

# MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Policy Board  
FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director  
DATE: October 19, 2023  
RE: **MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES + IJA UPDATE + STAFF REPORT**

This memorandum updates the Board and Technical Committee on the board directives, the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's programs, and summarizes DCHC MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) tasks.

## 1. MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES

DATE	REQUEST	STATUS DETAILS
11-4-20	Develop a strategy to move forward on the 15/501 Corridor Study that addresses concerns about bicycle and pedestrian treatments along the corridor as well as additional outreach to local stakeholders.	<i>Underway.</i> Scope developed. Switching gears; once the Durham bike/ped plan, Bus Speed and Reliability Study, and Safe Streets for All projects are underway, we will initiate procurement for the study. The caveat is that we must amend the work program AFTER a preferred vendor and draft project budget is negotiated.
10-13-21	Investigate potential options for a racial equity policy and/or framework for DCHC MPO.	<i>Pending.</i> Staff will investigate options and present them to the TC and Board as a part of the 2023-24 UPWP Public Involvement Program update. Current focus on report improvements and engagement diversity.
12-15-21	Investigate the possibility of conducting a highway safety plan or other options for improving highway safety within the MPO.	<i>Underway.</i> Working with FHWA on grant agreement. Reassignment to CPRC is complete.
4-13-22	Staff should address outstanding items regarding the Triangle Regional Model TRM and work with the TRM team at ITRE to address those concerns. Staff should report back to the Board in spring 2023.	<i>Underway.</i> ITRE provided follow up discussion for using the TRM to evaluate non-motorized projects. Staff will ask ITRE to present evaluation options at an upcoming TC meeting. We are also working to better use the model as a decision-making tool focused around MTP goals and objectives.
5-11-22	Develop a set of specific recommendations for the legislative delegation to consider based on the DCHC-CAMPO adopted policy priorities for the 2023 General Assembly session.	<i>Underway.</i> Adopted in February including increase to one (1) cent local option sales tax. Prioritization continues. Will coordinate with CPRC to engage legislators in advance of 2024 short session.

## 2. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND JOBS ACT INFORMATION

On November 6, 2021, Congress passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) (IIJA), a once-in-a-generation investment in national infrastructure and competitiveness. Among the IIJA's goals are several transportation-related investments in electric vehicles and infrastructure, passenger rail, airports and ports, public transit, and roads and bridges.

The funding for these programs will be distributed by state through formula grants and competitive grants, each with their own timeline and application requirements. This standing memo seeks to update the MPO Board and DCHC MPO jurisdictions regularly to grant and funding opportunities as they arise.

### MPO Member Jurisdictions Current/Pending Grant Applications

Agency	Grant Name	Project	Application Status
Chapel Hill Transit	CIG	N/S BRT	Scoring request underway
Durham County Transportation	FRA Grade Crossing Improvements	East Durham grade separations	<b>APPLICATION AWARDED!</b>
DCHC MPO	Safe Streets for All	MPO-wide Safety Action Plan	Awarded
GoTriangle	PROTECT	BOMF	Application Submitted
City of Durham	Areas of Persistent Poverty	The Village improvements	Awarded
Chapel Hill Transit	Areas of Persistent Poverty	Microtransit areas in support of N-S BRT	Awarded
Durham County	Reconnecting Communities	Durham to Roxboro Rail Trail	Applied
GoTriangle	Reconnecting Communities	Triangle Mobility Hub	Applied
City of Durham	Reconnecting Communities	Reimagine Durham Freeway	Applied
NCDOT	Reconnecting Communities	S-Line Communities Mobility Hubs	Applied

### Currently Open NOFO's

Name	Amount Available	Description	Eligibility	Application Deadline
FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program (TCP)	\$22M available, awards between \$1M-\$5M	To provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to disadvantaged and under-resourced communities, enabling them to advance transportation projects that support community-driven economic development, health, environment, mobility, and access goals.	National, state, Tribal or regional capacity builders	11/28/2023

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)	\$45M available. Awards up to \$100,000 for planning and design and \$15M/active transportation project	The program will establish competitive grants that strategically invest in projects that connect active transportation networks and spines, accelerating local and regional plans to create safe and convenient walking and biking routes to everyday destinations and to fill gaps in trails between communities.	Local or regional governments, states, and Tribal governments	TBD
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### 3. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM TASKS

#### II – A. DATA AND PLANNING SUPPORT

##### II – A – 1 Networks and Support Systems

1. Vehicle Miles of Travel
  - ✓ Received
2. Street System Changes
3. Traffic Crashes and Safety Data
  - ✓ Finalizing project scope to proceed with consultant request for interest.
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory – Working to update communication with existing fixed counters (mostly in Orange County)
6. Network Data Collection
7. Capacity Deficiency Analysis
8. Land Use, Socio-Economic Environmental Data Analysis – CommunityViz improvement project nearing end. Presentation at an upcoming TC meeting.

