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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Technical Committee
FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director
DATE: December 15, 2022
RE: **MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES + IJA UPDATE + STAFF REPORT**

This memorandum updates the board on their 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> NCDOT began an express design effort to reconsider the corridor interchange with I-40. Staff advised NCDOT consultant that non-motorized and transit access were critical, and that project analysis should involve local stakeholders.
10-13-21	Investigate potential options for a racial equity policy and/or framework for DCHC MPO.	<i>Pending.</i> Staff initiated discussion with different advocacy resources in preparation for the legislative long session. We will update more specific actions in January.
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> MPO staff submitted a Safe Streets for All grant application. The 23-24 UPWP will include a safety specific task.
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> MPO staff are working with the four partner agencies and ITRE staff to address concerns.
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> Engaged with transportation policy advocates to review previous long session priorities and will bring forward ideas in January.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Chatham County, City of Durham, Durham County, GoTriangle,
 NC Department of Transportation, Orange County, Town of Carrboro, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Hillsborough

2. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS AND JOBS ACT UPDATE

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	Not selected for award
DCHC MPO	Safe Streets for All	MPO-wide Safety Action Plan	Application Submitted to DOT
GoTriangle	RAISE	Regional Transit Center	Not selected for award
City of Durham	Lo No Emissions Bus Program		Awarded
City of Durham	Bus and Bus Facilities	Route 9 Improvements + Duke Transit	Submitted to DOT

Currently Open NOFO's (as of December 7, 2022)

Name	Amount Available	Description	Eligible to Apply	NOFO Release	Application Deadline
Currently a pause in new NOFO's - Expect more in 2023. Two NOFO's out that do not apply to MPO members include replacing rail vehicles and culvert improvement targeting anadromous fish (saltwater fish that spawn in brackish/fresh water) passage.					

Competitive Grants Overview and Updates

While this list will be updated regularly as part of this standing memo, the most up to date information can be accessed via [the USDOT website](#).

Existing programs

Name	Amount Available	Description	Eligible to Apply	NOFO Release	Application Deadline
Safe Streets for All	\$6B	Supports efforts to advance Vision Zero plans and other improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for bike and ped.	MPO, Localities, States	May 2022	2022 Deadline passed, awaiting FY23 Application Release
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	\$15B	Projects of local and regional significance			2022 Deadline passed, awaiting FY23 Application Release
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)	\$14B	Freight infrastructure aid.	MPO, Localities, States		2022 Applications open until 5.23.2022

FTA Low and No Emissions Bus Programs	\$5.6B	Purchase or lease of zero and low emission buses and required supporting facilities			2022 Applications open until 5.31.2022
FTA Buses & Bus Facilities	\$2.0B	Replace, rehab and purchase buses and related equipment and facilities			2022 Applications open until 5.31.2022
Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants (CIG)	\$23B	High-capacity transit projects			
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI)	\$1B/year	Improve safety, efficiency and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail	States, Rail Carriers, Public Agency/A uthority	August 2022	
New programs					
MEGA Projects	\$15B	Multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects	MPO, Localities , States		
Local and Regional Project Assistance Program	\$7.5B	Projects with significant local or regional impact that improve infrastructure	Localities , States		
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program (PROTECT)	\$8.7B	Formula and competitive. Increase resiliency in transportation systems – mostly intended for coastal infrastructure	MPO, Localities , States	Formul a funding distribu ted to states in August. No info from NCDOT yet about usage	See link for more info
To s2022 Bridge Investment Program	\$20M in FY22	Rehabilitation or replacement of bridges and culverts	MPO, Localities , States	June 10, 2022	Planning: July 25, 2022 Large Bridge Project: August 9, 2022 Bridge Project: September 8, 2022
Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grants	Up to \$2.5B	Provide convenient charging stations	MPO, Localities , States		
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	\$195M in FY22 - \$50M for Planning & \$145M for Capital	Planning, design and reconstruction of street grids, parks, etc.	MPO, Localitie s, States	June 29, 2022	12PM on October 13, 2022

Commented [1]: Note that this formula funding has been distributed to states as of 8/1. NC slated to receive 194,421,690. No word from NCDOT yet about intended use. Funds can be used for resilience planning, coastal infrastructure, resilience activities and improvements. Funds can also be flexed to STBG, CMAQ, etc.

