

**DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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October 18, 2022

TO: DCHC MPO Technical Committee
FROM : Aaron Cain, LPA Staff
SUBJECT: Advanced Notification of FY24 Call for Projects

On November 7, 2021, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) will invite member agencies to submit project applications for federal funding from the Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) and Local Discretionary pools.

The project application and selection process will be guided by the Federal Funding Policy that was adopted by the DCHC MPO Board on November 10, 2021. That policy and its appendices are attached.

Final applications are due on December 9, 2022, by 5 p.m.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Applicants may seek funding for new and existing projects.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects to support the growth of a multimodal transportation network in our region.
- All funding sources require a 20% local match.

Funding Availability

Previously Approved Projects

The DCHC MPO Federal Funding Policy allows for projects to be funded over multiple years. One project approved in the FY23 Call for Projects, BL-0063, Horton Road, was approved for funding in FY24, and will receive \$220,489 of CMAQ funding. This amount is not included in the calculations below.

In addition, the DCHC MPO Federal Funding Policy states that the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program managed by the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) will receive priority for CMAQ funds, as long as no more than a three percent (3%) increase from the previous year funding amount is requested. This amount is not included in the calculations below.

Regional Flexible Funding

The Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) pool is designed to provide a flexible source of funding for local agencies to design and construct transportation infrastructure projects. The RFF consists of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA), Transportation Alternatives Program Direct Attributable (TAPDA) funding, as well as a new funding source available through the recently adopted Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). The MPO's Federal Funding Policy and the RFF scoring rubric strongly encourage the submission of applications for non-highway projects.

Project and phase eligibility, application requirements, and scoring criteria can be found in the Federal Funding Policy and its appendices. Guidance on the new CRP is also attached for reference (project eligibility is similar, though not exact, to that of CMAQ).

The table below provides the amount of funding available from each of the four funding sources. MPO staff will determine which projects will receive which type of funding based on final project scores and project eligibility criteria.

Funding Type	Amount
CMAQ	\$2,022,778
STBGDA	\$1,197,009
TAPDA	\$403,239
CRP	\$778,519
Total (RFF)	\$4,401,555¹

Per the Federal Funding Policy, local agencies are limited to the number of projects that can be managed at one time through the LAP program, called the Active Project Cap. This number is based on the amount of local match provided to the MPO. Those numbers are shown below, along with the number of current active projects by agency.

Agency	Active Project Cap	Current Active Projects
City of Durham ²	20	20
Town of Chapel Hill	15	6
Town of Carrboro	10	5
GoTriangle	10	2
TJCOG	10	1
Town of Hillsborough	10	0
Chatham County	10	0
Durham County	10	0
Orange County	10	0

Local Discretionary

Fiscal year 2024 is the last year that agencies will receive local discretionary STBGDA funding, per the adopted DCHC MPO Federal Funding Policy and guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). STBGDA provides flexible funding that communities can use to improve or construct roadways, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and to implement transit capital projects. The DCHC MPO Federal Funding Policy explicitly encourages communities to use their local discretionary funding for non-highway projects.

All local discretionary funds must be obligated by September 30, 2026. After this date, unobligated local discretionary funds will be added to the RFF pool. The amount of funding available to each jurisdiction is shown in the chart below.

Requests for use of local discretionary funds should be made to MPO staff concurrent with the RFF process. The amount available to each agency is shown in the table below.

¹ As of the date of this memo, final amounts for TAPDA and CMAQ for FY24 have not been released by NCDOT, and the MPO is awaiting release of the FY23 CRP allocation. Therefore, this number is subject to change.

² Two projects being managed by the City of Durham are scheduled to complete construction by the end of FY23.

Agency	Total Available³
City of Durham	\$985,155
Chapel Hill	\$796,802
Carrboro	\$452,141
Hillsborough	\$202,802
Orange County	\$196,460 ⁴
Durham County	\$45,014
Chatham County	\$0

Schedule

- October 26 – Advanced Notification of FY23 Call for Projects presented to the TC
- November 7 – Formal Call for Projects announcement
- November 16 – Pre-submittal meeting for all applicants
- December 9 – Project applications with all supporting materials due to LPA Staff
- December/January – LPA Staff scores projects and develops funding recommendations
- January 18 – Scores and funding recommendation published along with TC agenda
- February 8 – MPO Board releases funding recommendation for a 21-day public comment period
- February 22 – TC provides recommendation on funding recommendation
- March 8 – MPO Board approves LAP projects for FY24

Questions

Questions or comments about the FY24 Call for Projects should be directed to:

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³ These amounts include funds that will be designated through the FY24 UPWP process. Per the Federal Funding Policy, all funds that are programmed for use by local governments through the UPWP, either in FY24 or in an amendment to the FY23 UPWP, will be subtracted from this total.

⁴ Orange County also has \$55,924 available in STBG-COVID funds that it has not programmed. These funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024 or they will be returned to FHWA.