

March 26, 2024

TO: DCHC MPO Board
FROM: DCHC MPO Staff
SUBJECT: FY25 Call for Projects Submission Overview and Scoring

Executive Summary

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) invited member agencies to submit applications for federal funding from the Unified Planning Work Program and Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) programs in November 2023. Funding applications were due on December 8, 2023.

The RFF pool for FY25, FY26, and FY27 consists of four funding sources that come directly to the DCHC MPO: Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (BGDA), Transportation Alternatives Program Direct Attributable (TAPDA), Carbon Reduction Program Direct Attributable (CRPDA), and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ). The call for projects that was conducted by MPO staff is consistent with federal requirements for CMAQ and TAPDA funds and can be applied to all funding sources.

Twenty-one projects, programs, or studies are being recommended for funding through this call. Seven are existing projects that requested additional or continued funding:

- Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program (Central Pines Regional Council)
- Durham Rail Trail (City of Durham)
- Third Fork Creek Trail Extension (City of Durham)
- R. Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail (City of Durham)
- Cornwallis Road Bike & Pedestrian Improvements (City of Durham)
- 805 Corridor Bus Stops (GoTriangle)
- South Greensboro Street Sidewalk (Town of Carrboro)
- Estes Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (Town of Chapel Hill)

In addition, ten new projects are being recommended for funding:

- Triangle Mobility Hub (GoTriangle)
- Durham to Roxboro Rail Trail (NCDOT)
- Bicycle Plan Implementation (Town of Carrboro)
- Sidewalk Gap Project (Town of Chapel Hill)
- Davis Drive Path from I-40 to Cornwallis Road (RTP)
- Battery Electric Buses (City of Durham)
- Electric Charging Stations (Chatham County)
- Electric Bus Purchase (Town of Chapel Hill)
- Transit Access Sidewalk for Orange Grove Rd (Orange County)
- Bolin Creek Greenway – Phase 2 (Town of Carrboro)

And three studies or plans are recommended for funding in the UPWP:

- Orange County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (Orange County)
- Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Planning Study (Durham County)
- Chapel Hill Transit High-Capacity Study (Town of Chapel Hill)

Background

The FY25 Call for Projects serves a dual purpose, calling for study requests for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as well as competitive project requests for Regional Flexible Funding (RFF). The RFF program was adopted in November 2021 as part of an update to the MPO's Federal Funding Policy. This program was intended to provide a more definitive, data-driven method for evaluating projects and making funding recommendations. The RFF program is competitive and is scored based on several factors that the MPO has prioritized. There are also restrictions, such as how many active projects a jurisdiction can have, to ensure all agencies have a chance to receive funding.

The RFF has a special provision related to the Triangle TDM Program. This program is ongoing and has been identified as a joint policy priority by the DCHC and CAMPO boards. TDM is not scored using the Federal Funding Policy as it is a program rather than a capital project and therefore cannot directly compete with the capital projects.

For the FY25 Call for Projects, eleven agencies submitted a total of twenty-seven projects, three studies, and one program.

UPWP Applications:

Table 1: Unified Planning Work Program Requests

Agency	Project	Federal	Local	Total
Orange County	Orange County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$250,000
Durham County	Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Planning Study	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$500,000
Chapel Hill Transit	Chapel Hill Transit High-Capacity Study	\$240,000	\$60,000	\$300,000

RFF Applications:

Table 2: Existing Projects

Agency	Funding Request Type	Project	STIP#	Federal	Local	Total	Score
Central Pines Regional Council	Existing	Triangle TDM Program	C-4924B	\$1,262,548	\$252,510	\$1,515,058	N/A**
City of Durham	Existing	Cornwallis Road Bike & Ped Improvements	U-4724	\$11,514,534	\$4,606,883	\$16,121,417	90*
City of Durham	Existing	R. Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail	EB-5720	\$971,256	\$1,487,954	\$2,459,210	84*
Town of Carrboro	Existing	South Greensboro Street Sidewalk	C-5650	\$165,075	\$41,268	\$206,343	83*
City of Durham	Existing	Durham Rail Trail	EB-5904	\$353,076	\$592,019	\$945,095	79*
Town of Chapel Hill	Existing	Estes Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	C-5179	\$1,100,000	\$275,000	\$1,375,000	77*
GoTriangle	Existing	805 Corridor Bus Stops	TL-0052	\$491,920	\$122,980	\$614,900	75*
City of Durham	Existing	Third Fork Creek Trail Extension	EB-5837	\$6,374,133	\$1,807,058	\$8,181,191	61*

*Existing projects were scored for general reference purposes. To achieve these scores, shortfall funding scores were used in place of local priority points to show how these projects may compete had scope changes existed.

**The Triangle TDM Program is a program and not a project and cannot directly compete with capital projects in scoring.

Table 3: New Projects

Agency	Funding Request Type	Project	STIP#	Federal	Local	Total	Score
GoTriangle	New	Triangle Mobility Hub	N/A	\$5,500,000	\$27,700,000	\$58,200,000	95****
NCDOT	New	Durham Roxboro Rail Trail	N/A	\$7,500,000	\$1,875,000	\$16,000,000	88***
Town of Carrboro	New	Bicycle Plan Implementation	N/A	\$889,600	\$222,400	\$1,112,000	86
Town of Chapel Hill	New	Sidewalk Gap Project	N/A	\$2,770,000	\$700,000	\$3,470,000	77
RTP	New	Davis Drive Path from I-40 to Cornwallis Road	N/A	\$977,184	\$244,296	\$1,221,480	76
City of Durham	New	Battery Electric Buses Request	N/A	\$2,594,211	\$952,629	\$3,546,840	73
GoTriangle	New	Fordham Blvd Bus Stops and Transit Speed & Reliability Improvements	N/A	\$5,500,000	\$5,000,000	\$10,500,000	73
Chatham County	New	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	N/A	\$213,278	\$53,320	\$266,598	72
City of Durham	New	Cook Road Pedestrian Pathway	N/A	\$1,700,000	\$2,388,000	\$4,088,000	71
Town of Chapel Hill	New	Electric Bus Purchase	N/A	\$3,680,000	\$920,000	\$4,600,000	69
RTP	New	Laboratory Drive Path from Davis Drive to End	N/A	\$841,464	\$210,366	\$1,051,830	67
RTP	New	NC-54 Path from Boxyard to Hub RTP	N/A	\$1,717,404	\$429,351	\$2,146,755	65
Town of Chapel Hill	New	Bolinwood Rd Bridge	N/A	\$2,088,000	\$522,000	\$2,610,000	61
Town of Chapel Hill	New	Bolin Creek Greenway Extension	N/A	\$1,827,000	\$457,000	\$2,284,000	60
Town of Carrboro	New	Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 3 & 4	N/A	\$1,100,000	\$275,000	\$1,375,000	59
RTP	New	Hopson Road Path	N/A	\$3,081,648	\$770,412	\$3,852,060	53
Orange County	New	Transit Access Sidewalk for Orange Grove Rd	N/A	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$250,000	53
Town of Chapel Hill	New	Eubanks Multimodal Gap Project	N/A	\$814,000	\$204,000	\$1,018,000	44
Town of Carrboro	New	Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 2	N/A	\$320,000	\$80,000	\$400,000	30
Town of Chapel Hill	New	Bartram Bridge	N/A	\$947,200	\$236,800	\$1,184,000	29