##### II – A – 2 Travelers and Behavior

- Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes
- Base Year Data Collection
- Travel Surveys
  - ✓ GoTriangle managing OD onboard survey on behalf of Durham/Orange Counties. GoRaleigh is project lead overall Exploring options to use data beyond TRM. Working around Duke transit data limitations.
- Vehicle Occupancy Rates
- Travel Time Studies
- Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey)

##### III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements

- ✓ New Model adopted.
- Horizon Year Data Forecasts
- Financial Planning
- FTA STOPS and CIG Technical Analysis & Planning

## **II – B. PLANNING PROCESS**

### **II – B – 1: Targeted Planning**

- Air Quality Planning/Conformity Analysis
- Alternative Fuels/Vehicles
- Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning – Supporting NCDOT analysis of all hazard mitigation plans to coordinate resilient transportation project development.
- Congestion Mitigation Plan
  - ✓ Evaluating performance measures.
- Freight Movement/Mobility Planning
- Climate Change Planning
  - ✓ Participating in Triangle Cool Cities. Transitions occurring with CPRC through transportation and energy program.

### **II – B – 2: Regional Planning**

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Goal and Objectives engagement to begin in November.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan – Preparing update in conjunction with MTP update.
- Racial Equity Planning

### **II – B – 3: Special Studies**

- Durham Freeway Corridor Study
  - ✓ City of Durham developing community partner capacity. Durham working through contracting issues with NCDOT.
- Orange County US 70 Corridor Study
  - ✓ We anticipate receiving the existing conditions report. Completing process documentation with NCDOT TPD.
- Durham County US 70 Corridor Study
  - ✓ Next round of public involvement complete, including information on where the new freeway options are in process and evaluation compared to the more complete option refinement DCHC and consultants are undertaking.

## **III – A. Unified Planning Work Program**

### **III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program**

- Submitted initial 2023-2024 UPWP for approval. Prepared COG budget. Finalizing numbers to allocate resources across new UPWP amendment.

### **III-A-2: Metrics and Performance Measures**

- Staff reviewed and proposed targets for Federal transportation performance measures on transit vehicle state of good repair. Staff will perform a similar process for the upcoming emissions rulemaking.

### **III-B: Transportation Improvement Program**

#### **III-B-1: Prioritization**

- Priority lists adopted by MPO Board on 9/13/2023. SPOT 7.0 project submission deadline 10/29. MPO entering projects into SPOT online.

#### **III-B-2: Metropolitan TIP**

- Initiated call for projects for upcoming funding year. Further processing swaps. Discussions ongoing with obligation authority exchanges, particularly with TAP. Comparing project consistency across CTP>MTP>TIP>STIP for improved concurrency. EG Although the MPO adjusted their adopted MTP to remove freeway conversions and other capacity increases, we have not carried those policies forward into the TIP and STIP.

#### **III-B-3: Merger and Project Development**

### **III-C: Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and Other Regulatory Requirements**

#### **III- C-1: Title VI**

#### **III-C-2: Environmental Justice**

#### **III-C-3: Minority Business Enterprise Planning**

#### **III-C-4: Planning for the Elderly and Disabled**

#### **III-C-5: Safety/Drug Control Planning**

#### **III-C-6: Public Participation**

#### **III-C-7: Private Sector Participation**

### **III-D: Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning**

- MPact Transit + Community (formerly Rail-Volution) in Phoenix, AZ from 11/5-11/8

### **III-E: Board Support, Member Services, and Administration**

- Board Retreat completed on August 22. Follow up with FountainWorks regarding strategic plan development moving forward to align MPO operations with resources.
- New agreement with NCDOT and CPRC was executed.
- Please follow up and process member contribution payments.
- Member one-on-one meetings: informal 1-on-1 with staff to discuss issues, timelines, admin items, etc. These are now scheduled (October—December) due to TIP adoption and beginning of next LAP process with project application due December 1.
- CMAQ applications will now be accepted continuously and processed each quarter. The end dates for the quarters are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.
- Deadlines for RFF projects are set. Please connect with Filmon if you have questions, or if we can support your concepts.