

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP

DATE: November, 2024

This Monthly Staff Report updates the Board and Technical Committee on the board directives and the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act’s programs. It summarizes DCHC MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) task progress.

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> Scope developed. Switching gears; once the Durham bike/ped plan, US 70 East, and Safe Streets for All projects are underway, we will initiate procurement for the study. Included in the 24-25 UPWP. Project will also incorporate MTP performance measures driven by public input; similar approach as US 70 east project.
12-15-21	Investigate the possibility of conducting a highway safety plan or other options for improving highway safety within the MPO.	<i>Under Contract-</i> regional safety summit date is the Morning of October 8th
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 2025 General Assembly session.	<i>Underway.</i> We will reexamine; engaging NCDOT for agency priorities in 2024. We will revisit advocacy through CPRC, NCAMPO, and our strategic plan will formulate approach in consultation with NCML and MetroMayors

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.

[WHITEHOUSE LIST OF OPEN AND UPCOMING INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

3. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM TASKS

II – A. DATA AND PLANNING SUPPORT

II – A – 1 Networks and Support Systems

1. Vehicle Miles of Travel
 - ✓ Potential local development traffic impact analysis tool for regional VMT.
2. Street System Changes
 - ✓ Modeling team coded network changes that update bus route improvements in the 2055 MTP official model, especially the Orange, Durham, and GoTriangle short range transit plans.
3. Traffic Crashes and Safety Data
 - ✓ Held successful regional safety summit. Working through analysis with consultants.
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
 - ✓ Supporting Hillsborough Downtown Parking Study
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory.
 - ✓ Cost proposals for automated nonmotorized counters too expensive; will evaluate opportunities for volunteer counts in 2025.
6. Network Data Collection
7. Capacity Deficiency Analysis
8. Land Use, Socio-Economic Environmental Data Analysis – CommunityViz workgroup meetings ongoing. Suitability factor focused discussions completed. We will verify existing/committed developments with local partners this fall; we are aware that some members have significant current staffing challenges.

II – A – 2 Travelers and Behavior

- Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes, Base Year Data Collection, Travel Surveys, Vehicle Occupancy Rates, Travel Time Studies, Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey).

III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements, latest version successfully deployed.
- Horizon Year Data Forecasts – Gearing up for alternatives analysis. Financial Planning – initial conversations about fiscal constraint for 2055 MTP pending. We will present up to three options with the MTP including state, federal, and local financial resources. The TC and Board should prepare to affirm a one (1) cent sales tax increase on top of the current half (1/2) cent sales tax.
- Developing internal capacity to use VisionEval. [VisionEval](#) is a collaborative project to build a family of strategic tools for performance-based transportation planning into a single open-source programming

framework. Strategic tools are designed to evaluate many alternative futures and policies to help state and metropolitan area governments address pressing issues, despite uncertainty.

II – B. PLANNING PROCESS

II – B – 1: Targeted Planning

- Congestion Mitigation Plan adopted. We will apply the methodology during MTP alternatives analysis.

II – B – 2: Regional Planning

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Goal and Objectives engagement completed, working through alternatives analysis development based on public and board feedback. We will drop a social media campaign to promote the regional plan.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan – Preparing the schedule for the update in conjunction with MTP update. Met with Durham to understand public involvement expectations and how the community uses CTP in their development ordinances. Subcommittee to be established and will be seeking representation from each member on this committee.
- Racial Equity Planning.

II – B – 3: Special Studies

- Durham Freeway Corridor Study
- Orange County US 70 Corridor Study
 - ✓ Will prepare project list for 2055 MTP incorporation.
- Durham County US 70 Corridor Study – Phase II procurement process underway.
- Hillsborough Parking Study - Notice to Proceed
- Strategic Rail Plan procurement underway. Organizing joint rail subcommittee meeting before end of year.

III – A. Unified Planning Work Program

III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program

- Approved UPWP, moving into CPRC budget season.

III-A-2: Metrics and Performance Measures

- Will crosswalk draft 25-26 UPWP with MTP goals and strategic planning outcomes before formal submission to FHWA/FTA through NCDOT.

III-B: Transportation Improvement Program III-

B-1: Prioritization

Submitted DCHC points for Regional Impact round. Division needs points out for public comment; draft STIP should appear in first quarter 2025. Helene impacts still unknown on long term funding situation.

IV-B-2: Metropolitan TIP

- project consistency across CTP>MTP>TIP>STIP for improved concurrency. Although the MPO adjusted the Plan to remove freeway conversions and other capacity increases, we have not carried those policies forward into the Program.

V-B-3: Merger and Project Development

IV-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

- ✓ Enhancing internal procurement processes specifically to support DBE engagement. Initial discussions

with partner agencies to develop working group.

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

- Ongoing partnership with RTA to Supporting RTA with BRT workgroup development.

IV- D: Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning

- Ongoing NCAMPO participation

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

- Prepared executive director annual assessment. Working on follow-up information for Board.
- Drafting new MOU for partners to complete reorganization under Central Pines Regional Council. Will incorporate new organization identity.
- CMAQ applications will now be accepted continuously and processed each quarter. The end dates for the quarters are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.
- Working through procurement processes on several current MPO initiatives.