***The Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail also includes federal funding from KTRPO, local funding, and additional funding from statewide CMAQ funds

****The Triangle Mobility Hub will utilize the County Transit Plans for the local match and is expected to receive USDOT Discretionary funds

Regional Flexible Funding

The RFF pool consists of Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (BGDA), Transportation Alternatives Program Direct Attributable (TAPDA), Carbon Reduction Program Direct Attributable (CRPDA), and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Leftover funds available in FY24 were used to supplement the funding in later years. The RFF funding pools for FY25, FY26, and FY27 are as follows:

Table 4: Available RFF Funding

Fund Type	Leftover from FY24	FY25 Amount	FY26 Amount	FY27 Amount	Total Amount
BGDA	\$7,210,000	\$7,265,000	\$6,885,000	\$1,723,000	\$23,083,000
TAPDA	\$1,340,000	\$829,000	\$829,000	\$829,000	\$3,827,000
CRPDA	\$1,573,000	\$209,000	\$794,000	\$0	\$2,576,000
CMAQ	\$0	\$1,949,000	\$2,320,000	\$2,320,000	\$6,589,000
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING					\$36,075,000
TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING					\$79,716,032

With this Call for Projects, the MPO has made the decision to program additional funding beyond what is available. This was recommended by the Technical Committee and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Unit. Additional funds added to the pool shall not exceed 10% of the annual budget. This follows FHWA guidelines and STI Law.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP funds for FY25, FY26, and FY27 are as follows:

Table 5: Available UPWP Funding

Fund Type	FY25 Amount	FY26 Amount	FY27 Amount	Total Amount
UPWP	\$2,315,000	\$2,430,000	\$2,552,000	\$7,297,000
TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING				\$840,000

Note: The applications received for UPWP funding are for FY25. Applications for FY26 and FY27 funds will be accepted in the next Call for Projects.

Scoring Details

New projects were scored based on the MPO Federal Funding Policy and could receive up to 115 total points based on eight criteria. Agencies who had not received project funding in the past four cycles were eligible to receive an additional ten bonus points that would be split between the submitted projects for that agency.

New projects submitted for the FY25 Call for Projects cycle were scored as follows:

Table 6: Criteria 1-4: Connectivity, Transit Access, Population/Employment Density, Project Phase

Agency	Project Name	Connectivity	Transit Access	Pop/Emp Density	Project Phase
GoTriangle	Triangle Mobility Hub	10	10	7	30
NCDOT	Durham Roxboro Rail Trail	10	10	1	20
Town of Carrboro	Bicycle Plan Implementation	10	10	8	25
Town of Chapel Hill	Sidewalk Gap Project	10	10	9	15
RTP	Davis Drive Path from I-40 to Cornwallis Road	7	8	3	25
City of Durham	Battery Electric Buses Request	N/A	10	N/A	30
GoTriangle	Fordham Blvd Bus Stops and Transit Speed & Reliability Improvements	10	10	5	15
Chatham County	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	7	0	2	30
City of Durham	Cook Road Pedestrian Pathway	10	10	4	15
Town of Chapel Hill	Electric Bus Purchase	N/A	10	N/A	30
RTP	Laboratory Drive Path from Davis Drive to End	10	8	10	25
RTP	NC-54 Path from Boxyard to Hub RTP	10	8	10	15
Town of Chapel Hill	Bolinwood Rd Bridge	7	10	6	15
Town of Chapel Hill	Bolin Creek Greenway Extension	10	10	6	20
Town of Carrboro	Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 3 & 4	10	10	3	15
RTP	Hopson Road Path	10	8	1	15
Orange County	Transit Access Sidewalk for Orange Grove Rd	0	10	2	10
Town of Chapel Hill	Eubanks Multimodal Gap Project	10	10	2	15
Town of Carrboro	Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 2	7	0	3	15
Town of Chapel Hill	Bartram Bridge	0	8	1	15

Table 7: Criteria 5-8: Local Priority, Environmental Justice, Safety, Emissions. Includes bonus.

