

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO

DCHC

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PLANNING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION

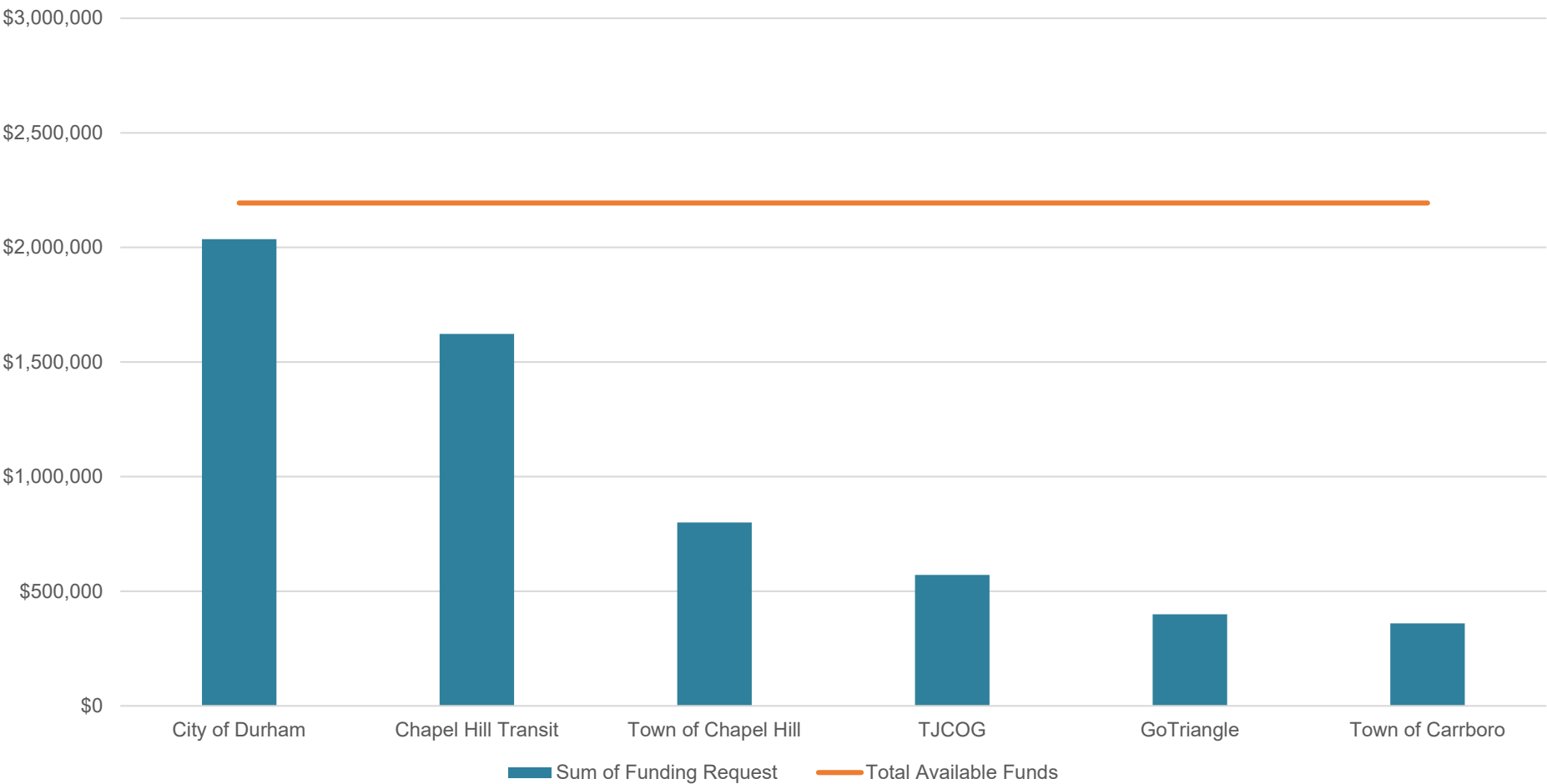
CMAQ Funding Recommendation

Anne Phillips, LPA Staff

CMAQ Background

- DCHC periodically receives CMAQ funds for disbursement
- CMAQ are federal funds for projects that show an air quality benefit
- A 20 percent local match is required for CMAQ
- The last CMAQ call for projects occurred in 2017 for FY18 &19
- DCHC MPO received \$2,194,011 in CMAQ funding for FY22
- Total requested funding from eight applications is \$5,790,001
- All submitted projects showed an emissions benefit

Funding Request by Agency



- DCHC MPO's Federal Funding Policy (2015)
 - No quantitative rubric
 - Based on general guidance in the policy, MPO staff considered the following factors:
 - › **Emissions benefit:** Federally required, an imprecise science
 - › **Project schedule:** Shovel-ready projects preferred
 - › **Other federal funding available to applicants:** STBGDA, STBG-Any Area, and STBGDA COVID Relief
 - › **Geographic equity:** All jurisdictions and agencies have a reasonable chance to receive funding, and funding is distributed throughout the MPO.
 - › **Local priorities**

Emission Reduction Estimates

Project Name	Length (miles)	Vehicle Trip Reduction	VMT Reduced	Functional Class	CO (g/Mile)	VOC (g/Mile)	NOx (g/Mile)	CO (Reduced Kg/Day)	VOC (Reduced Kg/Day)	NOx (Reduced Kg/Day)
TJCOG TDM Program/DCHC area	n/a		51,605					502	29	103
Durham Downtown Wayfinding System	n/a	n/a	2,500	Urban Minor Arterial	9.916	0.433	0.339	33.565	1.567	1.096
City of Durham Bike Facilities II	3.81	1171	1,635	Urban Minor Arterial	9.916	0.433	0.339	16.210	0.708	0.554
City of Durham Neighborhood Bike Routes II+III	8.07	568	835	Urban Local	9.65	0.443	0.335	8.058	0.370	0.280
