

# Durham Staff Working Group

## Meeting Notes

February 10, 2022

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Durham County – Chair Ellen Beckmann  
GoTriangle – Jay Heikes and Meg Scully  
DCHC MPO – Mariel Klein and Andy Henry

#### a. New appointment – Mariel Klein, DCHC MPO

Chair Ellen Beckmann welcomed Mariel Klein, the new voting member for DCHC MPO.

### 2. Approval of December 2021 Meeting Notes (MPO)

Motion by Jay Heikes to approve the December 2021 meeting notes, second by Mariel Klein.  
Motion passed.

### 3. Plan Updates

#### a. Durham County Transit Plan (MPO)

Aaron Cain said work is underway on the Durham County Transit Plan Preferred Scenario. Aaron Cain said decisions need to be made soon on what will go into the FY23 Work Program, and we are still on track to have a plan finalized around May 2022 and subsequent public engagement throughout June and July. Aaron Cain reviewed the rest of the upcoming schedule.

#### b. Transit Governance Plan (Durham County)

Chair Ellen Beckmann said work with the consultant team is underway to prepare for a staff workshop in early March 2022 to follow up on the November 2021 elected official workshop. Chair Ellen Beckmann said the Transit Governance Plan is evaluating changes to the Interlocal Implementation Agreement (ILA) and more information will be available soon.

#### c. Wake-Durham Bus Plan (GoTriangle)

There was no update.

### 4. FY22 Work Program Amendment - GoDurham Fare Collection Improvements (21DCI02) for Transit Plan Development (MPO)

Aaron Cain said the current work plan has \$250,000 budgeted for GoDurham Fare Collection Improvements, and that has not been spent because GoDurham is not collecting fares this year. Aaron Cain said there is a shortfall in the budget, so this request asks that \$225,000 be moved from fare collection improvements to development of the transit plan. Meg Scully pointed out that \$39,000 was previously added for additional outreach, and asked what the total cost is for the transit plan. Aaron Cain said the original budget was \$750,000, and with the additions the total is nearing \$900,000. Ellen Beckmann said the vast majority of the cost increases are due to increased coordination efforts and additional meetings. There was a discussion on the scope of work in relation to the cost increases. Aaron Cain said the timeline for completion of the Transit Plan has been pushed until the end of 2022.

Motion by Mariel Klein to approve the FY22 Work Program amendment to re-allocate \$225,000 of GoDurham Fare Collection Improvements to the Transit Plan Development. Second by Jay Heikes. Motion passed.

## **5. FY22 Financial Update (GoTriangle)**

Steven Schlossberg gave an update of revenues of the FY22 Transit Plan and compared the trends to those of the federal reserve. Steven Schlossberg that the FY22 revenues could exceed the budgeted \$31.2 million, and will likely exceed the FY21 actuals. Steven Schlossberg provided a financial update on the vehicle rental tax and the vehicle registration fee. Steven Schlossberg said the FY23 draft work plan total is the same as the FY21 actual budget. Ellen Beckmann asked if investment income is included in this budget, and Steven Schlossberg said that investment income is not budgeted.

## **6. FY23 Work Program Update**

### **a. List of projects**

Aaron Cain said the list of projects is an informational item so that everyone is aware of what is being requested for FY23. Aaron Cain said primarily existing projects are being requested, although there are some requests for new projects. Aaron Cain asked for project sheets to be completed no later than February 18, 2022 to be incorporated in the agenda materials for the March SWG meeting.

### **b. Adjusted projects**

#### **i. GoDurham Senior Shuttle (previously Food for Seniors Shuttle)**

Aaron Cain pointed out the name change from Food for Seniors Shuttle to the GoDurham Senior Shuttle and the amount decreased from what was included in FY22.

#### **ii. Fare Collection Improvements**

#### **iii. Youth GoPass**

### **c. New projects**

**i. Route 3X additional service (GoDurham)**

Aaron Cain said there is consensus that this is a priority, and we may need to do a plan amendment.

**ii. North Durham Improvements (GoDurham)**

Aaron Cain said this item combines the GoDurham Route 4 extension, the service hours extension of Route 9a and 9b, and the North Durham Crosstown route, which are all considered high priorities of the new plan.

**iii. Coordinated Bus Speed and Reliability Improvements on NCDOT Corridors (GoTriangle)**

Jay Heikes said the high dollar amounts requested for FY24 and FY25 assumed that BRT would be in the plan, so those amounts can be scaled back now that BRT is not in the plan. Jay Heikes said GoTriangle is open to identifying alternative ways to fund this. There was a discussion on coordination with the US 15-501 Corridor Study. SWG members agreed there needs to be further coordination with Orange County staff.

**iv. Regional Fleet and Facilities Study Implementation (GoTriangle)**

Jay Heikes said this request is split into two projects. The smaller request is for \$100,000 for design for a set of improvements for the GoTriangle regional Nelson Road facility. Jay Heikes said the \$3.3 million request is for design and land acquisition for a coordinated GoTriangle and GoDurham Access paratransit facility. Jay Heikes said relocating the paratransit facilities away from the fixed route facilities would allow for expansions to the fixed route facilities. Jay Heikes said there is tentative agreement from all involved parties that a new paratransit facility is the best option, and Tom Devlin said the City of Durham concurs.

**v. New Positions for City of Durham**

Tom Devlin said the City of Durham requests three new positions to help with contract and construction management, totaling slightly less than \$450,000. Chair Ellen Beckmann said a subcommittee should further look into this and evaluate this decision as the Boards expect the SWG to have a solid rationale for recommendations. There was a discussion on how this relates to the Transit Plan Governance Study.

**vi. Access to Transit – Mineral Springs (Durham County)**

This project is for sidewalk and bus stop improvements adjacent to an NCDOT project. Chair Ellen Beckmann said she hopes NCDOT's complete streets policy implementation guide will lead to the funding of this project by NCDOT, but if that is not the case there should be \$150,000 set aside to fund the project. Meg Scully asked if there has been coordination with GoTriangle's bus stop improvement team because there is agreement that a sidewalk is necessary at this location. Jay Heikes

pointed out that GoTriangle added money in the transit plan for this type of project of connecting missing sidewalk gaps.

There was a discussion on how to reduce the FY23 work program budget and the upcoming preliminary STIP release from NCDOT.

**d. New projects sheet deadline – February 18, 2022**

**e. Schedule**

The schedule was included in the agenda packet.

**7. Proposed Operating Cost Policy (Durham County)**

Chair Ellen Beckmann said she has worked on a proposed operating cost policy to ensure consistency between transit operators. This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

**8. Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be in early March for two hours.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.