Agency	Project Name	Local Priority	Envir. Just	Safety	Emissions	4-Year Cycle Bonus	Total Score
GoTriangle	Triangle Mobility Hub	10	3	10	15	N/A	95
NCDOT	Durham Roxboro Rail Trail	10	6	13	8	10	88
Town of Carrboro	Bicycle Plan Implementation	10	3	11	9	N/A	86
Town of Chapel Hill	Sidewalk Gap Project	5	3	14	11	N/A	77
RTP	Davis Drive Path from I-40 to Cornwallis Road	10	3	6	4	10	76
City of Durham	Battery Electric Buses Request	5	15	N/A	13	N/A	73
GoTriangle	Fordham Blvd Bus Stops and Transit Speed & Reliability Improvements	5	12	5	11	N/A	73
Chatham County	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	10	3	0	12	10	72
City of Durham	Cook Road Pedestrian Pathway	10	6	10	6	N/A	71
Town of Chapel Hill	Electric Bus Purchase	0	15	N/A	14	N/A	69
RTP	Laboratory Drive Path from Davis Drive to End	0	3	10	1	0	67
RTP	NC-54 Path from Boxyard to Hub RTP	5	3	8	6	0	65
Town of Chapel Hill	Bolinwood Rd Bridge	5	3	10	5	N/A	61
Town of Chapel Hill	Bolin Creek Greenway Extension	5	3	1	5	N/A	60
Town of Carrboro	Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 3 & 4	5	3	6	7	N/A	59
RTP	Hopson Road Path	0	3	13	3	0	53
Orange County	Transit Access Sidewalk for Orange Grove Rd	10	6	3	2	10	53
Town of Chapel Hill	Eubanks Multimodal Gap Project	0	3	1	3	N/A	44
Town of Carrboro	Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 2	0	3	0	2	N/A	30
Town of Chapel Hill	Bartram Bridge	0	3	1	1	N/A	29

Existing projects are scored independently from new projects as the MPO wants to prioritize completion of existing projects. Existing projects were scored on three criteria as follows:

Table 8: Existing Projects Scoring Criteria

Agency	Project	STIP#	% Increase in Request Over Original Budget	Highest Phase Completed	Previously Received Shortfall Funds	Total Score
Town of Chapel Hill	Estes Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	C-5179	3	3	3	9
GoTriangle	805 Corridor Bus Stops	TL-0052	2	3	3	8
City of Durham	Cornwallis Road Bike & Ped Improvements	U-4724	1	2	3	6
Town of Carrboro	South Greensboro Street Sidewalk	C-5650	1	3	2	6
City of Durham	Third Fork Creek Trail Extension	EB-5837	1	1	3	5
City of Durham	Durham Rail Trail	EB-5904	1	1	3	5
City of Durham	R. Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail	EB-5720	1	1	3	5

As an additional reference, existing projects were scored as if they were submitted as new projects to understand how they would score among all applications received for the FY25 RFF. Since existing projects would not have local priority points, this section was swapped with the total scores received in Table 8. This analysis demonstrates that these projects would have competed favorably for available funding even compared to new projects.

Table 9: Existing Projects Scoring Criteria for Reference

Agency	Project Name	Connectivity	Transit Access	Population/ Employment Density	Project Phase	Local Priority	Env. Justice	Safety	Emissions	Shortfall Score	Total Score
City of Durham	Cornwallis Road Bike & Ped Improvements	10	10	5	20	N/A	15	14	10	6	90
City of Durham	R. Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail	10	10	7	15	N/A	12	15	10	5	84
Carrboro	South Greensboro Street Sidewalk	10	10	8	25	N/A	6	9	9	6	83
City of Durham	Durham Rail Trail	10	10	9	15	N/A	6	12	12	5	79
Chapel Hill	Estes Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	10	10	4	30	N/A	0	5	9	9	77
GoTriangle	805 Corridor Bus Stops	10	10	5	30	N/A	0	7	4	9	75
City of Durham	Third Fork Creek Trail Extension	10	10	4	15	N/A	9	1	7	5	61

Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Funding Recommendation

The Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC) TDM program has requested \$621,945 in funding for FY26 and \$640,603 in funding for FY27 from the RFF program. Since TDM is a program and not a capital project, it is not scored using the rubrics in the Federal Funding Policy (though per NCDOT guidelines the TDM program must be rated against other projects for emissions in order to receive CMAQ funds). Rather, the Federal Funding Policy identifies TDM as a funding priority for RFF, and for CMAQ funding specifically. According to the policy:

TDM offers high air quality benefits and competes favorably for CMAQ funding. TDM has also been identified as a joint policy priority by the DCHC and CAMPO boards. CMAQ funds will be used for DCHC MPO's share of the TDM program.

Given that CPRC's request is just above three percent of the previous year's request, MPO staff is recommending that the TDM program receive its request of \$621,945 using FY26 CMAQ funds and \$640,603 using FY27 CMAQ funds. *However, CPRC will need to provide a written justification for the increased program costs to the TC and Board for consideration based on our funding policy.* CPRC will provide a match of non-federal dollars of \$124,389 for FY26 and \$128,121 for FY27. The CPRC TDM Program obtained approval for funding in FY25 of \$603,830 with a local match of \$153,957 from the FY23 Call for Projects.

CPRC will complete and submit an application to NCDOT for CMAQ funds. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) makes all final funding decisions related to CMAQ funding.

Cornwallis Road Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements (U-4724) Funding

For this Call the City of Durham requested \$11,514,534 in federal funds for project U-4724. According to the Federal Funding Policy, existing projects receive priority for funding. At the request of the MPO, the City of Durham has agreed to receive the additional funding for this project in phases: \$7,000,000 of federal funding will be made available in FY27 with an additional amount of \$4,514,534 to be made available in FY28. A potential exemption from the 65% agency cap requirement will be allowed for the FY26 Call for Projects to accommodate the phasing of this project and request, if needed.

RFF Funding Recommendation for Existing and New Projects

The following existing and new projects are recommended to receive RFF funding based on the results of the MPO Federal Funding Policy scoring rubric. The total amount of federal funding that is being recommended for these projects is \$38,435,028:

Table 10: Recommended Existing Projects

Agency	Project	Phase Requested	Phase Year	STIP#	Federal Request	Federal	Local Match	Total
City of Durham	Durham Rail Trail	CON	FY25	EB-5904	Fully Fund	\$353,076	\$592,019	\$945,095
City of Durham	Third Fork Creek Trail Extension	CON	FY25	EB-5837	Fully Fund	\$6,374,133	\$1,807,058	\$8,181,191
City of Durham	R. Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail	CON	FY26	EB-5720	Fully Fund	\$971,256	\$1,487,954	\$2,459,210
City of Durham	Cornwallis Rd Bike & Ped Improvements	CON	FY27	U-4724	Partially Fund	\$7,000,000	\$1,750,000	\$8,750,000
CPRC	Triangle TDM Program	N/A	FY25-27	C-4924B	Fully Fund	\$1,866,376	\$466,594	\$2,332,970
GoTriangle	805 Corridor Bus Stops	CON	FY25	TL-0052	Fully Fund	\$491,920	\$122,980	\$614,900
Town of Carrboro	South Greensboro Street Sidewalk	CON	FY25	C-5650	Fully Fund	\$165,075	\$41,268	\$206,343
Town of Chapel Hill	Estes Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	CON	FY25	C-5179	Fully Fund	\$1,100,000	\$275,000	\$1,375,000
TOTALS						\$18,321,836	\$6,542,873	\$24,864,709