GoTriangle Transit Access Improvements	n/a	310						4.450	0.225	0.303
Town of Chapel Hill Estes Dr Bike & Ped Improvement	0.80	91	168	Urban Minor Arterial	9.916	0.433	0.339	1.664	0.073	0.057
Chapel Hill Transit Bus Replacement	n/a	n/a	n/a					0.181	0.028	0.935
Town of Carrboro S. Greensboro Sidewalk	0.554	56	69	Urban Minor Arterial	9.916	0.433	0.339	0.686	0.030	0.023

Projects Recommended for Funding

Project	Requested Funding	Local Match	Total	Existing Project	Project Phase
City of Durham Bike Facilities II: Club & Foster	\$ 422,524	\$ 252,476	\$ 675,000	N	Design and Construction
GoTriangle Transit Access Improvements	\$ 400,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	N	Design and Construction
TJCOG TDM Program/DCHC area	\$ 571,487	\$ 142,872	\$ 714,359	Y	Program
Town of Chapel Hill Estes Dr Bike&Ped Improvement	\$ 800,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,000,000	Y	Construction
Total	\$ 2,194,011	\$ 695,348	\$ 2,889,359		

Recommended Projects: City of Durham Bike Facilities II

- **Project Description:** Buffered bike facilities on Club Boulevard (Washington Street to Broad Street) and the Blackwell/Corcoran/Foster Street corridor (American Tobacco Trailhead to Washington Street) in Durham.
- **Emissions Benefit:** This project scored third overall in emissions benefits.
- **Project Schedule:** Though not an existing project, LPA staff is recommending this project for funding because it is the City's highest priority.
- **Other funding sources available to applicants:** This project is also eligible for STBG-Any Area funding and STBGDA COVID relief funds.
- **Geographic Equity:** This local project benefits the City of Durham/Durham County.
- **Local Priority:** The City of Durham stated that this project was the highest priority of its three submitted projects.

