



**DCHC MPO Board
Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, March 11, 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: [2020-03-11 \(20-100\) MPO Board Directives to Staff.pdf](#)

CONSENT AGENDA**6. February 12, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**[20-127](#)

A copy of the February 12, 2020 Board meeting minutes is enclosed.

Board Action: Approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020 Board Meeting

Attachments: [2020-03-11 \(20-127\) 2.12.20 MPO Board Meeting Minutes_LPA2.pdf](#)

ACTION ITEMS

7. 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 Study

The attached memorandum and resolution provide details.

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

Board Action: Approve the FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #2.

Attachments: [2020-03-11 \(20-121\) FY20 UPWP Amend 2 -staff memo.pdf](#)
[2020-03-11 \(20-121\) FY20 UPWP Amend #2 resolution with table.pdf](#)

8. 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.

Board Action: Approve the revision and accompanying resolutions.

Attachments: [2020-03-11 \(20-125\) FY21 UPWP revisions Memo 3.11.20 - Copy.pdf](#)
[2020-03-11 \(20-125\) FY21 UPWP FINAL Board 021220 - Copy.pdf](#)

9. SPOT 6 Candidate Project List Public Hearing (15 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:

- 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 February 12, 2020 meeting, the DCHC MPO Board reviewed the list of candidate projects (see attachments) for submittal for SPOT 6 and released them for public comment. 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. DCHC does not plan to submit any ferry or aviation projects in SPOT 6.

At this time, staff requests that the Board hold a public hearing on the candidate lists for SPOT 6, and provide any comment Board members may have on the proposed projects. Staff will also update the Board on any potential changes to the candidate project lists. The Board will take action to approve the project lists at its April 2020 meeting.

Board Action: Hold a public hearing on the candidate project lists for SPOT 6.

Attachments: [2020-03-11 \(19-123\) SPOT 6 Highway Candidate List for Public Review.pdf](#)
[2020-03-11 \(19-123\) SPOT 6 Transit Candidate List for Public Review.pdf](#)
[2020-03-11 \(19-123\) SPOT 6 Bike-Ped Candidate List for Public Review.pdf](#)
[2020-03-11 \(19-123\) SPOT 6 Rail Candidate List for Public Review.pdf](#)

10. FY20 Durham Transit Work Plan Amendment - CRT Study (15[20-123](#)**minutes)****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: Recommended the Board adopt the resolution to program an additional \$2,235,000 for the next phase of study for commuter rail.

Board Action: Adopt the resolution to program an additional \$2,235,000 for the next phase of study for commuter rail.

Attachments:[2020-03-11 \(20-123\) GTCR Presentation - MOU and CRT Amendment.pdf](#)[2020-03-11 \(20-123\) Project Sheet for CRT Study.pdf](#)[2020-03-11 \(20-123\) Resolution to Approve Additional Funding for CRT Study.p](#)[2020-03-11 \(20-123\) CRT Meeting and Outreach Summary 2-22-20.pdf](#)[2020-03-11 \(20-123\) CRT Open House Comments 2-22-20.pdf](#)

**11. 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 (NCR) 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 NCR corridor from Mebane to Selma.

The 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 NCR 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.

TC Action: Recommended approval of the GTCR MOU.

Board Action: Adopt the GTCR MOU.

Attachments: [2020-03-11 \(20-124\) Mayor Schewel Letter to GoTriangle on Commuter Rail - 1](#)
[2020-03-11 \(20-124\) Memorandum of Understanding on Next Phase of Study for Commuter Rail Transit.pdf](#)

REPORTS:

12. **Report from the Board Chair** [20-101](#)
Wendy Jacobs, Board Chair
Board Action: Receive the report from the Board Chair
13. **Report from the Technical Committee Chair** [20-102](#)
Nishith Trivedi, TC Chair
Board Action: Receive the report from the TC Chair.
14. **Report from LPA Staff** [20-103](#)
Felix Nwoko, LPA Manager
Board Action: Receive the report from LPA Staff.
Attachments: [2020-03-11 \(20-103\) LPA staff report.pdf](#)
15. **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: [2020-03-11 \(20-104\) NCDOT Progress Report.pdf](#)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

16. Recent News Articles and Updates

[20-105](#)

Attachments: [2020-03-11 \(20-105\) news_articles.pdf](#)

Adjourn

Next meeting: April 8, 9 a.m., Committee Room

Dates of Upcoming Transportation-Related Meetings: None