

MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Board
FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director
DATE: November 10, 2022
RE: **MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES + 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 in 2022.
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> MPO staff is working with NCDOT and local staff on a possible Safe Streets for All grant application. This application is due in September 2022.
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.
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 be bringing forward ideas in November.

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
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	NOFO Release	Application Deadline
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
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

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/A uthority	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 NCDO T 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	Up to \$2.5B	Provide convenient charging stations	MPO, Localities, States		

Discretionary Grants					
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	Webinar on July 28th at 1PM
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
 - ✓ 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.
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory
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
 - ✓ 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
- 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

- ✓ Resolved contracting language with NCDOT. Preparing data for consultant analysis.
- 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
 - ✓ 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.

III – A. Unified Planning Work Program

III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program

- Staff will begin the next UPWP adoption process and will discuss 23-24 UPWP elements with NCDOT, FHWA, and our regional partners. Will process an Amendment in November.

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.

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

- Staff will attend next NC AMPO meeting in December.

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

- Governance Subcommittee subsequent meeting delayed
Staff continues recruitment processes for vacant positions. One offer accepted.