Recommended Projects: GoTriangle Transit Access Improvements

- **Project Description:** Transit access improvements, including bus pullouts, bus stops, sidewalks, and possible TSP at the intersection of US 15-501 & Eastowne Drive.
- **Emissions Benefit:** This project scored fifth once MPO staff had a chance to rerun the emissions calculations for transit projects.
- **Project Schedule:** Design in FY22 and construction in FY23. While a new project, it is small enough in scale that it can be implemented quickly.
- **Other funding sources available to applicants:** While GoTriangle does receive STBGDA funding from the MPO through its transit allocation, those funds are usually earmarked for operations and not dedicated to capital projects.
- **Geographic Equity:** While in Chapel Hill, this location will serve three regional destinations: Wegman's grocery store; UNC Healthcare facilities; and the State Employees Credit Union. These destinations will employ over 2,500 people along GoTriangle regional routes 400 and 405, which serve Durham, Chapel Hill, and Carrboro.
- **Local Priority:** The Orange County Transit Tax is providing the local match for this project; of all the new projects submitted for funding in FY22 to the Orange Staff Working Group (SWG), this is the only project the SWG recommended for funding. During discussion of this project during the Orange SWG meeting, Chapel Hill Transit staff provided their support.

Recommended Projects: TJCOG Transportation Demand Management

- **Project Description:** The regional TDM program targets businesses and commuters to change behaviors and aims to reduce growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 25%.
- **Emissions Benefit:** This project had the highest emissions benefit.
- **Project Schedule:** TJCOG regularly applies for funding from DCHC every two years. This allows for continuity in regional TDM programming.
- **Other funding sources available to applicants:** The DCHC Federal Funding Policy states that CMAQ funding should be used for the DCHC portion of the regional TDM program.
- **Geographic Equity:** This project benefits all jurisdictions in the DCHC area.
- **Local Priorities:** TDM has been and continues to be a priority for the MPO Board, and was most recently endorsed as part of the MPO Board's legislative agenda.

Recommended Projects: Chapel Hill Estes Drive Bike/Ped Improvements

- **Project Description:** Provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities along North Estes, between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Caswell Road.
- **Emissions Benefit:** This project scored sixth in emissions benefits.
- **Project Schedule:** This is a shovel ready project. Design and ROW are complete. CMAQ funding will allow this project to move into construction.
- **Other funding sources available to applicants:** This project is also eligible for STBG-Any Area and STBG COVID relief funds.
- **Geographic Equity:** This local project benefits the Town of Chapel Hill/Orange County.
- **Local Priority:** This project is a top priority for Chapel Hill, these funds, along with the Town's allocation of STBGDA COVID funds, will allow the Town to let the project for construction this summer.

Projects that Were Not Selected

- Chapel Hill Transit Electric Bus Purchase
 - Did not score well on emissions benefits, likely because of issues with the emissions calculator toolkit
 - Could not fund two projects in Chapel Hill
- City of Durham Downtown Wayfinding
 - Scored well on emissions (second overall), possibly because of faulty assumptions in calculation such as 10% of drivers becoming lost in downtown without wayfinding
- City of Durham Neighborhood Bike Facilities
 - Scored fourth overall in emissions calculations and COD was offered full funding (with 20% match)
 - Bike Facilities II was a higher priority because of Bike+Walk Implementation Plan
- Carrboro S. Greensboro Street Sidewalk
 - Construction doesn't start until fall 2022, this project is a better candidate for FY23 CMAQ funding

