

## DCHC MPO FY23 Regional Flexible Funding Call for Projects

### Recommended Funding

### Draft for Public Comment

#### Summary

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) received ten applications in late 2021 for its Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) program. The RFF pool for FY23 consists of three funding sources that come directly to the DCHC MPO: Surface Transportation Block Grant Direct Attributable (STBGDA), Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ), and Transportation Alternatives Program Direct Attributable (TAPDA). The amount of funding from each source is shown below.

Funding Type	Amount
CMAQ	\$2,194,011
STBGDA	\$773,230
TAPDA	\$806,568
<b>Total (RFF)</b>	<b>\$3,773,809</b>

Six agencies submitted a total of ten projects for consideration for the RFF program (see chart below). Of the RFF requests, there were two existing projects, seven new projects, and one ongoing program.

Agency	Funding Request Type	Project	STIP #	Phase(s) Requested	Phase Year	Federal	Local	Total
City of Durham	RFF_New	Horton Road Sidewalk	N/A	PE, CON	FY23-25	\$964,534	\$241,133	\$1,205,667
City of Durham	RFF_New	University Drive Bike-Ped	N/A	PE, CON	FY23-25	\$1,051,945	\$262,986	\$1,314,931
GoTriangle	RFF_New	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access	N/A	CON	FY23	\$930,320	\$232,580	\$1,162,900
Research Triangle Foundation	RFF_New	Burdens Creek Greenway	N/A	PE, CON	FY23-24	\$1,385,419	\$346,355	\$1,731,774
Research Triangle Foundation	RFF_New	Davis Drive Modernization	N/A	PE, CON	FY23-24	\$717,960	\$179,490	\$897,450
Town of Carrboro	RFF_Existing	S. Greensboro St Sidewalk	C-5650	PE, ROW, CON	FY22-24	\$560,000	\$140,000	\$700,000
Town of Chapel Hill	RFF_Existing	Fordham Blvd Sidepath	EB-5721	CON	FY22-24	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$200,000
Town of Chapel Hill	RFF_New	Ephesus Road Sidewalk	N/A	CON	FY23	\$796,000	\$199,000	\$995,000
Town of Chapel Hill	RFF_New	Morgan Creek Greenway	N/A	ROW, CON	FY23-24	\$1,270,000	\$1,100,000	\$2,370,000
TJCOG	RFF_Existing	Triangle TDM		Program	FY23	\$568,065	\$142,016	\$710,081
						<b>\$8,404,243</b>	<b>\$2,883,560</b>	<b>\$11,287,803</b>

Due to available unprogrammed funds from previous years, MPO staff recommends using those funds for existing projects that requested additional funding. Therefore, all funding available shown above can be used for new projects and the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> By policy, the TJCOG TDM program is prioritized for CMAQ funding every year.

The total RFF request was \$8.4 million, well over twice the available RFF of a little less than \$3.8 million. MPO staff recommends funding six projects or programs through this call. Three are existing projects that requested additional or continuing funding:

- Fordham Boulevard Sidepath (Town of Chapel Hill)
- South Greensboro Street Sidewalk (Town of Carrboro)
- Transportation Demand Management Program (TJCOG)

In addition, MPO staff recommends funding in full three new projects:

- Horton Road Sidewalk (City of Durham)
- NC 54-Falconbridge Transit Access (GoTriangle)
- Morgan Creek Greenway (Town of Chapel Hill)

Four projects are not recommended for funding at this time:

- Burdens Creek Greenway (Research Triangle Foundation)
- Davis Drive Modernization (Research Triangle Foundation)
- Ephesus Road Sidewalk (Town of Chapel Hill)
- University Drive Bike-Ped (City of Durham)

### Existing Projects

Two existing projects were submitted for RFF. These projects had similar scores using the existing project scoring rubric. Because of the availability of STBGDA funds from previous years that were not programmed, MPO staff is recommending that both projects receive their funding requests, a total of \$720,000. The use of these previously unprogrammed funds will allow for more funding than was originally expected to be available for new projects to use the FY23 RFF.

