

**February 27, 2024**

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

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### **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.

MPO staff provided three scenarios attached to this memo for discussion at the previous TC meeting. Staff are seeking Board approval of the preferred scenario to be released for public comment.

### **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 a number of 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-5737 | \$6,374,133  | \$1,807,058 | \$8,181,191  | 61*   |

**Table 3: New Projects**

| Agency              | Funding Request Type | Project   | STIP# | Federal                         | Local        | Total        | Score  |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|-------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| GoTriangle          | New                  | Triangle Mobility Hub   | N/A   | \$30,500,000 (RFF: \$5,500,000) | \$26,480,000 | \$58,200,000 | 95**** |
| NCDOT               | New                  | Durham Roxboro Rail Trail   | N/A   | \$9,600,000 (RFF: \$8,160,000)  | \$2,040,000  | \$16,000,000 | 88***  |
| Town of Carrboro    | New                  | Bicycle Plan Implementation   | N/A   | \$889,600                       | \$222,400    | \$1,112,000  | 86     |
| Chatham County      | New                  | Electric Vehicle Charging Stations                                  | N/A   | \$213,278                       | \$53,320     | \$266,598    | 82     |
| RTP                 | New                  | Davis Drive Path from I-40 to Cornwallis Road                       | N/A   | \$977,184                       | \$244,296    | \$1,221,480  | 78     |
| Town of Chapel Hill | New                  | Sidewalk Gap Project  | N/A   | \$2,770,000                     | \$700,000    | \$3,470,000  | 77     |
| GoDurham            | 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     |
| GoDurham            | New                  | Cook Road Pedestrian Pathway  | N/A   | \$1,700,000                     | \$2,388,000  | \$4,088,000  | 71     |
| Chapel Hill Transit | 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  | 69     |
| RTP                 | New                  | NC-54 Path from Boxyard to Hub RTP                                  | N/A   | \$1,717,404                     | \$429,351    | \$2,146,755  | 67     |
| 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  | 55     |
| Town of Chapel Hill | New                  | Eubanks Multimodal Gap Project                                      | N/A   | \$814,000                       | \$204,000    | \$1,018,000  | 44     |
| Orange County       | New                  | Transit Access Sidewalk for Orange Grove Rd                         | N/A   | \$160,000                       | \$40,000     | \$200,000    | 43     |
| 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     |

\*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.

\*\*\*The Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail also includes \$1,440,000 in federal funding from KTRPO 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 RAISE Grant 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**

| <b>Fund Type</b>               | <b>Leftover from FY24</b> | <b>FY25 Amount</b> | <b>FY26 Amount</b> | <b>FY27 Amount</b> | <b>Total Amount</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 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         |
| <b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING</b> |                           |                    |                    |                    | <b>\$36,075,000</b> |
| <b>TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING</b> |                           |                    |                    |                    | <b>\$79,716,032</b> |

### **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

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

**Table 5: Available UPWP Funding**

| <b>Fund Type</b>               | <b>FY25 Amount</b> | <b>FY26 Amount</b> | <b>FY27 Amount</b> | <b>Total Amount</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| UPWP                           | \$2,315,000        | \$2,430,000        | \$2,552,000        | \$7,297,000         |
| <b>TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING</b> |                    |                    |                    | <b>\$840,000</b>    |

## 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            |
| Chatham County      | Electric Vehicle Charging Stations                                  | 7            | 8              | 2               | 30            |
| RTP                 | Davis Drive Path from I-40 to Cornwallis Road                       | 7            | 10             | 3               | 25            |
| Chapel Hill         | Sidewalk Gap Project  | 10           | 10             | 9               | 15            |
| GoDurham            | Battery Electric Buses Request                                      | N/A          | 10             | N/A             | 30            |
| GoTriangle          | Fordham Blvd Bus Stops and Transit Speed & Reliability Improvements | 10           | 10             | 5               | 15            |
| GoDurham            | Cook Road Pedestrian Pathway  | 10           | 10             | 4               | 15            |
| RTP                 | Laboratory Drive Path from Davis Drive to End                       | 10           | 10             | 10              | 25            |
| Chapel Hill Transit | Electric Bus Purchase   | N/A          | 10             | N/A             | 30            |
| RTP                 | NC-54 Path from Boxyard to Hub RTP                                  | 10           | 10             | 10              | 15            |
| Chapel Hill         | Bolinwood Rd Bridge   | 7            | 10             | 6               | 15            |
| 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           | 10             | 1               | 15            |
| Chapel Hill         | Eubanks Multimodal Gap Project                                      | 10           | 10             | 2               | 15            |
| Orange County       | Transit Access Sidewalk for Orange Grove Rd                         | 0            | 0              | 2               | 10            |
| Town of Carrboro    | Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 2                                      | 7            | 0              | 3               | 15            |
| 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          |
| Chatham County      | Electric Vehicle Charging Stations                                  | 10             | 3           | 0      | 12        | 10                 | 82          |
| RTP                 | Davis Drive Path from I-40 to Cornwallis Road                       | 10             | 3           | 6      | 4         | 10                 | 78          |
| Chapel Hill         | Sidewalk Gap Project  | 5              | 3           | 14     | 11        | N/A                | 77          |
| GoDurham            | 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          |
| GoDurham            | Cook Road Pedestrian Pathway  | 10             | 6           | 10     | 6         | N/A                | 71          |
| RTP                 | Laboratory Drive Path from Davis Drive to End                       | 0              | 3           | 10     | 1         | 0                  | 69          |
| Chapel Hill Transit | Electric Bus Purchase   | 0              | 15          | N/A    | 14        | N/A                | 69          |
| RTP                 | NC-54 Path from Boxyard to Hub RTP                                  | 5              | 3           | 8      | 6         | 0                  | 67          |
| Chapel Hill         | Bolinwood Rd Bridge   | 5              | 3           | 10     | 5         | N/A                | 61          |
| 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                  | 55          |
| Chapel Hill         | Eubanks Multimodal Gap Project                                      | 0              | 3           | 1      | 3         | N/A                | 44          |
| Orange County       | Transit Access Sidewalk for Orange Grove Rd                         | 10             | 6           | 3      | 2         | 10                 | 43          |
| Town of Carrboro    | Bolin Creek Greenway - Phase 2                                      | 0              | 3           | 0      | 2         | N/A                | 30          |
| 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-4726  | 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-5737 | 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.

### Triangle Transportation Demand Management 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. As an existing project it is a priority for funding. At the request of the MPO, in order to increase the amount of RFF funds going towards New Projects, the City of Durham has agreed to receive a reduced amount of federal funding for FY27 in the amount of \$7,000,000. The remainder of the funding amount will be provided in the amount of \$4,514,534 in FY28 federal funds. An exemption from the 65% agency cap requirement will be allowed for the FY26 Call for Projects to accommodate this request.



## **Next Steps**

Following the release for public comment, the MPO will distribute the funding recommendation in accordance with the DCHC MPO Public Involvement Policy. MPO staff will compile comments received from the public and present them to the TC for review and recommendation of adoption of the list of projects for funding by the MPO Board on March 26, 2024.