

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** DCHC MPO Board  
**FROM:** Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director  
**DATE:** September 6, 2023  
**RE:** **MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES + IIJA UPDATE + STAFF REPORT**

This memorandum updates the Board and Technical Committee on the board 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> Scope developed. Next step is budgeting as part of the 2023-2024 UPWP Amendment process.
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 Public Involvement Program update.
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> Background Webinars occurred in March for grant agreements. Setting time w/ NCDOT safety to discuss outcomes. Working with FHWA and TJCOG to transfer grant with MPO's pending relocation.
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 provided follow up discussion for using the TRM to evaluate non-motorized projects. Staff will ask ITRE to present evaluation options at an upcoming TC meeting. We are also working to better use the model as a decision making tool.
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. Prioritization continues. Monitoring current legislation. Coordinating future legislative engagement with CPRC.

## 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
Chapel Hill Transit	CIG	N/S BRT	Scoring request underway
Durham County Transportation	FRA Grade Crossing Improvements	East Durham grade separations	<b>APPLICATION AWARDED!</b>
DCHC MPO	Safe Streets for All	MPO-wide Safety Action Plan	Awarded
GoTriangle	PROTECT	BOMF	Application Submitted
City of Durham	Areas of Persistent Poverty	The Village improvements	Awarded
Chapel Hill Transit	Areas of Persistent Poverty	Microtransit areas in support of N-S BRT	Awarded
City of Durham	Reconnecting Communities	NC147	
Durham County	Reconnecting Communities	Person-Durham Rail trail	

### Currently Open NOFO's

Name	Amount Available	Description	Eligibility	Application Deadline
Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program	Further, there will be three grant types: Capital Construction (\$148M RCP; \$1B NAE), Community Planning (\$50M RCP; \$135M NAE), and Regional Partnerships Challenge (\$450M NAE). Totals indicated are for the current round of funding (FY23).	The RCN Program combines the application process for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) programs into a single NOFO. The RCP was established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the NAE was established under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).	Grants will be available to states, units of local governments, federally recognized tribal governments, metropolitan planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, and facility owners.	The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. (EDT) September 28, 2023

<p>Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program</p>		<p>Provide grants to eligible public sector agencies to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems in order to improve transportation efficiency and safety.</p>	<p>Broad list of eligible entities includes (but not limited to): states; local government; public transit agency or authority; metropolitan planning organization; or a group of 2 or more eligible entities.</p>	<p>The deadline for applications is 5:00 PM EDT, Tuesday, October 10, 2023 USDOT will host a “How to Apply for an FY23 SMART Grant” webinar on Thursday, August 17 at 2pm ET.</p>
---	--	---	--	---

### **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
  - ✓ Finalizing project scope to proceed with consultant request for interest.
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory – Working to update communication with existing fixed counters (mostly in Orange County)
6. Network Data Collection
7. Capacity Deficiency Analysis
8. Land Use, Socio-Economic Environmental Data Analysis – CommunityViz improvement project nearing end. Presentation at an upcoming TC meeting.

##### **II – A – 2 Travelers and Behavior**

- Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes
- Base Year Data Collection
- Travel Surveys
  - ✓ GoTriangle managing OD onboard survey on behalf of Durham/Orange Counties. GoRaleigh is project lead overall Exploring options to use data beyond TRM.
- Vehicle Occupancy Rates
- Travel Time Studies
- Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey)

##### **III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling**

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements
  - ✓ New Model adopted; updating SE data and preparing for 2055 MTP
- Horizon Year Data Forecasts
- Financial Planning
- FTA STOPS and CIG Technical Analysis & Planning

#### **II – B. PLANNING PROCESS**

##### **II – B – 1: Targeted Planning**

- Air Quality Planning/Conformity Analysis
- Alternative Fuels/Vehicles

- Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning – Supporting NCDOT analysis of all hazard mitigation plans to coordinate resilient transportation project development.
- Congestion Mitigation Plan
  - ✓ Held internal kickoff meeting. Working through capacity analysis at intersections. Evaluating performance measures.
- Freight Movement/Mobility Planning
- Climate Change Planning
  - ✓ Participating in Triangle Cool Cities. Coordinating with CPRC regarding potential sustainability grant.

## **II – B – 2: Regional Planning**

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Preparing update for fall 2023.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan – Pivoting to add CTP update to MTP 2055 process
- Racial Equity Planning

## **II – B – 3: Special Studies**

- Durham Freeway Corridor Study
  - ✓ City of Durham developing community partner capacity. Durham working through contracting issues with NCDOT.
- 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
  - ✓ Next round of public involvement continuing. Adding input opportunities.

## **III – A. Unified Planning Work Program**

### **III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program**

- Submitted initial 2023-2024 UPWP for approval. Prepared COG budget. Finalizing numbers to allocate resources across new UPWP.

### **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**

- SPOT 7.0 ongoing.

### **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. Comparing project consistency across CTP>MTP>TIP>STIP for improved concurrency.

### **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**

- AMPO in September
- Durham Chamber Indianapolis Trip in September
- NC non-motorized conference in September.

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

- Joint meeting with CAMPO on September 12.
- Please follow up and process member contribution payments.
- Member one-on-one meetings: Looking at times to set up more informal 1-on-1 with staff to discuss issues, timelines, admin items, etc. Likely to take place in October due to TIP adoption and beginning of next LAP process with project application due ~Nov 1
- CMAQ applications will now be accepted quarterly with an end date for these quarters as March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31
- Conversations continue with stakeholders to update Federal Funding Policy.