



DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO

DCHC

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PLANNING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM
Executive Director

Durham City Council
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DCHC MPO OVERVIEW AND STRUCTURE



DCHC MPO is the regional transportation planning organization responsible for the western part of the piedmont Triangle area. MPOs follow a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process that includes the development of a long-range transportation plan (MTP), a shorter term Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

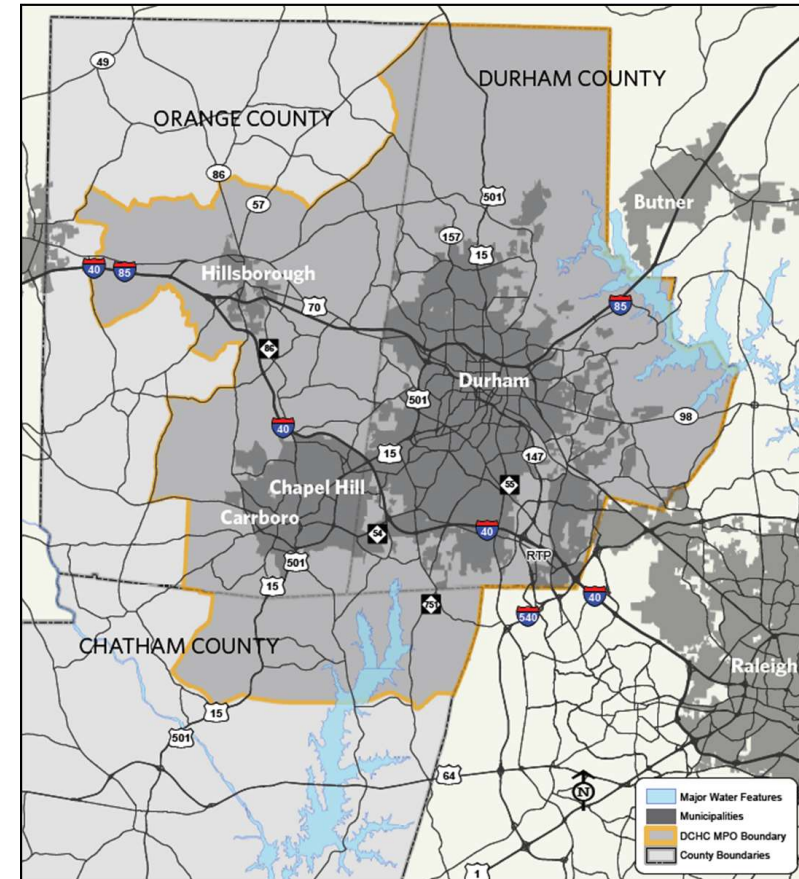
The DCHC MPO urbanized area includes:

- Durham County (entire county and City)
- A portion of Orange County including the towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough
- Northeast Chatham County

The MPO Board members are elected officials that make decisions on transportation planning and policies.

The Technical Committee advise the MPO Board, and membership consists of staff from cities and counties, as well as from partner agencies such as NCDOT, transit agencies, universities, and Triangle J Council of Governments.

Ten MPO staff support the federal 3-C transportation planning process within the Policy Board's direction.



Executive Director Doug Plachcinski AICP, CFM

- ✓ Durham native, SDHS class of 1994
- ✓ Undergrad UNC-G, Grad Wayne State (Detroit)
- ✓ PhD candidate at UNCG, Geography and Sustainability
- ✓ American Institute of Certified Planners member
- ✓ Certified Floodplain Manager
- ✓ 23+ years of planning experience with local, county, and regional governments
- ✓ 10+ years of MPO experience in Michigan, Massachusetts, and North Carolina
- ✓ 13+ years of City, Town, Township, Village, and County planning and zoning experience in Michigan, Massachusetts, Virginia, and North Carolina
- ✓ Began career in the Durham City Transportation Department during summer 1995 collecting data for the regional travel demand model and turning movements for intersection analysis.



2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

• **Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)**

- Began work on an amendment to the CTP that would update the bicycle and pedestrian elements to be consistent with current locally adopted plans and to provide guidance to NCDOT on inclusion of complete streets elements for non-motorized and highway projects.
- Joint plan with NCDOT that guides transportation project development and reservation of future right of way.