Table 11: Recommended New Projects

Agency	Project	Score	Phase Requested	Phase Year	Federal Request	Federal	Local Match	Total
GoTriangle	Triangle Mobility Hub	95	PE, CON	FY25-26	Fully Fund	\$5,500,000	\$27,700,000	\$58,200,000
NC DOT	Durham to Roxboro Rail Trail	88	ROW	FY26	Fully Fund	\$7,500,000	\$1,875,000	\$9,375,000
Town of Carrboro	Bicycle Plan Implementation	86	CON	FY25	Fully Fund	\$889,600	\$222,400	\$1,112,000
Town of Chapel Hill	Sidewalk Gap Project	77	PE, ROW, CON	FY26-27	Fully Fund	\$2,770,000	\$700,000	\$3,470,000
RTP	Davis Drive Path from I-40 to Cornwallis Road	76	CON	FY26	Fully Fund	\$977,184	\$244,296	\$1,221,480
City of Durham (GoDurham)	Battery Electric Buses Request	73	N/A	FY27	Partially Fund	\$863,130	\$319,240	\$1,182,370
Chatham County	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	72	CON	FY26	Fully Fund	\$213,278	\$53,320	\$266,598
Town of Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill Transit)	Electric Bus Purchase	69	N/A	FY27	Partially Fund	\$920,000	\$230,000	\$1,150,000
Orange County	Transit Access Sidewalk for Orange Grove Rd	53	PE	FY26	Fully Fund	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$250,000
Town of Carrboro	Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 2	30	PE	FY27	Fully Fund	\$320,000	\$80,000	\$400,000
TOTALS						\$20,153,192	\$31,579,256	\$83,252,448

Funding in This Year's Call for Projects

As mentioned on page 4, the amount of funding that is allocated to projects is more than what is available in the RFF pool (an additional \$2,360,028). This amount of funding is within the accepted variance allowed by STI Law and FHWA guidance and enables the MPO to recommend more projects for funding than the agency has done in the past. This will ensure the MPO has a list of projects ready to receive funding, should any project experience delays in the project schedule, and improves the MPO's ability to use all BGDA, TAP, CRP, and CMAQ funds on an annual basis.