- **Schedule of Call for Projects**

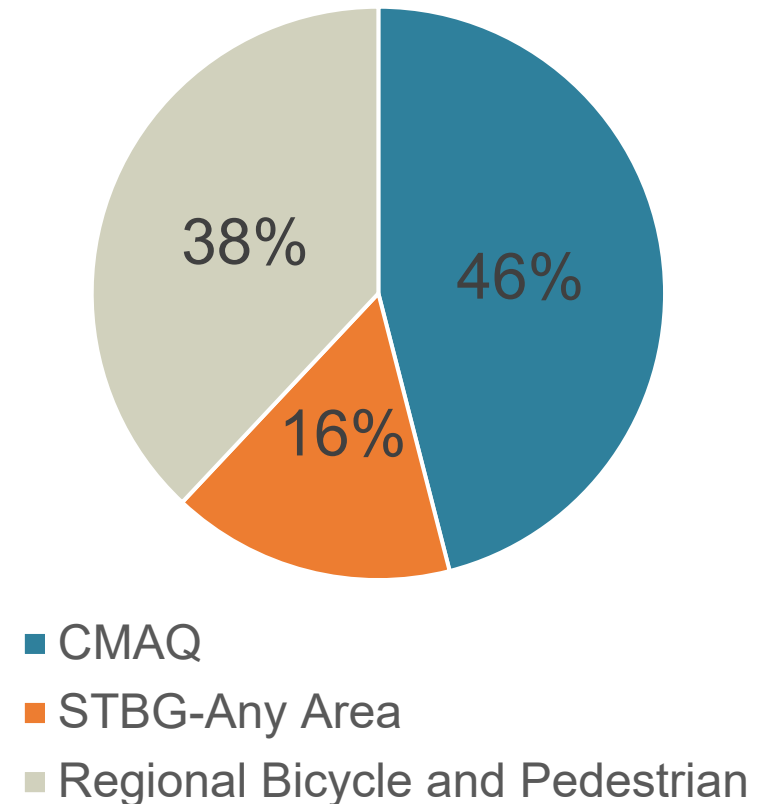
- COVID funding and external deadlines for CMAQ resulted in split federal funding calls
- MPO staff anticipates that once all federal funds are distributed, **the overall distribution of funding will appear to be more geographically equitable.**

