

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO

DCHC

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PLANNING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION

FY2025-2029 Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan Workshop

Kelly Richard, DCHC MPO Staff

April 10, 2024

- Workshop is approximately (2) hours
- Additional details on previously funded projects and previously recorded needs are located on the back

Kelly.Richard@dchcmo.org
(919) 503-4119
dchcmo.org

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DCHC
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Coordinated Plan Workshop

AGENDA

20 MINUTES	Welcome & Introductions
15 MINUTES	Background and Overview of Plan
20 MINUTES	Overview of Existing Transit Services
20 MINUTES	Identify Transportation Needs and Gaps in Service
20 MINUTES	Identify Strategies, Activities, and Projects to Address Gaps
15 MINUTES	Prioritize Strategies, Activities, and Projects Based on Available Resources
10 MINUTES	Wrap Up and Next Steps

SECTION 5310 FUNDS

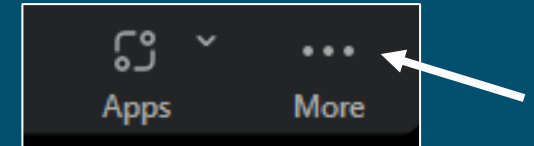
The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) receives around \$275,000 per year in 5310 funds. These funds are used for enhanced mobility of **seniors and individuals with disabilities**. Projects selected to receive these funds must be derived from a locally developed, **Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan**, also known as a coordinated plan. Human services transportation that is provided by or on behalf of a human services agency for access to agency services or to meet basic, day-to-day mobility needs of these communities, are eligible to receive funds.

DEFINITIONS

Coordinated Plan
A locally developed, coordinated transportation plan that identifies the transportation needs of older adults (65+), individuals with disabilities, and those with low incomes, provides strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritizes services for funding and implementation.

Public Transportation
Regular, continuing shared-ride services that are open to the general public or a segment of the general public (excludes Amtrak, school buses, courtesy shuttles, & sightseeing buses)

- Please write your name, title, and where you work (or who you are representing) in the chat
 - › If you are not representing a group, please write your name and “resident”
- Meeting will be recorded with closed captioning, and posted to our website
 - To see captions, you will need to enable captions in your settings
 - More > Captions... > Show Captions (located at bottom of screen)
- Please keep your video off when not speaking; please raise your hand to speak
 - We will have several opportunities to ask questions throughout the workshop
 - You can add questions in the chat at anytime during this workshop



Poll Question – Test Question

Coordinated Plan 2024 - Test Question

1. Which of these animals do you like the most? (Single choice)

- Polar Bear
- Lemur
- Horse
- Owl
- Elephant
- I don't like animals

Poll Question #1

Coordinated Plan 2024 - Question 1

1. Where do you live? (Single choice)

- City of Durham
- Town of Carrboro
- Town of Chapel Hill
- Town of Hillsborough
- Chatham County
- Durham County (outside city limits)
- Orange County (outside town limits)
- Other
- I'm not sure

Poll Question #2

Coordinated Plan 2024 - Question 2

1. On a scale of 1-5, how familiar are you with the topic we're discussing today (the Coordinated Plan)?

(Single choice)

- 1 - Not Familiar at All
- 2 - Slightly Familiar
- 3 - Moderately Familiar
- 4 - Quite Familiar
- 5 - Very Familiar