Chart 1: Total Funding by Jurisdiction

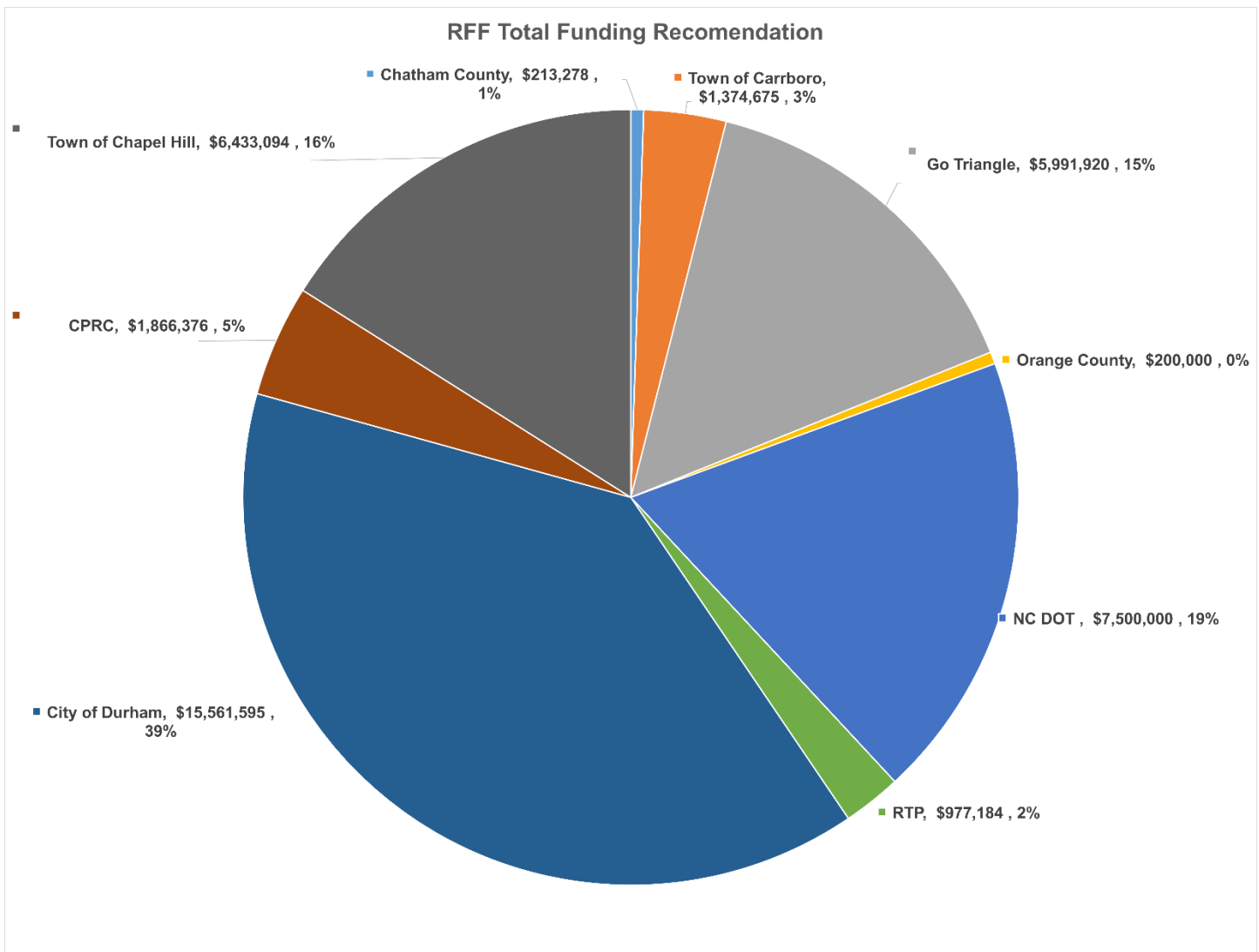


Chart 2: FY25 Funding by Jurisdiction

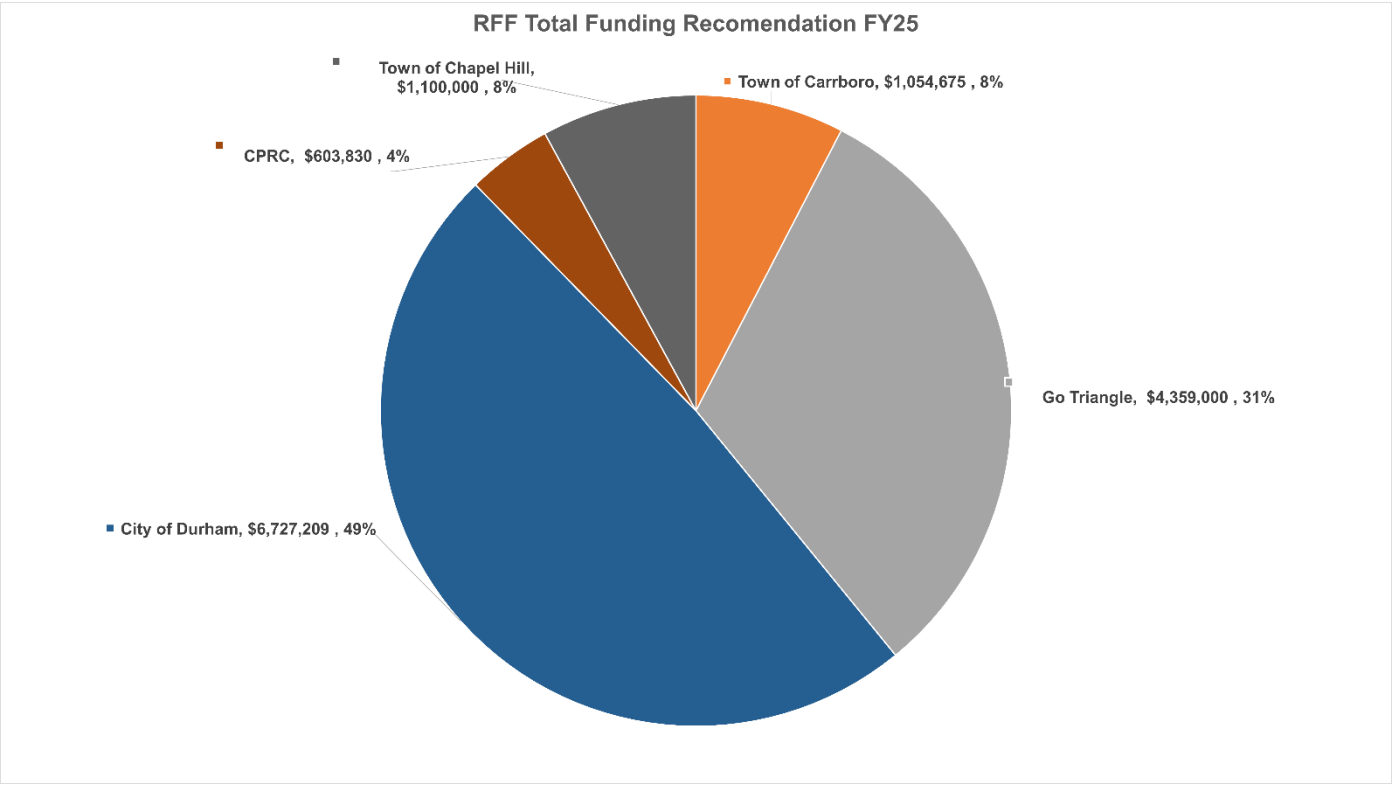


Chart 3: FY25 Funding by Improvement Type

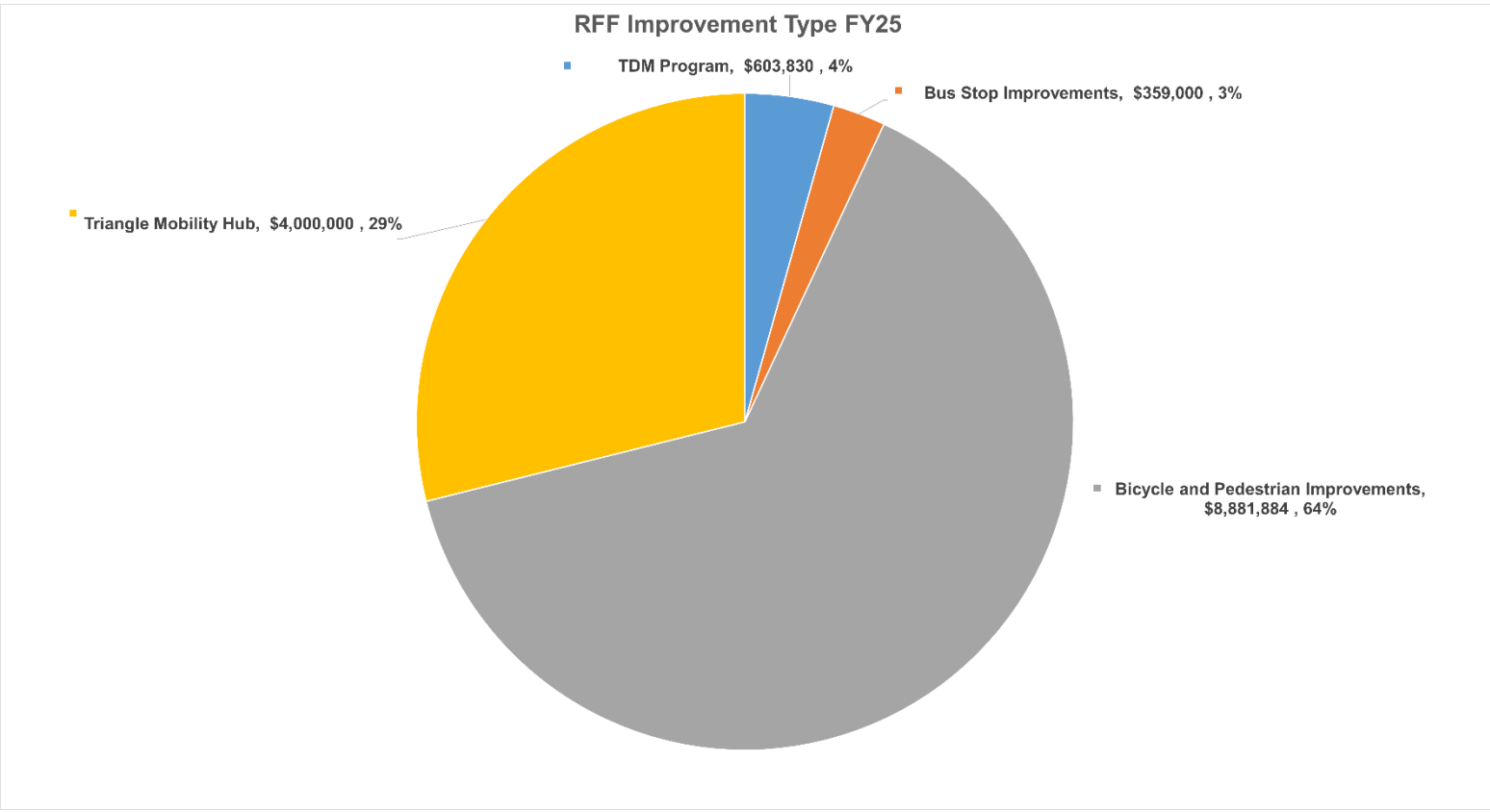