• **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

- The DCHC MPO adopted the 2050 MTP on February 9, 2022.
- Federal long-range plan that balances revenues and costs.
- Projects in the funding plan, i.e., Transportation Improvement Program, must be identified in the MTP.

• **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a ten-year funding document for bicycle, pedestrian, highway, rail, and public transportation projects.
- The MPO updated the TIP several times through the amendment process and also provided input to NCDOT on the draft FY2024-2033 STIP.

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS



CORRIDOR STUDIES

- **US 70 Corridor Study (Orange County)**
 - Provide a framework for a safe, efficient and equitable multimodal transportation system that offers a choice between public transportation, non-motorized, and automobile modes to seamlessly connect between different transportation options and serves development with appropriate transportation access. VHB leads this study team.
- **US 70 Corridor Study (Durham County)**
 - Working with NCDOT on US 70 from the East End Connector to the Wake/Durham line to reduce congestion and provide safe, efficient transit and bike/ped facilities. Consultant STV leads this study team.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING

- **Triangle Bikeway Study**
 - This completed study identified a multimodal corridor connecting Raleigh, Cary, Morrisville, Research Triangle Park, Durham, and Chapel Hill. The Triangle Bikeway Regional Advisory Committee of stakeholders meets regularly discuss how to move the bikeway forward. Wake County and the Research Triangle Foundation committed funds for environmental impact analysis and preliminary engineering on the Triangle Bikeway between Raleigh and RTP's west boundary.

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS



TECHNICAL

- **Triangle Regional Model (TRM)**

- An analytical tool for policy decision-making and transportation/transit plan development. The TRM forecasts vehicle volume, transit ridership, non-motorized travel and other travel performance measures, and supports an pollutant emissions model. Regional stakeholders completed a new generation (TRM G2) model for the 2020 base year.
- A key component of the TRM is a Triangle-wide land use model that forecasts where people will live, work, shop, and get services through the year 2050.

- **Congestion Management Process (CMP) and Mobility Report Card (MRC)**

- A systematic approach to managing new and existing transportation systems for relieving congestion and maximizing the safety and mobility of people and goods.
- This work focuses on data collection, such as roadway weekday count, turning movement count (TMC) of intersections, and transit ridership data produce performance measures.

CURRENT YEAR 2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS



TRANSIT PLANNING

- **Orange County Transit Plan and Durham County Transit Plan Updates**
- **Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant**
 - Improve seniors' and people with disabilities mobility by removing transportation service barriers and expanding transportation options.
 - DCHC MPO served as the Designated Recipient of FTA funds and coordinated a competitive selection process for projects.
 - Awards to Orange County Department on Aging, GoDurham, and Chapel Hill Transit.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- **Rapid Policy Assessment Tool (RPAT)**
 - Used to support the MTP development process by producing key performance measures, such as VMT, from scenarios that differ in land use, transportation network and services, and policies.
- **Big Data**
 - Produces current system performance data such as vehicle speeds, travel time, volumes, and traveler origin/destination to support decision-making.

CURRENT YEAR 2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL PROJECT

- **Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Application**

- To fund the development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for regional improvements within the DCHC MPO urbanized area to move towards a Vision Zero goal and planning for low cost, high impact safety improvements.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **The DCHC MPO Public Involvement Policy (PIP)** establishes an open decision-making process whereby citizens can be involved in all stages of the transportation planning process. The PIP will continue to guide planning efforts and programs to ensure they are developed in a manner that assures that the public, and affected communities, are afforded ample opportunity to participate. The MPO will revise and update the PIP in 2023-2024.

DCHC MPO LPA TRANSITION FROM CITY TO TJCOG



- Beginning July 1, 2023
- Alignment for:
 - Technology
 - MPO Administration
 - Talent Resources
 - Project Administration
 - Regionalism
- Incremental cost increase will include project indirect rate that City of Durham did not traditionally capture. City currently contributes about \$1 per resident for MPO local funding match.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



QUESTIONS?

Contact: Doug.Plachcinski@dchcmpo.org