



DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO

DCHC

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PLANNING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION

Highlights of Recommended Changes to the DCHC MPO Federal Funding Policy

October 11, 2023 – Board Meeting

- Block Grant Direct Attributable (BG-DA)
 - Formerly Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBG-DA)
- Block Grant Any Area (BG-ANY)
 - Formerly Surface Transportation Block Grant Any Area (STBG-ANY)
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

Once all projects are submitted, MPO staff will determine which projects will receive which type of federal funding based on the project type and funding available.

In keeping with the MPO's goals, funding priority will be given to projects in the adopted DCHC MTP in the following categories and **not for roadway projects**:

- Public transit
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Transportation System Management, Transportation Demand Management, Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Scenic and environmental enhancements
- Planning studies that support the implementation or development of the adopted and future versions of DCHC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan and air quality programs
- **Safety projects are eligible, but only for projects that have a documented safety concern**

- Federal-Aid Eligible Projects
- Locally Administered
 - By applying for a project through the RFF program, the applicant is committing to **locally managing** that project.
- MTP or Local Plan Compliant
- Eligible Project Phase
 - **Added Utilities and CEI**
- Minimum Match Committed

- NEPA/Design - for this phase, the project must include 100% design and full NEPA documentation
- Land or Right-of-Way Acquisition
- Construction (including environmental mitigation and utility relocation)
- Transit Capital
- Travel Demand Management (TDM) Projects, coordinated through the Triangle Transportation Choices TDM Program administered by Central Pines Regional Council
- **Utilities**
- **Construction, Engineering, & Inspections (CEI)**

- Shortfall funding requests for **projects that are anticipated to have a phase complete within the year** will be prioritized as the MPO wishes to encourage local agencies to complete projects before starting new projects to avoid overextending staff and funding resources.
- Below are some examples of substantial changes to the scope of a project that would necessitate a new application
 - **Changing the project's design standards**
 - **Changing the project's funding source from Federal to State**
 - **Adding a new phase**
 - **A change in project cost by 100% from the first budget**

Funding Request Minimums and Maximums

- The total project cost requirement has increased from **\$100,000 to \$250,000**
- The funding caps will remain as follows
 - Individual projects – 40% of federal funding available
 - All projects submitted by an agency – 65% of federal funding available
- Agencies may apply for up to three years of funding. This will count against the agency's 65% overall funding request for each of the years that the project has received funding.
 - **Funding requests for RFF projects outside call will be factored into total available funding received.**

- Applicants will receive links to two types of applications: 1) new projects and 2) existing projects. Applicants will fill out the appropriate application by project type and send an email to MPO staff once all their applications are complete with the following information:
 - A list of all submitted projects
 - Shapefiles for each project submitted
 - A designated point of contact for the submissions
 - **Spreadsheet with detailed budget**

- Cost estimates should be no more than a year old.
- **All RFF projects require a 5% annual inflation cost built in.**

The minimum contingency for projects has increased from **15% to 30%** and should be clearly identified in the project's budget.

- No major changes have been made to the project scoring, selection, or reporting sections.
- Recipients of Regional Flexible Funding will be required to provide a brief report to the MPO Board twice a year.
- MPO staff will coordinate with RFF Project recipients on the update presentations to the TC/MPO Board

- Adjustments to the scoring method for Access to Transit & the maximum Local Priority points.
- New Project Applications are requesting more details on funding information and milestone dates to comply with the CMAQ application

Recommended Board Action

- Approve the changes to the Federal Funding Policy.