Poll Question #3

Coordinated Plan 2024 - Question 3

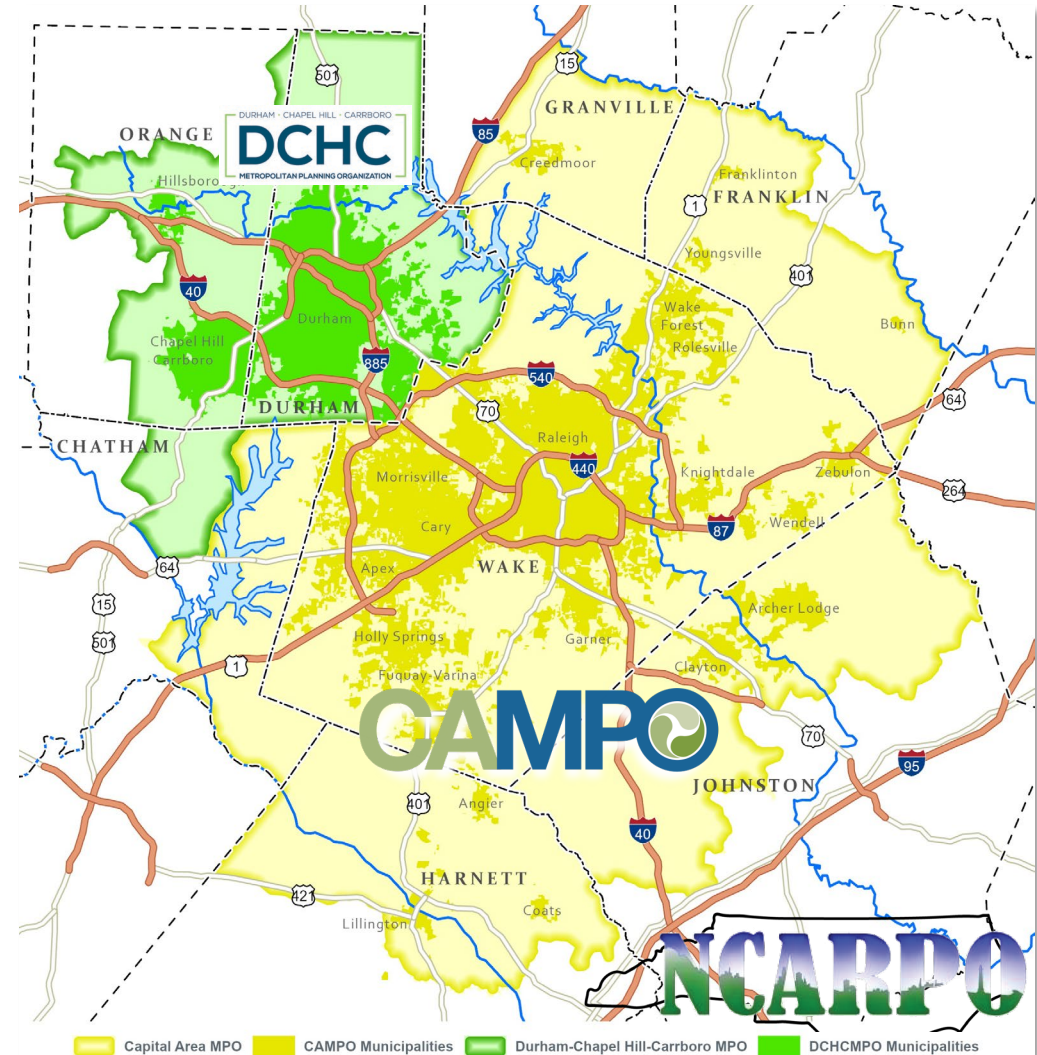
1. On a scale of 1-5, how familiar are you with the role of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) in the region? (Single choice)

- 1 - Not Familiar at All
- 2 - Slightly Familiar
- 3 - Moderately Familiar
- 4 - Quite Familiar
- 5 - Very Familiar

Background and Overview of Plan

Coordinated Plans Across the State and those Boundaries

- DCHC MPO Area (urban; our regional plan)
 - Durham County
 - Urban area of Orange County
 - Urban area of Chatham County
- Capital Area MPO (CAMPO)
 - They have their own Coordinated Plan
- Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs)
 - NCDOT: Statewide Locally Coordinated Plan Update – plans recently taken over by state



What is the Coordinated Plan?

