

# MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Technical Committee  
 FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director  
 DATE: July 26, 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 provided follow up discussion for using the TRM to evaluate non-motorized projects. Staff will ask ITRE to present evaluation options at an upcoming TC meeting.
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. 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	<b>APPLICATION AWARDED!</b>
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
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program	\$848,000,000	The purpose of the PROTECT Formula and Discretionary Grant programs is to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through formula and competitive discretionary grants. FHWA issued guidance for the formula portion of PROTECT in July 2022.	The PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program provides broad applicant eligibility for all levels of government to be direct recipients of funds. States, MPOs, local governments, and Indian Tribes can apply directly to FHWA.	The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 18, 2023
Transit Oriented Development Pilot Program	\$13M	TOD focuses growth around transit stations to create compact, mixed-use communities with easy access to jobs and services. TOD capitalizes on public investments in transit and supports transit systems by increasing ridership and fare revenue.	State and Local governments.	TBD

### **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. Finalized scope of work with consultant, Sent to TJCOG for procurement.
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory – Working to update communication with existing fixed counters (mostly in Orange County)
6. Network Data Collection
7. Capacity Deficiency Analysis
8. Land Use, Socio-Economic Environmental Data Analysis – CommunityViz improvement project nearing end.

##### **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. GoRaleigh is project lead overall Exploring options to use data beyond TRM.
- 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. Install centroids and centroid connectors in new TAZ's and verify in existing TAZ's. Review 2020 network for errors. (both by end of July)
- Horizon Year Data Forecasts
- Financial Planning
- FTA STOPS and CIG Technical Analysis & Planning

#### **II – B. PLANNING PROCESS**

##### **II – B – 1: Targeted Planning**

- Air Quality Planning/Conformity Analysis
- Alternative Fuels/Vehicles
- Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning – Supporting NCDOT analysis of all hazard mitigation plans to coordinate resilient transportation project development.
- Congestion Mitigation Plan
  - ✓ Held internal kickoff meeting. Working through capacity analysis at intersections. Evaluating performance measures.
- Freight Movement/Mobility Planning
- Climate Change Planning
  - ✓ Participating in Triangle Cool Cities.

## **II – B – 2: Regional Planning**

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Preparing update for fall 2023.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan – Coordinating amendment #5 w/ TPD prior to presenting to TC and MPO Board for public comment release.
- 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. Additional public involvement slated to begin soon. Consultant team will provide update to TC and MPO Board.

## **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 ongoing.

### **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. Comparing project consistency across CTP>MTP>TIP>STIP for improved concurrency. EG Although the MPO adjusted their adopted MTP to remove freeway conversions and other capacity increases, we have not carried those policies forward into the TIP and STIP.

### **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**

- AMPO in September
- Durham Chamber Indianapolis Trip in September

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

- Board Retreat Scheduled August 22.
- Request to NCDOT to prepare new grant agreement. Ongoing negotiations.
- Please follow up and process member contribution payments.
- Member one-on-one meetings: Looking at times to set up more informal 1-on-1 with staff to discuss issues, timelines, admin items, etc. Likely to take place in October due to TIP adoption and beginning of next LAP process with project application due ~Nov 1
- CMAQ applications will now be accepted quarterly with an end date for these quarters as March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31