- **Geographic Equity**

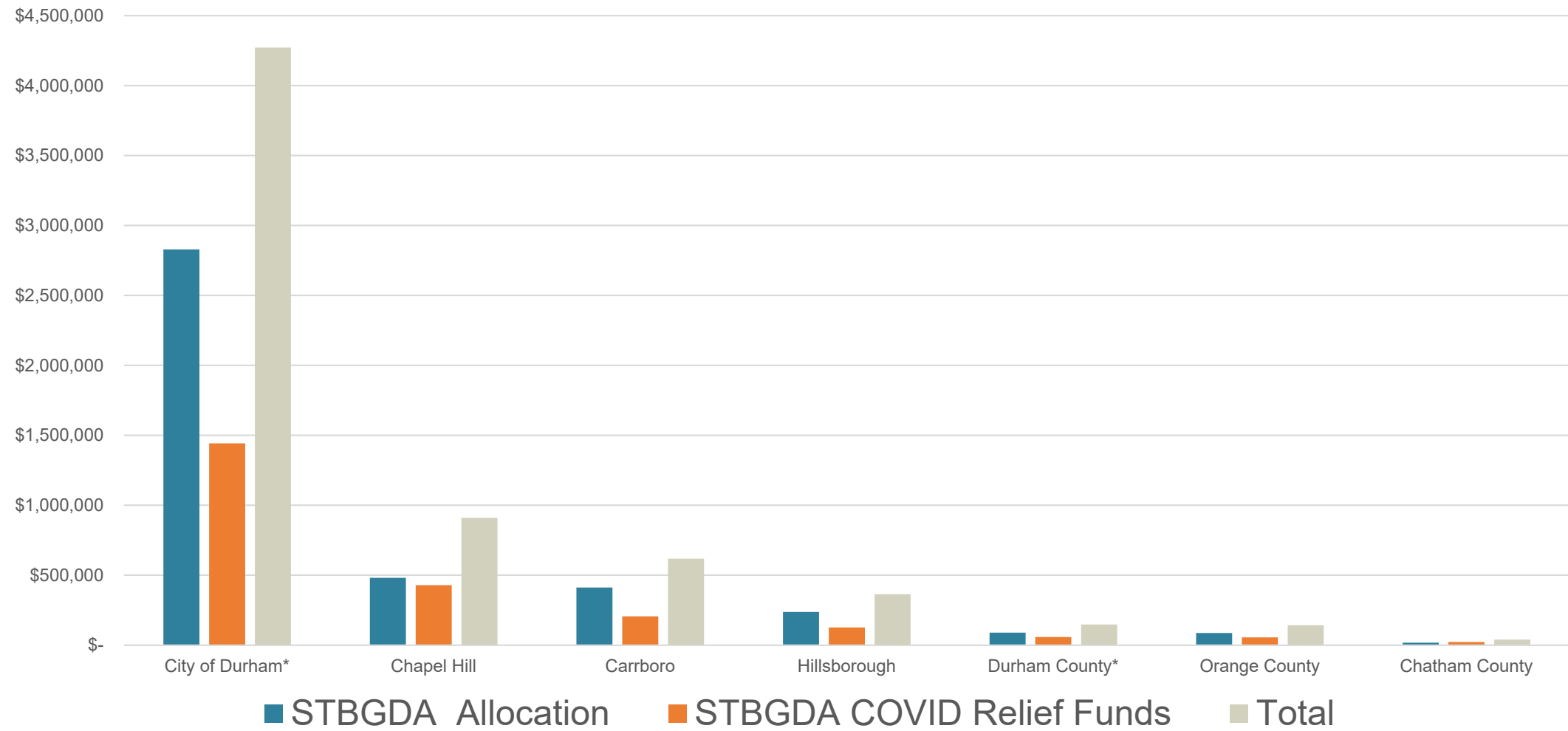
- The DCHC Federal Funding policy states that **“when projects are being considered, equity and funding in jurisdictions over time will be considered.”**
- DCHC staff has interpreted this as all jurisdictions should have access to competitive federal funding sources, regardless of population
- DCHC is thought to be the only MPO in NC that suballocates 50% of STBDA funding based on population
- 58% of funding for this cycle was allocated based on population (STBGDA and STBGDA COVID Relief Funds)

Issues and Analysis: Where does CMAQ fit within overall federal funding for DCHC agencies and jurisdictions?

- \$8.3 million is currently available for projects in DCHC MPO. \$4.8 million will be awarded based on a competitive process
- CMAQ comprises about **20 percent of overall federal funding** for the current federal funding cycle, and **46 percent of competitive funding** available for distribution
- 54%, or \$2.6 million, in competitive funding will be awarded once the March 31 STBG and Regional Bike-Ped Call for Projects is completed
- CMAQ funding is therefore not necessarily representative of the overall distribution of funding for the current federal funding cycle



Current Federal Funding Suballocated Based on Population



- **Technical Committee Recommendation**
- TC voted 18-6 in favor of the staff recommendation
 - Five members from the City of Durham and Durham County opposed the recommendation.
 - One member from Chapel Hill voted against the LPA staff recommendation because he misunderstood the motion.
- **LPA Staff Recommendation:** Approve the list of projects that MPO staff and Technical Committee has recommended for funding.
- **Alternatives**
- The MPO Board could choose not to endorse the list of projects recommended by the Technical Committee and LPA staff. The Board could instead make a funding recommendation that aligns with one of the options proposed by the City of Durham in their memo (attached).
- Both options presented by the City of Durham would mean withdrawing funding from the GoTriangle Transit Access Improvements project and recommending that the City of Durham receive an additional \$400,000 for Bicycle Facilities II. Should the MPO Board make this decision, GoTriangle will not be able to leverage \$400,000 in federal funding to improve regional transit access to developments that support approximately 2,500 jobs.
- MPO Board can also direct LPA staff to work with TC to update Federal Funding Policy earlier than 2024.