

FY2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM SUMMARY

What is the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)?

The UPWP is DCHC's one (1) year annual budget program for transportation planning activity. The annual budget authorizes DCHC staff and operating costs along with direct expenses. It aligns multi-year MPO activities with available funds and explains how they support the MPO Board's strategic planning.

How is DCHC Funded?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and non-federal DCHC member contributions provide the majority of DCHC's financial support. FHWA funds include Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG-DA) and Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds. FTA funds include 5303 grants, which assist transit agencies in conducting transit planning and technical studies related to urban area public transit. We use DCHC members' contributions to satisfy required non-federal matching funds.

How can I provide comments on the FY2025 UPWP and what is the approval timeline?

The draft July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 annual program is on the DCHC MPO website [HERE](#). E-mail annual budget program questions to [Madeline Galliano](#)

The DCHC Board will hold a public hearing for next year's UPWP at their February 27, 2024 meeting, during which time the public may comment on the contents of the FY2025 UPWP. After that public hearing, the Board will make their final vote for approval during their March 26, 2024 meeting.

Summary of FY2025 Funding Sources and Full Allocations Before Requested Programming

Funding Source	Federal	State	Local	Total
PL (FHWA)	\$471,700	N/A	\$117,925	\$589,625
Y-410 (FHWA)	\$12,700	N/A	N/A	\$12,700
STBG-DA (FHWA)	\$2,783,920	N/A	\$695,980	\$3,479,900
5303 (FTA)	\$448,469	\$56,059	\$56,059	\$560,586
Total	\$3,716,789	\$56,059	\$869,964	\$4,642,811

Chapel Hill Transit High-Capacity Transit Corridor Feasibility Study

This study will identify and assess options and develop an action plan for enhanced, high-capacity transit connections (including but not limited to express bus service, bus rapid transit, bus on-shoulder access, transit queue jumps, etc.) in Chapel Hill Transit's service area. The Study will prioritize corridors connecting to regional destinations including Durham County, Chatham County, and Alamance County, a stated priority of all regional stakeholders.

The local match will be provided by Chapel Hill Transit.

Orange County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Orange County currently has several bicycle and pedestrian projects throughout the County in various plans, and this study intends to create a single plan to incorporate all of them into one document. Additionally, Orange County's adoption of its Complete Street and Vision Zero policy in October 2022, its participation in two MPO Safety Action Plans currently in progress (DCHC MPO and BG MPO), and Orange County Transportation Service's collaboration with the Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation (DEAPR) to improve non-highway infrastructure throughout rural Orange County will help inform this study and contribute to its success.

The local match will be provided by Orange County.

Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Feasibility Study in Durham County

The proposed Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail is a multi-county corridor that encompasses Durham and Person counties. For this study, Durham County will focus on the southern portion of the trail that resides within Durham County, which will help support the current feasibility study underway for the northern portion of the rail corridor within Person County. The planning study will analyze the corridor to determine the rail trail project's feasibility and any potential environmental and human impacts caused by its construction. The study will address potential design options that will make this trail an effective transportation corridor and a cultural and community resource that resembles its adjacent communities.

The total cost of the project is \$500,000, with \$400,000 coming from federal funds (STBG-DA) \$100,000 as a local match made up of \$33,334 in Durham County funds, \$33,333 in City of Durham funds, and \$33,333 in funding from the East Coast Greenway Alliance. The study will be managed by Durham County.

Joint MPO Rail Strategic Plan Study

As a result of recent work by the CAMPO and DCHC MPO Rail Subcommittees, the two MPOs will collaborate on a strategic rail study to explore an implementation strategy that will move the region closer to delivering increased frequency passenger rail, including developing a vision for future passenger rail services. The study will identify TIP projects and planning efforts that are in place and will develop a strategy for targeting investment through the County transit plans, the SPOT process, and grant opportunities to facilitate the implementation of infrastructure projects that can be used to leverage other funds or otherwise further delivery of the passenger rail goals of the region. The local match will be provided by DCHC MPO and CAMPO.