Chart 4: FY26 Funding by Jurisdiction

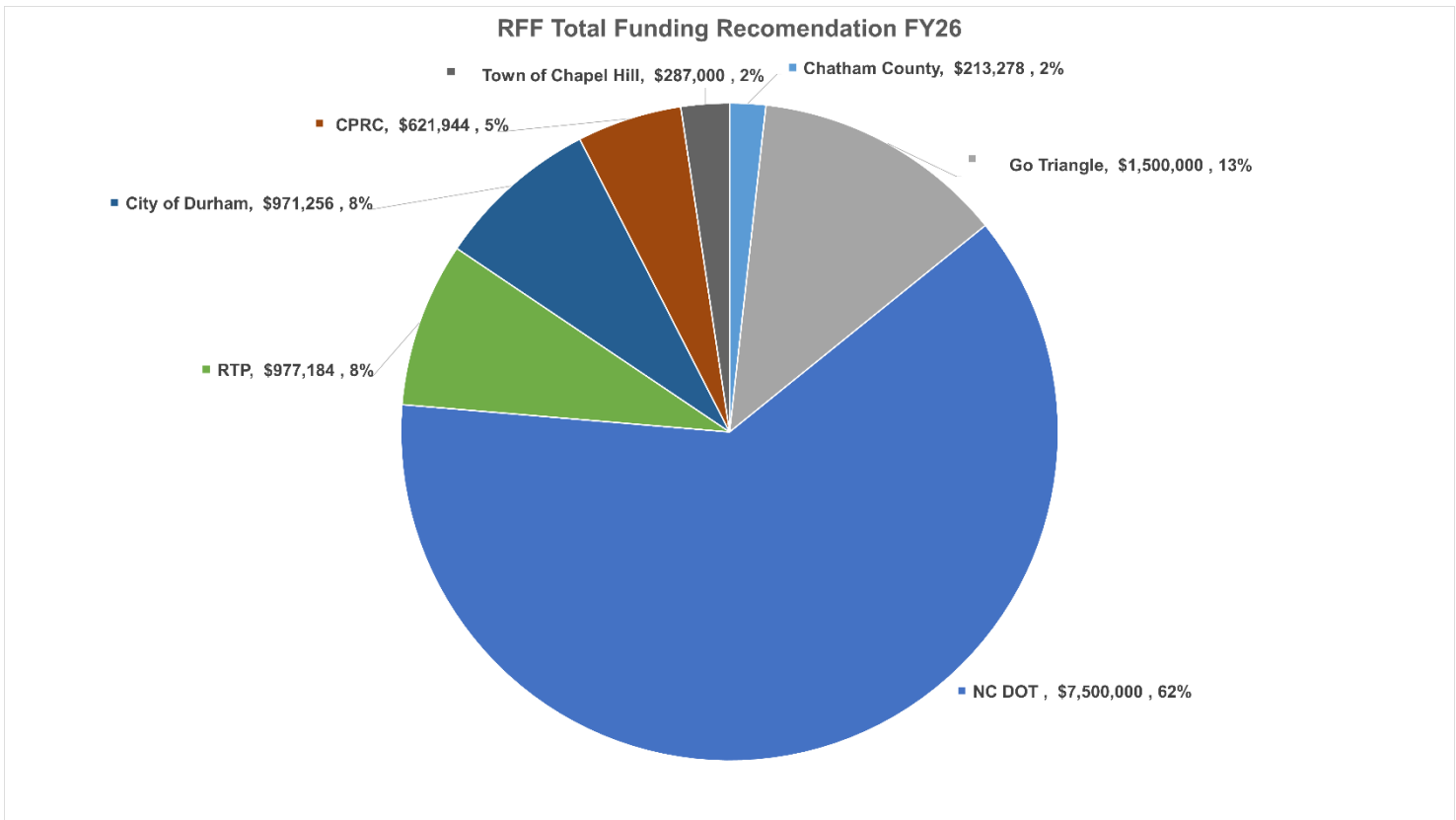


Chart 5: FY26 Funding by Improvement Type

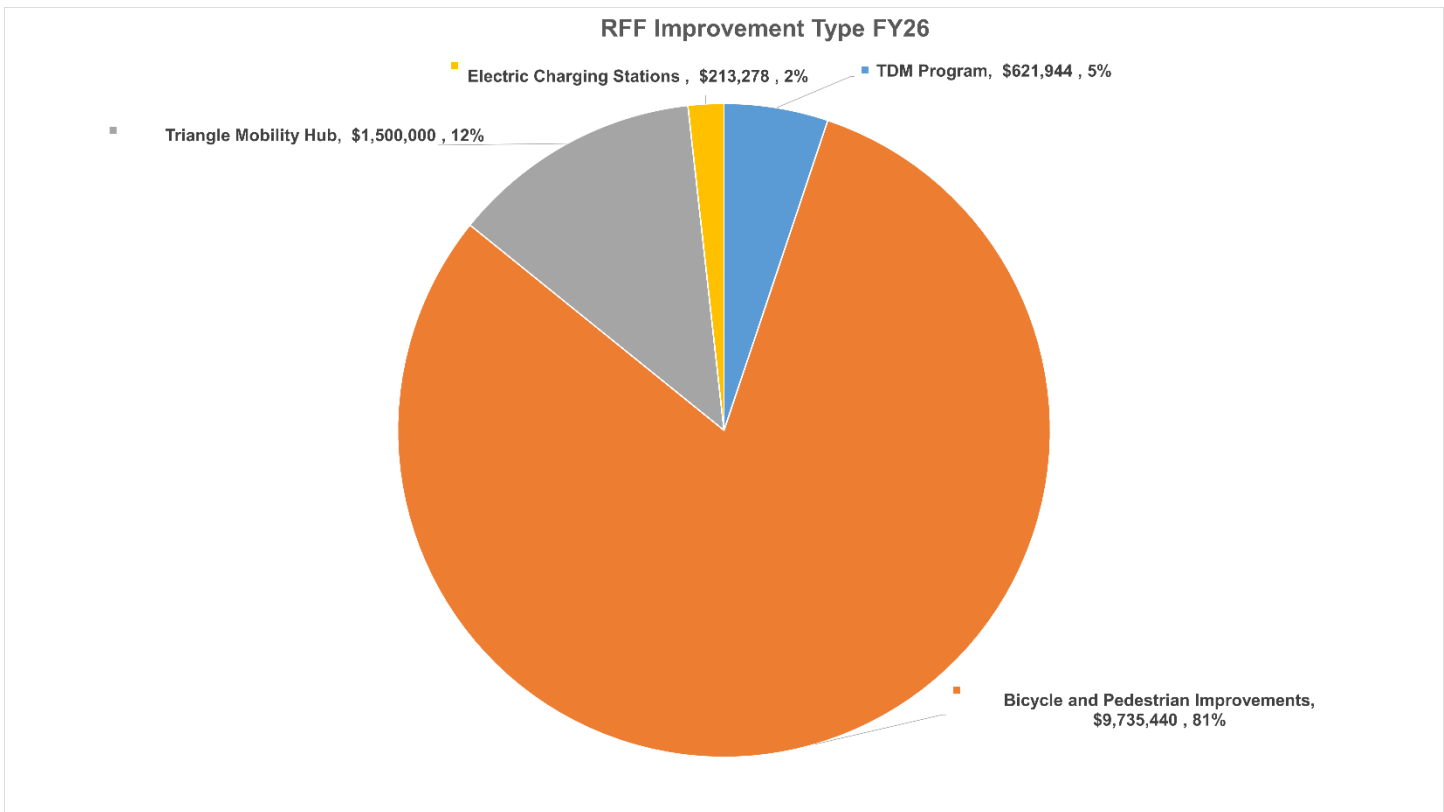


Chart 6: FY27 Funding by Jurisdiction

