

September 15, 2020

Secretary J. Eric Boyette
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Dear Secretary Boyette:

In recent months the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) and its member jurisdictions have become well aware of the budgetary issues facing the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and its effect on moving locally administered projects forward. At its meeting on September 9, the DCHC MPO Board discussed NCDOT's finances with Van Argabright, Director of the NCDOT Division of Planning and Programming, and learned that, while a few projects are being allowed to move forward, project delays will continue into the foreseeable future.

The DCHC MPO would like to clarify that during this period of restricted cash flow its first priority is the funding of locally administered projects over motor vehicle mobility projects in the DCHC region. The reasons for this request were previously stated in the resolution adopted by the DCHC MPO Board on June 10, as follows:

- Nearly all of the DCHC MPO's locally administered projects are focused on improving safety and constructing bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- During the COVID pandemic, bicycle and pedestrian travel is far exceeding normal levels, resulting in crowding on greenway trails and other facilities.
- Delaying locally administered projects is very concerning to local governments because over time project cost estimates become much less reliable, and critically important safety, bicycle, and pedestrian projects cannot be delivered to residents.

The DCHC MPO Board further requests that NCDOT provide clarity on the criteria that will be used in deciding which projects can re-start as the budgetary situation improves, and include locally administered projects on published lists of project re-start dates to provide transparency and demonstrate that NCDOT is taking the MPO Board's request into consideration as it transitions out of financial difficulties.

Sincerely,



Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO

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