further study is required to further define the project, engage community members, municipalities, and institutional stakeholders, and better understand key project risks. This study would conduct preliminary engineering analysis in areas of concern along the corridor, model rail traffic on the corridor with the inclusion of commuter rail to better define infrastructure needs, and better refine cost and ridership estimates. This study will also address the concerns brought forth by Durham Mayor Steve Schewel in his letter to the GTCR parties (see attached).

For the next phase of study, staff recommends that all partner agencies adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to outline the roles and responsibilities of each party. A draft MOU is attached. The draft MOU outlines the objectives of the next phase of study, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Developing a preliminary project management plan
- Preparing and implementing a community engagement plan
- Preparing and implementing an agency coordination plan
- Initiating consultations with federal agencies
- Performing a detailed screening of the NCRR corridor to confirm engineering and constructability risks
- Completing field survey and preliminary engineering design for areas of key engineering and construction risk
- Identifying sites for park-and-rides and maintenance and layover facilities
- Developing updated schedule and cost estimates

- Defining and evaluating project metrics including equity measures
- Performing RTC modelling to determine operating plans and necessary infrastructure improvements
- Engaging with local land use authorities and major institutions
- Facilitating a cost sharing negotiation among funding parties and securing local government commitment of funds

As shown in the MOU, Durham's share of the cost of the next phase of study for the GTCR project is not to exceed \$2,700,000. This includes an additional approximately \$2.235,000 from the Durham Transit Tax Fund. The TC will be requested to recommend approval of the additional funding as a separate action.

TC Action: Recommend approval of the GTCR MOU.

Attachments: [2020-02-26 \(20-124\) Memorandum of Understanding on Next Phase of Study fc](#)

FY20 Durham Transit Work Plan Amendment - CRT Study (15 minutes)

[20-123](#)

Katharine Eggleston, GoTriangle

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

GoTriangle has recently completed a study of potential commuter rail along the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) corridor from Mebane to Selma. The results of that study show that a commuter rail project, the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR), may be eligible for federal funding from Durham to either Garner or Clayton, pending additional analysis. However, this is a planning-level study, and to address concerns that have been raised by various stakeholders, further study is necessary.

In order to move forward on that study and continue the partnership that has been created with the NCRR and Norfolk Southern, which operates freight service in the NCRR corridor, funds need to be programmed within the current fiscal year. GoTriangle has requested \$2.235,000 for that study, which combined with previously programmed funds will have Durham contribute \$2.7M of a total budget of \$9.2M for the next phase of study. The Durham Staff Working Group recommended approval of \$2,235,000 of additional funds as an amendment to the FY20 Work Plan on January 29, 2020.

SWG Action: The Durham Staff Working Group unanimously recommended approval of an additional \$2.235,000 for the next phase of study for the GTCR.

TC Action: Recommend the Board approve an additional \$2.235,000 for the next phase of study for commuter rail.

Attachments: [2020-02-26 \(20-123\) Project Sheet for CRT Study.pdf](#)

[2020-02-26 \(20-123\) Resolution to Approve Additional Funding for CRT Study.p](#)

[2020-02-26 \(20-123\) Project Sheet for CRT Study.pdf](#)

Adjustment of TC Meeting Calendar (5 minutes)

[20-126](#)

Aaron Cain, LPA Staff

Due to the schedule of the annual NCAMPO conference for April 22-24 in Greenville, staff recommends moving the April TC meeting date from April 22 to April 29. Because there is a

fifth Wednesday in April, this will still allow two weeks between the April TC meeting and the May Board meeting.

TC Action: Adjust the TC meeting calendar to move the April 22, 2020 meeting to April 29, 2020.

Minutes Recording Document

[20-110](#)

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Report from Staff

[20-107](#)

Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff

TC Action: Receive report from Staff.

Attachments: [2020-02-26 \(20-107\) LPA staff report.pdf](#)

Report from the Chair

[20-108](#)

Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair

TC Action: Receive report from the TC Chair.

NCDOT Reports

[20-109](#)

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 Division - NCDOT

John Grant, Traffic Operations - NCDOT

TC Action: Receive reports from NCDOT.

Attachments: [2020-02-26 \(20-109\) NCDOT Progress Report.pdf](#)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Adjourn

Next meeting: March 25, 9 a.m., Committee Room

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings:

**Triangle Bike & Ped Workshop 2020
Raleigh Union Station, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. March 26, 2020**

NCAMPO Conference April 22-24, 2020 Greenville