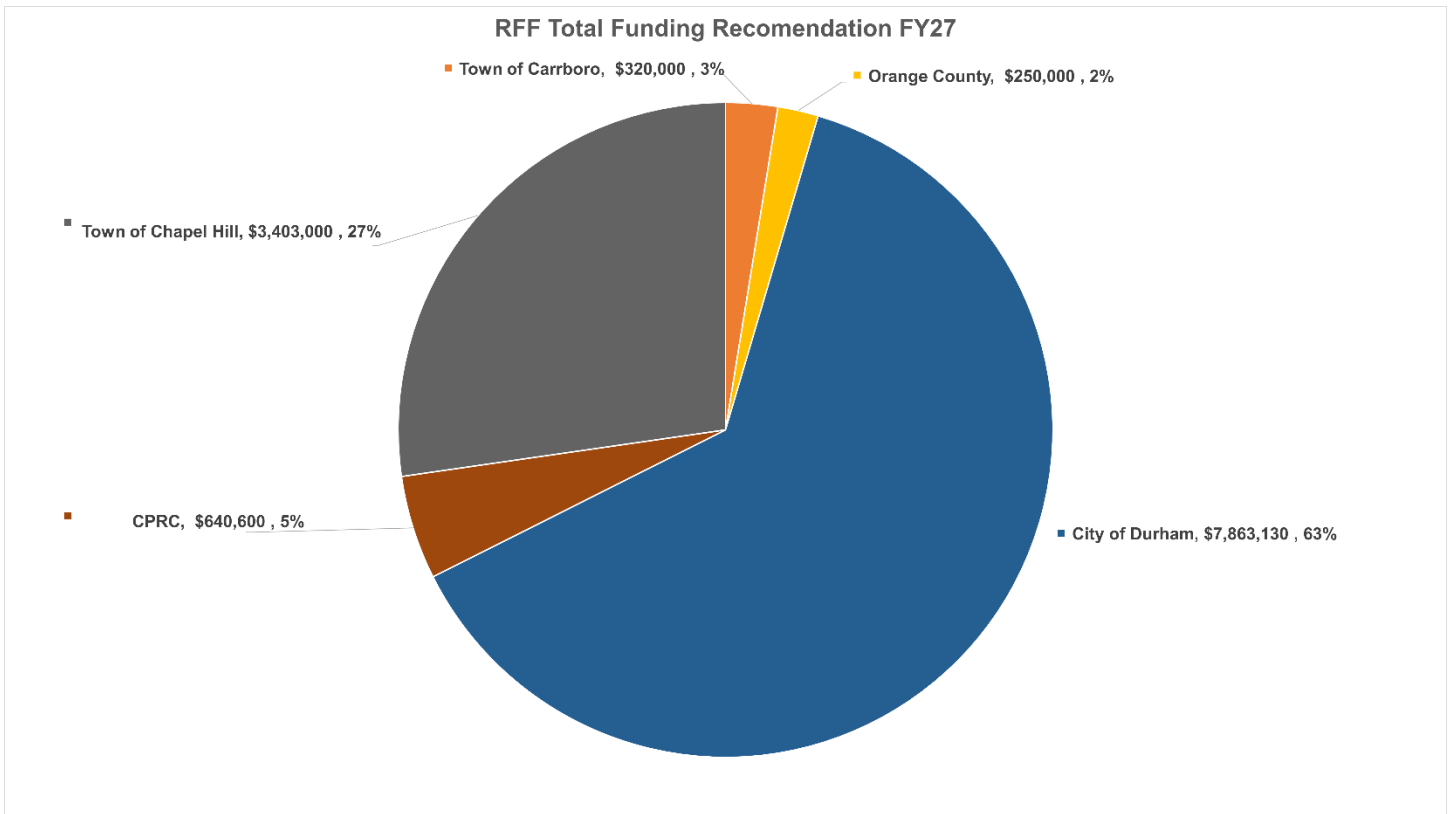
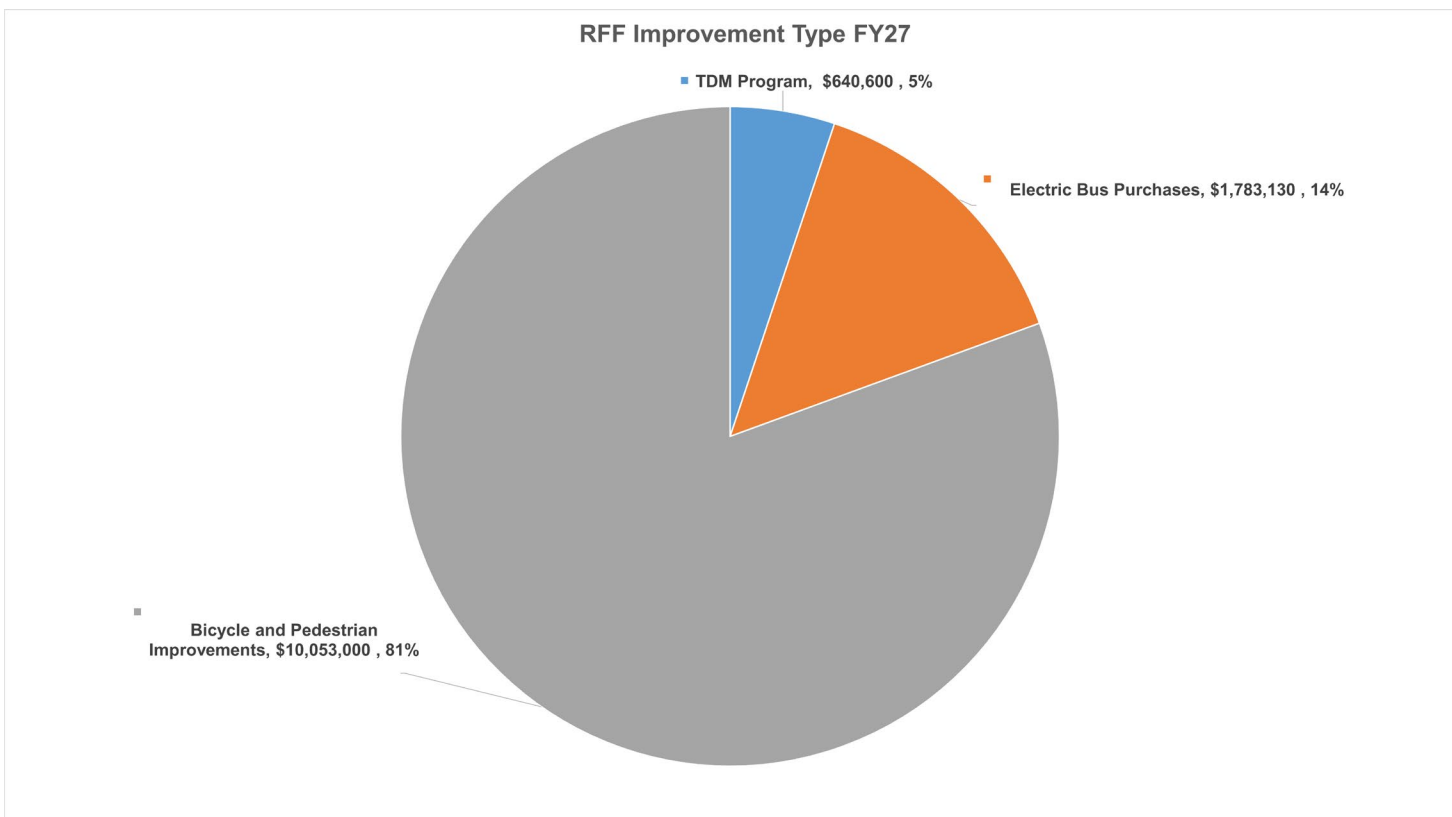


Chart 7: FY27 Funding by Improvement Type



Next Steps

The TC recommended that the MPO Board release this list of projects for public review. Should the Board release the list for review on March 26, 2024, MPO staff will compile comments received from the public. These comments will be presented to the TC for review and recommendation of MPO Board adoption of the list of projects for funding on April 23, 2024.