

August 2, 2024

Mr. Doug Plachcinski, Executive Director
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization
4307 Emperor Boulevard
Suite #110
Durham, NC 27703

Re: Request to Remove and Reallocate Federal Funding from Projects BL-0030 and BL-0031

Dear, Mr. Plachcinski:

The intent of this letter is to formally notify the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) that the City of Durham is requesting removal of federal funds from projects BL-0030 (Bike Lane Vertical Protection) and BL-0031 (Neighborhood Bike Routes II) and requesting reallocation of released funding. BL-0030 is a project to install vertical protection on existing buffered bike lanes in Durham. It was awarded \$172,035 in federal funding through the MPO's FY22 regional flexible funding (RFF) call for projects process. BL-0031 is a project to install signage, traffic calming, and pavement markings on several low-speed, low-volume local streets in Durham to help bicyclists safely and comfortably navigate to neighborhood destinations. It was awarded \$282,723 in federal funding through the MPO's FY22 regional flexible funding (RFF) call for projects process.

City staff have identified time and cost savings on lower cost "paint and post" projects when federal funding is not used. Staff were able to obtain local Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding through the City's FY25 budget cycle to replace the federal dollars that had previously been allocated to this project. With this additional local funding now available, the City requests to de-federalize both projects. This would result in a total of \$454,758 being released back to DCHC's RFF program.

The City of Durham currently has two RFF projects where DCHC MPO has agreed to future year allocations: U-4724 (Cornwallis Road Bike and Pedestrian Improvements) and BL-0063 (Horton Road Multi-Use Path & Sidewalk Gaps).

U-4724 is a project to construct bike lanes and pedestrian facilities along West Cornwallis Road from South Roxboro Street to Chapel Hill Road. In the FY25-FY27 call for projects, the City of Durham requested an additional \$11,514,534 for this project in order to account for anticipated shortfalls in funding related to escalating construction costs. At the request of the MPO, the City of Durham agreed to receive the additional funding for this project in phases: \$7,000,000 of federal funding to be made available in FY27 with an additional amount of \$4,514,534 to be made available in FY28.

BL-0063 is a project to construct a multi-use path on the south side of Horton Road from Guess Road to North Roxboro Street (1.59 miles) and fill sidewalk gaps on the north side of Horton Road from Guess Rd to the existing sidewalk near Holston Rd (0.41 miles). The project was initially submitted to the MPO's 2021-2022 Annual Call for Projects by the City of Durham and was selected to receive full funding. However, to date, only \$964,534 of federal funding and \$241,133 of local funding has been allocated for a total of \$1,205,667. The amounts received to date are consistent with the TIP and the municipal agreement



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with NCDOT that was approved in the fall of 2023. In conversations with the MPO in January of 2024, MPO staff agreed to honor full receipt of the project funds as awarded and will provide the City with \$1,195,466 of federal funds in FY28, the balance of the remaining funding award.

The City proposes that the RFF funding freed up by the de-federalization of BL-0030 and BL-0031 be allocated to one of these two projects, reducing the future year commitments, and ultimately allowing that funding to go back into the future year competitive RFF pot. The City recommends that the funding be allocated to U-4724 since it is closer to construction but is open to either project. The City requests documentation from the MPO of their decision on this matter.

Please contact me at bill.judge@durhamnc.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill Judge
Assistant Transportation Director