

Durham Staff Working Group
May 17, 2023
MEETING NOTES

The Durham Staff Working Group met on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Committee Room at City Hall, as well as through the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The following members and guests were in attendance:

Ellen Beckmann (Chair, Voting Member)	Durham County
Doug Plachcinski (Voting Member)	DCHC MPO
Jay Heikes (Voting Member)	GoTriangle
Brandi Minor	Durham County
Sean Egan	City of Durham

Quorum Count: 3 of 3 Voting Members

*Remote attendance was not taken at this meeting.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Ellen Beckmann called the meeting to order. All voting members were acknowledged to be in attendance.

2. Approval of January 2023 and April 2023 Meeting Notes (MPO)

Jay Heikes made a motion to approve the SWG Meeting Minutes. Doug Plachcinski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. FY24 Durham Transit Work Program Amendments (GoTriangle)

a. Durham Financial Changes (GoTriangle)

Steven Schlossberg gave a presentation on the revised recommended work program revenue adjustments. The adjustments were due to the retention of the vehicle rental tax by the GoTriangle Board of Trustees. Steven Schlossberg gave an overview of the current revenue sources of the Durham County Transit Plan and explained what led to the decision of the removal of the vehicle rental tax as a revenue stream. The impact of the removal of this tax on the Durham Transit Work Plan is a decrease in funds of \$1.428 million. Steven Schlossberg then went on to present a plan on how all present agencies can work towards a solution by laying out some options for possible sources of revenue.

Chair Ellen Beckmann commented that the long-range revenue forecast of the Durham Transit Plan cannot change at this point and that any changes would need to go on the next Transit Plan update. Sean Egan asked Steven Schlossberg to follow up on if the funds from the vehicle rental tax have been programmed.

b. GoTriangle Capital Development Staff Request (GoTriangle/Durham County)

Chair Ellen Beckmann gave a presentation on the Capital Development Staff Request and how she proposes this request be used as a demonstration of the direction the SWG should head towards when it comes to reporting and accountability.

Doug Plachcinski made a motion to recommend the Durham Work Program with the changes discussed by the group. Jay Heikes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Plan Updates

a. Durham County Transit Plan (MPO)

Chair Ellen Beckmann provided the update for the Durham County Transit Plan. The Transit Plan is nearing completion and set to be adopted by the three Boards.

b. Transit Governance Study (Durham County)

Chair Ellen Beckmann provided the update for the Transit Governance Study. The ILA has been approved and there are several other documents in circulation such as the Comprehensive Participation Agreement (CPA) and the Policies & Procedures Manual.

c. Wake-Durham Bus Plan (GoTriangle)

Jay Heikes provided the update for the Wake-Durham Bus Plan. Two workshops are planned for the following week at City Hall in the Transportation Department.

d. Commuter Rail (GoTriangle)

Jay Heikes provided the update for the Commuter Rail. A decision on how to move forward will not be made based on the last meeting of the subcommittees. At the subcommittee meeting members emphasized the importance of coordinated regional planning and expressed interest in pursuing projects that will be competitive for federal funding. Projects including an expanded regional BRT program, projects that would support regional rail transit, and coordination with the states, plans for inner city rail. It was agreed that MPO staff, GoTriangle, and NCDOT would meet to discuss options for next steps and return to the subcommittee with updates. Changes to the work program and Transit Plan are expected to take several months if not more.

5. Recommend Transit Policies & Procedures Manual for Approval (Durham County)

Chair Ellen Beckmann noted a couple of changes from what is on the agenda. The first being the reference to the GoTriangle special tax board and the second being the exhibits for the financial policies and procedures manual.

Chair Ellen Beckmann made a motion to approve the Transit Policies & Procedures Manual. Jay Heikes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Durham Microtransit Discussion

Austin Stanion provided an overview of the Durham Microtransit Program. The recommendations moving forward are to revise the service zone identified in the 2017 short range Transit Plan and studied in the

2020 Transit Study, limiting the number of trips per passenger to two per day, and limiting the maximum trip subsidy to \$10 per ride. The recommendations are going to GoTriangle's Operation and Finance Committee on June 1 and to the GoTriangle Board of Governors on June 28.

The group inquired about what public comment measures will be taken with this recommendation. Meg Scully explained that the quick turnaround time was due to the contract with service providers. Meg Scully stated that the program will remain a Pilot as the program is being evaluated and other served are being implemented. The group then discussed the details of the recommended changes in addition to other questions presented by working group members.

7. Next Meeting – June 21

Chair Ellen Beckmann announced that the next Durham County SWG meeting date will be June 21.

8. Adjournment

With no further business before the Durham County SWG, the meeting was adjourned.