

MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Board
FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director
DATE: April 5, 2023
RE: **MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES + IIJA UPDATE + STAFF REPORT**

This memorandum updates the board on their directives, the 2021 Infrastructure 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> Communication in process with NCDOT Division 5 regarding express design coordination for project.
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.
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> Background Webinars occurred in March for grant agreements. Setting time w/ NCDOT safety to discuss outcomes.
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 TRM update included in MPO Staff Report.
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. Met with legislators on February 27. Prioritization continues.

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
City of Durham	RAISE	Safe Equitable Streets to Transit	New application submitted
Durham County Transportation	FRA Grade Crossing Improvements	East Durham grade separations	Application Submitted to DOT
DCHC MPO	Safe Streets for All	MPO-wide Safety Action Plan	Awarded
GoTriangle	LoNo	Electric bus purchase	In process
City of Durham	Bus and Bus Facilities	Route 9 Improvements + Duke Transit	Submitted to DOT

Currently Open NOFO's

Name	Amount Available	Description	Eligibility	Application Deadline
Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants (Community Charging)	\$1.125B over 4 years	to install electric vehicle charging and alternative fuel in locations on public roads, schools, parks, and in publicly accessible parking facilities. These grants will be prioritized for rural areas, low-and moderate-income neighborhoods, and communities with low ratios of private parking, or high ratios of multiunit dwellings.	State or political subdivision of a State, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Local government, Special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, Tribe, Territory	To Be announced
Low or No Emission Grant Program	\$1,221,350,117	purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.	designated recipients of FTA grants, including states, local governmental authorities, and Indian Tribes.	
Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program	\$469,445,424	Financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing or leasing buses or related	designated recipients that allocate funds to fixed-route bus operators, states, or local governmental authorities that operate	

		equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities.	fixed- route bus service, and Indian tribes.	
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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
 - ✓ Successfully applied for SS4A grant to prepare regional safety strategy. Crash data is a significant initial task. We will include safety in specific special studies for 23-24 UPWP as directed by FHWA instruction.
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory
 - Viewed third party data products.
6. Network Data Collection
7. Capacity Deficiency Analysis
8. Land Use, Socio-Economic Environmental Data Analysis – CommunityViz improvement project kicking off.

II – A – 2 Travelers and Behavior

- Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes
- Base Year Data Collection
- Travel Surveys
 - ✓ Research into coordinating Customer Satisfaction and Planning/Modeling on-board surveys.
- Vehicle Occupancy Rates
- Travel Time Studies
- Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey)

III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements
 - ✓ FY24 TRM work program reviewed to ITRE. Budget and work program approved
- Horizon Year Data Forecasts
- Financial Planning
- FTA STOPS and CIG Technical Analysis & Planning
- CommunityViz

II – B. PLANNING PROCESS

II – B – 1: Targeted Planning

- Air Quality Planning/Conformity Analysis
- Alternative Fuels/Vehicles
- Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning
- Congestion Mitigation Plan
 - ✓ Data development nearly complete.
- Freight Movement/Mobility Planning
- Climate Change Planning
 - ✓ Participating in Triangle Cool Cities.

II – B – 2: Regional Planning

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Racial Equity Planning

II – B – 3: Special Studies

- Durham Freeway Corridor Study
 - ✓ City of Durham developing community partner capacity. They hope to have a consultant team under procurement prior to June 30.
- 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
 - ✓ Consultant developing public involvement focused on equity and defining data analysis framework for project-specific performance measures. Scheduling Design Charette with stakeholders.

III – A. Unified Planning Work Program

III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program

- UPWP draft complete for public hearing. Moving forward to address COG transition with subsequent amendment. Prepared COG budget. Finalizing numbers to allocate resources across new UPWP

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

- SPOT 7.0 begins

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.

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

- Conference in April
- APA national conference in April
- I may attend Chamber trip to Denver in late April.
- NACTO in May
- AMPO in September
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR ETHICS PAPERWORK!**

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

- Welcome Colleen McGue, AICP, new DCHC Planning Manager!
- Forensic accounting ongoing of DCHC grant accounts in City of Durham.
- Membership discussions continue with Pittsboro, Chatham County, and other adjacent community partners.
- ILA between City and TJCOG prepared to facilitate legal movement.
- Request to NCDOT to prepare new grant agreement.
- New MOU between members in process, to be followed with Policy Board bylaws.