

# MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Board  
 FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director  
 DATE: March 1, 2023  
 RE: **MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES + IJA 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.
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> We provide clearer direction in next year's proposed UPWP and await notification regarding the SS4A grant application. Background Webinars occurring in March for grant agreements.
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	Application Submitted to DOT
GoTriangle	RAISE	Regional Transit Center	Re-application on hold
City of Durham	Bus and Bus Facilities	Route 9 Improvements + Duke Transit	Submitted to DOT

### Currently Open NOFO's (as of August 11, 2022)

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
<a href="#">Low or No Emission Grant Program</a>	\$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	designated recipients that allocate funds to fixed-route bus operators, states, or local governmental	

		buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities.	authorities that operate fixed- route bus service, and Indian tribes.	
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### **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
<b>Safe Streets for All</b>	<b>\$6B</b>	<b>Supports efforts to advance Vision Zero plans and other improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for bike and ped.</b>	<b>MPO, Localities, States</b>	<b>May 2022</b>	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 authority	August 2022	

#### **New programs**

<b>MEGA Projects</b>	<b>\$15B</b>	<b>Multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects</b>	<b>MPO, Localities, States</b>		
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,	\$8.7B	Formula and competitive. Increase resiliency in transportation systems –	MPO, Localities, States	Formula funding distribu	<a href="#">See link for more info</a>

Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program (PROTECT)		mostly intended for coastal infrastructure		ted to states in August. No info from NCDO T yet about usage	
To s2022 Bridge Investment Program	\$20M in FY22	Rehabilitation or replacement of bridges and culverts	MPO, Localities, States	June 10, 2022	<b>Planning: July 25, 2022</b> <b>Large Bridge Project: August 9, 2022</b> <b>Bridge Project: September 8, 2022</b>
Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grants	Up to \$2.5B	Provide convenient charging stations	MPO, Localities, States		
<b>Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program</b>	<b>\$195M in FY22 - \$50M for Planning &amp; \$145M for Capital Construction</b>	<b>Planning, design and reconstruction of street grids, parks, etc.</b>	<b>MPO, Localities, States</b>	<b>June 29, 2022</b>	<b>12PM on October 13, 2022</b>
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	<a href="#">Webinar on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1PM</a>
Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program	\$350M	Programs that seek to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions	MPO, Localities, States		
<b>Railroad Crossing Elimination Program</b>	\$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	<b>June 2022</b>	<b>5PM on October 4, 2022</b>
Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail	\$7.2B/year	Reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, or expand or <b>establish new intercity passenger rail service</b> , including privately operated intercity passenger rail service if an eligible applicant is involved	States, Amtrak, Group of States	<b>October 2022</b>	

### 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.

### **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 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

##### **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
- 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**

- US 15-501 Quad Section Corridor Study
  - ✓ Advocacy
- 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
  - ✓ Consultant developing public involvement focused on equity and defining data analysis framework for project-specific performance measures. Proceeded with first round of public outreach in December 2022.

## **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.

### **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. 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**

- NCAMPO meeting in February. Conference in April
- APA national conference in April
- NACTO in May
- AMPO in September
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR ETHICS PAPERWORK!**

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

Extended offer to part time admin and planning manager. Open position interviews ongoing. Durham and Orange County proposed transit work plans prepared for public comment release.