Agency	Project	STIP #	Phase Requested	Phase Score	Federal	Local	Total	Original Project Cost	Current Project Cost	Difference	% Increase over Original Budget	% Increase Score	Previously Received Shortfall Funds	Previously Received Shortfall Score	Total
Town of Carrboro	S. Greensboro St Sidewalk	C-5650	PE, ROW, CON	1	\$560,000	\$140,000	\$700,000	\$1,442,500	\$1,780,836	\$338,336	23%	3	0	3	7
Town of Chapel Hill	Fordham Blvd Sidepath	EB-5721	CON	3	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$200,000	\$969,000	\$1,481,500	\$512,500	53%	2	1	3	8

### Transportation Demand Management and New Regional Flexible Funding Projects

#### Triangle Transportation Demand Management Funding Recommendation

The TJCOG TDM program has requested \$568,065 in funding from the RFF program. The DCHC MPO Federal Funding Policy identifies TDM as a funding priority for RFF, and for CMAQ funding specifically. According to the policy:

*TDM offers high air quality benefits and competes favorably for CMAQ funding. TDM has also been identified as a joint policy priority by the DCHC and CAMPO boards. CMAQ funds will be used for DCHC MPO's share of the TDM program.*

Given that TJCOG's request is within three percent of the previous year's request, LPA staff recommends that the TDM program receive its full request.<sup>2</sup> TJCOG will provide a match of \$142,016 non-federal dollars for these funds.

**New Projects Funding Recommendation**

LPA staff recommends that the three projects that received the highest score using the new project scoring rubric also receive their full funding requests.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Phase Requested</b>	<b>Phase Year</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
City of Durham	Horton Road Sidewalk	Engineering, Construction	FY23-25	\$964,534	\$241,133	\$1,205,667
GoTriangle	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access	Construction	FY23	\$930,320	\$232,580	\$1,162,900
Town of Chapel Hill	Morgan Creek Greenway	Right-of-Way, Construction	FY23-24	\$1,270,000	\$1,100,000	\$2,370,000
				<b>\$3,732,919</b>	<b>\$1,715,729</b>	<b>\$5,448,648</b>

The remaining \$40,890 of RFF was not sufficient to partially fund a project and will be returned to the RFF pool for use in FY24.

**Selection Criteria**

**Connectivity**

All projects met the criteria laid out in the rubric, and scored 10 points in this category.

**Access to Transit**

All projects improved access to transit. Six of seven projects had a transit stop directly on the project corridor and received 10 points. One project, Research Triangle Foundation's Davis Drive Modernization, had a transit stop approximately .25 miles away, and therefore scored 8 out of 10 points.

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<sup>2</sup> A TDM funding request that exceeds three percent of the previous year's request requires detailed justification to the Technical Committee and the MPO Board.

## Population and Employment Density

MPO modeling staff determined the population and employment density within a half mile buffer of each project. Per the previous direction of the Technical Committee, the population and employment of each jurisdiction were used to normalize density scores.

Agency	Project	Population	Employment	Area (Square Miles)	Score
City of Durham	Horton Road Sidewalk	3171	2710	115	8
City of Durham	University Drive Bike-Ped	3326	5434	115	10
GoTriangle	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access	1427	2732	115	6
Research Triangle Foundation	Burdens Creek Greenway	110	2320	2	7
Research Triangle Foundation	Davis Drive Modernization	0	5002	2	3
Town of Chapel Hill	Ephesus Road Sidewalk	1804	518	22	2
Town of Chapel Hill	Morgan Creek Greenway	4419	1514	22	5

## Project Phase

Projects that have advanced further along in their development phase are prioritized on this criterion. Points were assigned based on the rubric:

Construction with partial funding = 30

Construction phase with no funding = 25

Right-of-Way = 20

Design = 15

Area Planning or Feasibility Study = 10

Agency	Project	Phase	Project Phase
City of Durham	Horton Road Sidewalk	PE, CON	15
City of Durham	University Drive Bike-Ped	PE, CON	15
GoTriangle	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access	CON	30
Research Triangle Foundation	Burdens Creek Greenway	PE, CON	15
Research Triangle Foundation	Davis Drive Modernization	PE, CON	15
Town of Chapel Hill	Ephesus Road Sidewalk	CON	25
Town of Chapel Hill	Morgan Creek Greenway	ROW, CON	20

## Priority Points

Agencies were given 15 points to assign to their projects. An individual project could not receive more than 10 priority points.