FAST 2 Study

NCDOT's Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) will manage the study in conjunction with regional partners. Contributions to the FAST 2 Study will be a coordinated effort among regional partners including DCHC MPO, Durham County, Orange County, Wake County, Chatham County, Johnston County, Town of Cary, Town of Chapel Hill, City of Durham, City of Raleigh, CAMPO, GoTriangle, RDU Airport, RTA (Regional Transportation Alliance) and NCDOT. The DCHC MPO proposes a \$50,000 contribution (80% STBG-DA funds + 20% local match) to the overall \$800,000 project budget from our work program.

The regional Freeway, Arterial, Street, and Tactical (FAST) transit study is a follow-up initiative to the original FAST study conducted in 2020-21. FAST is a scalable approach for quickly integrating "transit advantage" infrastructure along the roadway system to support enhanced transit service. The FAST approach prioritizes transit efficiency and reliability while improving universal mobility. The objectives of the FAST 2.0 transit study are to make our freeways and regional boulevards "transit-ready", elevate and identify one or more BRT corridors that directly link with RDU Airport, and advance SMART (Systematic Management of Adaptable Roadways through Technology) freeway corridors.

The FAST 2 Study was originally amended into DCHC MPO’s FY2024 UPWP, though this request proposes the study be moved to the FY2025 UPWP as no funds are expected to be expended until FY2025. The budget for this project is \$50,000, with \$40,000 coming from federal funds (STBG-DA) and \$10,000 as a local match.

US 15-501 Corridor Study

The DCHC MPO completed a detailed study of the US 15-501 corridor from Ephesus Church Road in Chapel Hill to University Drive in Durham in 2021. The project team analyzed existing conditions, proposed recommendations, and created a final report and conceptual design. However, the MPO Board determined the study’s recommended improvements did not meet the Board’s adopted Goals and Objectives and declined to adopt the study. The MPO Board updated the Metropolitan Transportation Plan project description for the corridor from a freeway conversion to a boulevard conversion and modernization in 2022. As part of this study, DCHC MPO will procure a consultant to collaborate with stakeholders to create a multimodal corridor solution that supports the MPO’s adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan’s goals and objectives. This study seeks a recommended corridor alternative that provides access for all users, decreases energy consumption and emissions, improves safety, increases operational efficiency, and respects the natural and built environments. The budget for this project is \$500,000, with \$400,000 coming from federal funds (STBG-DA) and \$100,000 as a local match. The study will be administered by MPO staff.

Local Project Delivery Study

The DCHC MPO prioritizes supporting its members in advancing and delivering local projects. To help with this effort, a consultant will be procured to study the DCHC MPO project delivery process from MPO approval to project closeout for the MPO’s members and partners. The consultant will report on the findings and propose actions to improve project delivery in the MPO area. The budget for this project is \$100,000, with \$80,000 coming from federal funds (STBG-DA) and \$20,000 as a local match. The study will be administered by MPO staff.

Summary of FY2025 Special Studies Funding Sources

Agency	FY2025 New Study	Local Match (20%)	Federal Match (80%)	Total (100%)	CAMPO
MPO*	Joint MPO Rail Strategic Plan Study	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
MPO	FAST 2 Study	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	n/a
MPO	US 15-501 Corridor Study	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$500,000	n/a
MPO	Local Project Deliver Study	\$20,000	\$80,000	\$100,000	n/a
MPO**	Orange County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	n/a
Chapel Hill Transit	Chapel Hill Transit High-Capacity Transit Corridor Feasibility Study	\$60,000	\$240,000	\$300,000	n/a
Durham County	Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Feasibility Study in Durham County	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$500,000	n/a
TOTAL		\$350,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,750,000	\$50,000

*CAMPO’s funds are programmed in their FY2025 UPWP and are not part of DCHC MPO’s funding request

**Local match and management provided by Orange County. DCHC MPO provides project oversight, and administration and is the fiduciary agent. Contract agreements, invoicing, and payments are to be handled by the Central Pines Regional Council.