



MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC Technical Committee
FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM, Executive Director
DATE: March 16, 2023
RE: **MPO BOARD DIRECTIVES + IIJA UPDATE + STAFF REPORT**

This memorandum updates the board on their 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.
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.
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> We provide clearer direction in next year’s proposed UPWP and working with NCDOT and FHWA on project agreement and scope.
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 TRM update included in MPO Staff Report.
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> Regrouping items after conversations with board members, legislators, and stakeholders.

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	Not selected for award Resubmitted for this call?
Durham County Transportation	FRA Grade Crossing Improvements	East Durham grade separations	Application Submitted to DOT
DCHC MPO	Safe Streets for All	MPO-wide Safety Action Plan	Awarded
GoTriangle	RAISE	Regional Transit Center	Re-application
City of Durham	Lo No Emissions Bus Program		Awarded
City of Durham	Bus and Bus Facilities	Route 9 Improvements + Duke Transit	Submitted to DOT

KEY NOFO’S (AS OF MARCH 16, 2023)

Opening Date	Notice of Funding Opportunity	Administrating Agency	Closing Date
11/30/2022	Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	Office of the Secretary	2/28/2023
1/27/2023	Buses and Bus Facilities	Federal Transit Administration	4/13/2023
1/27/2023	Low or No Emission Vehicle	Federal Transit Administration	4/13/2023
Winter 2023	Charging and Fueling Infrastructure	Federal Highway Administration	
Winter/Spring 2023	Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation (PROTECT) – Discretionary	Federal Highway Administration	
March 2023	High Priority - Enforcement Training Support	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	
March - April 2023	Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Program	Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	

April 2023	Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program	Office of the Secretary	
May 2023	Transit-Oriented Development Pilot Program	Federal Transit Administration	
Spring 2023	Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (Mega , INFRA , and Rural)	Office of the Secretary	
Spring 2023	Thriving Communities	Office of the Secretary	
Late Spring 2023	Reconnecting Communities Program and Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program	Office of the Secretary/Federal Highway Administration	
Late Spring/Early Summer 2023	Fueling Aviation’s Sustainable Transition through Sustainable Aviation Fuels (FAST-SAF) and Technology (FAST-Tech) Programs	Federal Aviation Administration	
Summer 2023	Bridge Investment Program	Federal Highway Administration	
Summer 2023	Railroad Crossing Elimination Program	Federal Railroad Administration	
Fall 2023	Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements Grant Program	Federal Railroad Administration	
Fall 2023	Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program	Office of the Secretary	
Winter 2023 - 2024	National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grants	Federal Highway Administration	

Formula Grants Overview and Updates

Formula grants to be increased by the IIJA include:

- Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG)
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

These formula grants will be apportioned through the customary process, and final splits will be calculated by the MPO and approved by the Board at the time of their release.

ESTIMATED DCHC MPO Formula Grant Appropriations – subject to change based on population splits, etc. Anticipating changes from census data.

Grant Program	FY22 ESTIMATED Allocation	FY21 Allocation
STBG-DA	\$6,450,683	\$5,757,635
PL	\$616,625	\$638,971
CMAQ	TBD	\$2,194,011
Transportation Alternatives (TA)	\$812,081	\$411,468
Carbon Reduction Program – NEW	\$778,519	

Resources

1. [DCHC MPO IIJA Project Catalog](#)
2. [USDOT Upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcements](#)
3. [FHWA 2021 IIJA Overview Presentation](#)
4. [Grants.gov](#)
5. [Federal Railroad Administration BIL Resources and Updates](#)

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 significant initial task. We will include safety in specific special studies for 23-24 UPWP. Initial conversation with private sector topic experts and scheduling connection with NCDOT.
4. Central Area Parking Inventory
5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities & Counts Inventory
6. Network Data Collection
7. Capacity Deficiency Analysis
8. Land Use, Socio-Economic Environmental Data Analysis

II – A – 2 Travelers and Behavior

- Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes
- Base Year Data Collection
- Travel Surveys
 - ✓ Working with GoRaleigh and other stakeholders on on-board transit O-D Survel
- Vehicle Occupancy Rates
- Travel Time Studies
- Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey)

III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements
 - ✓ New TRM version released for use, DCHCMPO testing.
 - ✓ Reviewed budget and work program for 2024 model.
- Horizon Year Data Forecasts
- Financial Planning
- FTA STOPS and CIG Technical Analysis & Planning
- CommunityViz

II – B. PLANNING PROCESS

II – B – 1: Targeted Planning

- Air Quality Planning/Conformity Analysis
- Alternative Fuels/Vehicles

- Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning
- Congestion Mitigation Plan
 - ✓ Data development nearly complete. Contract executed.
- Freight Movement/Mobility Planning
- Climate Change Planning
 - ✓ Participating in Triangle Cool Cities.

II – B – 2: Regional Planning

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
 - ✓ Coordinating schedule on MTP amendment and 2055 MTP development.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Racial Equity Planning

II – B – 3: Special Studies

- US 15-501 Quad Section Corridor Study
 - ✓ NCDOT moved project into express design for next prioritization round.
- Durham Freeway Corridor Study
 - ✓ City of Durham developing community partner capacity.
- 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
 - ✓ Scheduling stakeholder design charette and adjusting public input strategy following first round participation.

III – A. Unified Planning Work Program

III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program

- Staff begin the next UPWP adoption process and will discuss 23-24 UPWP elements with NCDOT, FHWA, and our regional partners. Moving forward with revised schedule.

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

III-B-2: Metropolitan TIP

- ✓ Initiated call for projects for upcoming funding year. Further processing swaps and a TIP amendment.

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

- NCAMPO conference at the end of April.

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

Connecting with neighboring stakeholders both local and PO. Phone screening candidates for open positions. PT Admin offered. Planning Manager begins April 3.