

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

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DATE: February 2024

This Monthly Staff Report updates the Board and Technical Committee on the board directives, the 2021 Infrastructure Investment 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> Scope developed. Switching gears; once the Durham bike/ped plan, Bus Speed and Reliability Study, and Safe Streets for All projects are underway, we will initiate procurement for the study. We included a placeholder in the 24-25 budget.
10-13-21	Investigate potential options for a racial equity policy and/or framework for DCHC MPO.	<i>Pending.</i> Staff continues updating resource documents and policies working towards implementable actions. Current focus on report improvements and engagement diversity.
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> RFLOI process initiated.
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.	<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. We are also working to better use the model as a decision-making tool focused around MTP goals and objectives.
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. Will coordinate with CPRC to engage legislators in advance of 2024 short session.

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
Chapel Hill Transit	CIG	N/S BRT	Scoring request underway
GoTriangle	PROTECT	BOMF	Applied
Durham County	Reconnecting Communities	Durham to Roxboro Rail Trail	Applied
GoTriangle	Reconnecting Communities	Triangle Mobility Hub	Applied
City of Durham	Reconnecting Communities	Reimagine Durham Freeway	Applied
NCDOT	Reconnecting Communities	S-Line Communities Mobility Hubs	Applied
GoTriangle	RAISE	Triangle Mobility Hub	Application Underway
City of Durham	Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program	Empower Durham: Equitable EV Charging in the City of Durham, NC – Corridor Component	AWARDED

NOFO's

Opening Date	NOFO	Operating Administration/Office	Closing Date (to be added for each program after the NOFO is issued)
1/30/2023	Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	Office of the Secretary	2/28/2024
Winter 2023	Low Carbon Transportation Materials Grants	Federal Highway Administration	
January 2024	Bus and Bus Facilities	Federal Transit Administration	
January 2024	Low and No Emissions Vehicle (Bus) Grants	Federal Transit Administration	
January 2024	State Electronic Data Collection	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	
February 2024	Safe Streets for All	Office of the Secretary	NOFO Forthcoming
February 2024	Port Infrastructure Development Program	Maritime Administration	
March 2024	Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program	Federal Transit Administration	
March 2024	Ferry Service for Rural Communities	Federal Transit Administration	
Summer 2024	SMARTS Grants Stage 1	Office of the Secretary	
Summer 2024	SMARTS Grants Stage 2	Office of the Secretary	

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
3. Traffic Crashes and Safety Data
 - ✓ Hitting the streets for consultant selection after the holidays.
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 workgroup meetings ongoing.

II – A – 2 Travelers and Behavior

- Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes
- Base Year Data Collection
- Travel Surveys
 - ✓ OD transit onboard survey underway. Expecting results from public transportation survey soon. Consultant will present at upcoming board meeting.
- Vehicle Occupancy Rates
- Travel Time Studies
- Annual Continuous Travel Behavior Surveys (Household Survey)

III – A – 3 Transportation Modeling

- Travel Regional Model Enhancements
 - ✓ New Model adopted.
- Horizon Year Data Forecasts - working through CommunityViz updates w/ communities.
- 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

- ✓ Evaluating performance measures.
- Freight Movement/Mobility Planning
- Climate Change Planning
 - ✓ Participating in Triangle Cool Cities. Transitions occurring with CPRC through transportation and energy program.

II – B – 2: Regional Planning

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Goal and Objectives engagement completed, summary underway for joint MPO Board meeting.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan – Preparing update in conjunction with MTP update.
- Racial Equity Planning

II – B – 3: Special Studies

- Durham Freeway Corridor Study
 - ✓ City of Durham developing community partner capacity. Durham received notice to proceed from NCDOT. Initial meetings upcoming.
- Orange County US 70 Corridor Study
 - ✓ Final public input round nearly complete.
- Durham County US 70 Corridor Study
 - ✓ Next round of public involvement complete, including information on where the new freeway options are in process and evaluation compared. Phase 2 will advance once Phase 1 closes out.

III – A. Unified Planning Work Program

III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program

- Amendment 5 finalizes transition program costs and new reporting.

III-A-2: Metrics and Performance Measures

- Staff received NCDOT safety performance measures for adoption.

III-B: Transportation Improvement Program III-

B-1: Prioritization

Working through SPOT office project submission reviews.

IV-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. 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.

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

- Engagement development with new MPO board.

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

- Drafting new MOU for partners to complete reorganization under TJCOG.
- Director will meet with board members monthly. Director will also visit member boards to share 2022-2023 annual summary when complete and introduce 2024-2025 work program.
- 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.
- Reviewing funded projects for enhanced delivery opportunities.