Agency	Project	Priority Points
City of Durham	Horton Road Sidewalk	10
City of Durham	University Drive Bike-Ped	5
GoTriangle	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access	10
Research Triangle Foundation	Davis Drive Modernization	10
Research Triangle Foundation	Burdens Creek Greenway	5
Town of Chapel Hill	Ephesus Road Sidewalk	5
Town of Chapel Hill	Morgan Creek Greenway	10

**Environmental Justice and Equity**

Projects received points based on whether they were located in overlapping communities of concern as identified in the most recent DCHC MPO Environmental Justice Report, and the number of overlaps in each community of concern. At least 60 percent of the project needed to be in a community of concern to receive these points. In cases where the project was in multiple overlapping communities of concern, the overlapping community of concern within the majority of the project was used.

Agency	Project	Number of Overlaps	Score
City of Durham	Horton Road Sidewalk	5	15
City of Durham	University Drive Bike-Ped	5	15
GoTriangle	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access <sup>3</sup>	2	6
Research Triangle Foundation	Burdens Creek Greenway	0	3
Research Triangle Foundation	Davis Drive Modernization	0	3
Town of Chapel Hill	Ephesus Road Sidewalk	2	6
Town of Chapel Hill	Morgan Creek Greenway	3	9

**Safety**

MPO modeling staff used a quarter mile buffer for each project and used 2015-2019 NCDOT collision data to determine the number of bicycle and pedestrian crashes. Alternate corridors were used for greenway projects. The number of crashes were normalized to vehicle miles traveled. Per the RFF scoring rubric, scores are relative and the points awarded accordingly.

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<sup>3</sup> For transit projects, demographic data for the route(s) that serve the project location are used in place of demographic data for a specific geographic area.

Agency	Project	Total KAB Injuries	VMT	Score
City of Durham	Horton Road Sidewalk	16	20670	15
City of Durham	University Drive Bike-Ped	2	48620	4
GoTriangle	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access	2	36000	8
Research Triangle Foundation	Burdens Creek Greenway	0	6450	0
Research Triangle Foundation	Davis Drive Modernization	0	15105	0
Town of Chapel Hill	Ephesus Road Sidewalk	0	4536	0
Town of Chapel Hill	Morgan Creek Greenway	6	22780	12

### Emissions/VMT Reduction

An emissions reduction benefit was calculated for each project using the methods normally used for CMAQ calculations. Projects received a variable score from 0-15 based on emissions calculations.

Agency	Project	VMT Reduced	CO (Reduced Kg/Day)	VOC (Reduced Kg/Day)	NOx (Reduced Kg/Day)	Total (kg/Day)	Score
City of Durham	Horton Road Sidewalk	82	0.815	0.036	0.028	0.879	11
City of Durham	University Drive Bike-Ped	591	5.860	0.256	0.200	6.317	13
GoTriangle	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access	13	0.129	0.006	0.004	0.139	7
Research Triangle Foundation	Burdens Creek Greenway	11	0.105	0.005	0.004	0.113	5
Research Triangle Foundation	Davis Drive Modernization	6	0.060	0.003	0.002	0.065	1
Town of Chapel Hill	Ephesus Road Sidewalk	10	0.097	0.004	0.003	0.104	3
Town of Chapel Hill	Morgan Creek Greenway	22	0.210	0.010	0.007	0.227	9
TJCOG	Triangle TDM	51,605	502	29	103	634.000	15

## Total Score

The total scores are shown below. The three highest scoring projects are recommended for funding in FY23. These projects make the best use of available RFF, are priorities for the MPO's member agencies, and best meet the goals and objectives that the MPO Board adopted for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Agency	Project	Connectivity	Transit Access	Pop/Emp Density	Project Phase	Priority	EJ	Safety	Emissions	Total
City of Durham	Horton Road Sidewalk	10	10	8	15	10	15	15	11	<b>94</b>
GoTriangle	NC 54 Falconbridge Transit Access	10	10	6	30	10	6	8	7	<b>87</b>
Town of Chapel Hill	Morgan Creek Greenway	10	10	5	20	10	9	12	9	<b>85</b>
City of Durham	University Drive Bike-Ped	10	10	10	15	5	15	4	13	<b>82</b>
Town of Chapel Hill	Ephesus Road Sidewalk	10	10	2	25	5	6	0	3	<b>61</b>
Research Triangle Foundation	Burdens Creek Greenway	10	10	7	15	5	3	0	5	<b>55</b>
Research Triangle Foundation	Davis Drive Modernization	10	8	3	15	10	3	0	1	<b>50</b>