



MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Technical Committee
FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director
DATE: May 18, 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> Communication in process with NCDOT Division 5 regarding express design coordination for project. Consultants will prepare estimates. |
| 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 G2 Model FAQ sheet included. |
| 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. Met with legislators on February 27. Prioritization continues. Monitoring current legislation. |

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 | New application submitted |
| 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 | Awarded |
| GoTriangle | LoNo | Electric bus purchase | In process |
| City of Durham | Bus and Bus Facilities | Route 9 Improvements + Duke Transit | Submitted to DOT |
| Various | Safe Streets for All Planning / Pilot Implementation Grants | Various | |

Currently Open NOFO’s

| Name | Amount Available | Description | Eligibility | Application Deadline |
|---|------------------|---|--|--|
| Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program | \$700,000,000 | The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI Program) is a new competitive grant program to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in the places people live and work – urban and rural areas alike – in addition to along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). | designated recipients that allocate funds to fixed-route bus operators, states, or local governmental authorities that operate fixed-route bus service, and Indian tribes. | The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 30, 2023 |
| Safe Streets for All | | Planning and implementation grants including pilot projects and supplemental planning grants. | MPO’s, Local governments. | The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. (EDT) Monday, July 10, 2023 |

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 a significant initial task. We will include safety in specific special studies for 23-24 UPWP as directed by FHWA instruction. Working through grant acceptance process and paperwork. Commissioned scope development process with consultant.
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 – CommunityViz improvement project kicking off.

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.
- Vehicle Occupancy Rates
- Travel Time Studies
- Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey)

III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements
 - ✓ Prepared model networks for MTP update and air quality conformity.
- 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
 - ✓ Held internal kickoff meeting.

- 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

- Durham Freeway Corridor Study
 - ✓ City of Durham developing community partner capacity. They hope to have a consultant team under procurement prior to June 30.
- 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. Scheduling Design Charette with stakeholders.

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 begins

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.

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

- CNU end of May
- AMPO in September
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR ETHICS PAPERWORK!**

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

- Welcome Colleen McGue, AICP, new DCHC Planning Manager!
- Membership discussions continue with Chatham County, and other adjacent community partners.
- ILA between City and TJCOG prepared to facilitate legal movement.
- Request to NCDOT to prepare new grant agreement. Ongoing negotiations.
- Governance and Subcommittee meetings to be scheduled regarding above.
- New MOU between members and Policy Board bylaws in process.