	Construction				
Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART)	\$1B	Demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems in order to improve transportation efficiency and safety.	MPO, Localities, States	September 2022	Webinar on July 28th at 1PM
Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program	\$350M	Programs that seek to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions	MPO, Localities, States		
Railroad Crossing Elimination Program	\$573,264,000	Highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods	MPO, Localities, States	June 2022	5PM on October 4, 2022
Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail	\$7.2B/year	Reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, or expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service , including privately operated intercity passenger rail service if an eligible applicant is involved	States, Amtrak, Group of States	October 2022	

Formula Grants Overview and Updates

Formula grants to be increased by the IIJA include:

- Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG)
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

These formula grants will be apportioned through the customary process, and final splits will be calculated by the MPO and approved by the Board at the time of their release.

ESTIMATED DCHC MPO Formula Grant Appropriations – subject to change based on population splits, etc.

Anticipating changes from census data.

Grant Program	FY22 ESTIMATED Allocation	FY21 Allocation
STBG-DA	\$6,450,683	\$5,757,635
PL	\$616,625	\$638,971
CMAQ	TBD	\$2,194,011
Transportation Alternatives (TA)	\$812,081	\$411,468
Carbon Reduction Program – NEW	\$778,519	

Resources

1. [DCHC MPO IIJA Project Catalog](#)
2. [USDOT Upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcements](#)
3. [FHWA 2021 IIJA Overview Presentation](#)
4. [Grants.gov](#)
5. [Federal Railroad Administration BIL Resources and Updates](#)

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-specific studies for 23-24 UPWP.
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory
 - ✓ MPO is in consultation to upgrade some bike-ped counters for better connectivity.
6. Network Data Collection
7. Capacity Deficiency Analysis
8. Land Use, Socio-Economic Environmental Data Analysis

II – A – 2 Travelers and Behavior

- Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes
- Base Year Data Collection
- Travel Surveys
 - ✓ Regional household survey proceeding fall 2022
- Vehicle Occupancy Rates
- Travel Time Studies

III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements
- 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
 - ✓ Membership requested the MPO explain how to advance the western Triangle Bikeway from concept to construction. Staff reviewed the implementation recommendations from the Triangle Bikeway Study and consulted with CAMPO regarding the current design project for the eastern Bikeway. Western section next steps include identifying funding and capacity to manage the design process. Wake County and the RTP Foundation financially support the eastern design project. CAMPO will manage the design consultant contract. Their strategy does not use federal funding for the design phase but

will seek federal funding for implementation. They hope NCDOT will manage construction because the majority of the project is within NCDOT right-of-way.

- Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning
- Congestion Mitigation Plan
 - ✓ Resolved contracting language with NCDOT. Preparing data for consultant analysis.
- Freight Movement/Mobility Planning
- Climate Change Planning
 - ✓ Participating in Triangle Cool Cities.

II – B – 2: Regional Planning

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
 - ✓ Staff continues to develop CTP problem statements according to NCDOT guidance. Will review problem statements with local jurisdictions prior to opening the next CTP amendment for public input.
- Racial Equity Planning

II – B – 3: Special Studies

- US 15-501 Quad Section Corridor Study
 - ✓ NCDOT moved the project into express design for the next prioritization round.
- Durham Freeway Corridor Study
 - ✓ City of Durham developing community partner capacity.
- 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
 - ✓ MPO staff worked with the project team and the City of Durham/Durham County to advertise and conduct the first public input opportunities.

III – A. Unified Planning Work Program

III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program

- Staff will begin the next UPWP adoption process and will discuss 23-24 UPWP elements with NCDOT, FHWA, and our regional partners. Will process an Amendment in November. UPWP is in full development with member agency requests due soon. MPO Staff met with members as requested to review submissions.

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

III-B-2: Metropolitan TIP

- ✓ Initiated call for projects for upcoming funding year.

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

- Staff will attend the NCDOT Transportation Summit in January and the RTA annual meeting.

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

- Governance Subcommittee 12-15 - update on legal, talent resources, finance, and technology progress for transitioning LPA from City of Durham to Triangle J Council of Governments.
- Annual presentations to all member jurisdictions scheduled.
- Planning Manager will recruit through TJCOG and the MPO will "lease back" the talent until July 1 transition.
- Staff continues recruitment processes for vacant positions. Planner, Principal Planner, and Admin Coordinator positions are posted.