

MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Board
FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director
DATE: January 19, 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> 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 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.
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 is working with the four partner agencies and ITRE staff to address concerns. We have ongoing discussions with ITRE to make the model more useful for MPO analysis.
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 February.

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	Not selected for award
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	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 August 11, 2022)

Name	Amount Available	Description	Eligible to Apply	Application Deadline
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program	\$2,295,000,000	Provides funding to states and localities to implement pre-disaster mitigation activities that reduce risk and disaster costs, and increase the resilience of critical infrastructure lifelines	States, local communities, tribes, and territories are eligible to apply.	Application submission deadline is January 27, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern)
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants	requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors to obtain funding for projects that are harder to support through other U.S. DOT grant programs.	RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the State and local levels, including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects.	Broad range of applicants, including but not limited to: States and the District of Columbia; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States; and a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function	Application submissions deadline is February 28, 2023 at 11:59 PM (Eastern)

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/Authority	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	Formula funding distributed 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 Construction	Planning, design and reconstruction of street grids, parks, etc.	MPO, Localities, States	June 29, 2022	12PM on October 13, 2022
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	
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
4. Successfully applied for SS4A grant to prepare regional safety strategy. Crash data is significant initial task.
5. Central Area Parking Inventory
6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory
7. Network Data Collection
8. Capacity Deficiency Analysis
9. 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
- Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey)

III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements
 - ✓ In the quarter of FY23 the team continued to work towards moving TRMG2 into production mode, including ongoing coordination with the MPOs on network development, revisions and improvements to the transit project manager, and evaluation of model results. The TRMG2 model was unanimously approved by the TRM Executive Committee in November of 2022. We are currently quality testing the new transit

program manager and cleaning up coding on the transit route system. Once complete the model will be distributed to the sponsoring agencies for final review with the expectation that the TRM GitHub repository will be transferred to ITRE soon thereafter.

- ✓ The ITRE team is continuing to develop TRMG2 end user tools to improve access to, and application of model outputs. An investigation into the impact of TRMG2's shorter peak periods on transit ridership concluded with a recommendation to move to a 3-hour AM and PM peak period during the next major model update. We are making good progress on the investigation into improved performance measures for VMT and mode share and have developed several new reporting tools designed to better capture VMT measures. We initiated an investigation into improvements to the non-motorized and are evaluating a possible improvement that will allow for the evaluation of non-motorized projects. No progress was made on equity performance measures this quarter due to the departure of our student intern who was focused on that effort. Horizon Year Data Forecasts

- Financial Planning
- FTA STOPS and CIG Technical Analysis & Planning
 - ✓ MPO staff coordinating STOPS stakeholder training.
- 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
 - ✓ Amendment 5 nearing complete draft. Amendment 6 discussions with Durham County initiated.
- Racial Equity Planning

II – B – 3: Special Studies

- US 15-501 Quad Section Corridor Study
 - ✓ NCDOT moved project into express design for 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
 - ✓ 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

- Staff begin the next UPWP adoption process and will discuss 23-24 UPWP elements with NCDOT, FHWA, and our regional partners. Moving forward with revised schedule. MPO Staff prepared draft for initial review and release for public comment. Refinement continues

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.

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

- . Transportation Summit in January. RTA annual meetings in January.
- MPO orientation training on February 15.

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

Governance subcommittee met in December. Awaiting Census data release for new minimum MPO boundaries. Phone screening candidates for open positions. Transportation Planning Manager position posted through TJCOG.