- *Improves mobility by removing barriers to transportation and expanding options*
- **Transportation-Disadvantaged** (*specific needs*)
 - Older adults (65+)
 - Low income
 - Individuals with disabilities
- **Updated every 4-5 years** (*continuous process*)
 - This update will be for fiscal Years 2025-2029 (July 2024-June 2029)
- **Base plan for Section 5310 funded projects** (must be in locally coordinated plan)



Public Transit Examples

- **Fixed Route** (*bus or rail service that follows consistent routes and schedules*)
 - Chapel Hill Transit, GoDurham, GoTriangle, Orange County Public Transportation
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Complementary Paratransit** (*transportation service for persons whose disabilities prevent them from using the fixed route system*)
 - All fixed route operators are required to provide this service for eligible individuals (excludes commuter bus/rail)
 - Service area is within $\frac{3}{4}$ of fixed route services
- **Demand Response** (*other non-fixed route services that provide transportation services for the public; eligibility criteria may apply*)



Coordination with Human Services Agencies

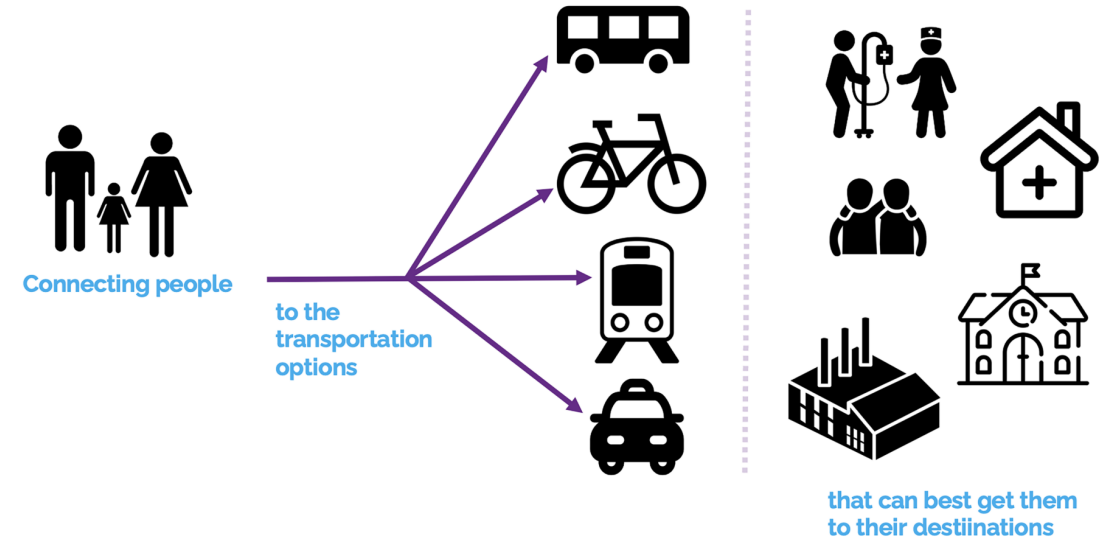
- **Human Services Agencies** (*provide assistance and support for social, economic, and personal needs*), examples include:
 - Senior Services (i.e. healthcare, home care, social activities)
 - Disability services (i.e. accessibility, employment, education)
 - Social Services (i.e. housing, food, clothing)
- Transportation is a Key Factor in Accessing Services
- A human service agency may:
 - Have their own vehicles
 - Pay for a share of services through a transit provider
 - Be located within an existing public transit service area

Examples:



What Were the Main Outcomes from the Last Update?

- Recommended Areas for Improvement
 - Coordination/Mobility Hub for Human Services and Public Transportation
 - Expanded Transportation Services
 - Expanded Education Services
 - Application Process Improvements (passengers applying for service)
 - Bus Stop Access Improvements



What can Section 5310 funds be used for?

Traditional Section 5310 project examples include (at least 55% of funds must be used this way):



Buses & Vans



Wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices



Transit-related information technology systems



Mobility Management programs

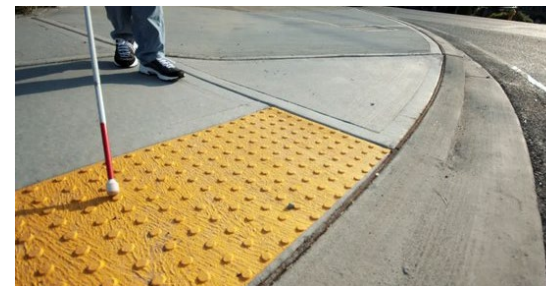
Nontraditional Section 5310 project examples include:



Travel training



Volunteer driver program



Construction of an accessible path to a bus stop, including curb-cuts, sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals, or other accessible features



Improvements to signage, or way-finding technology

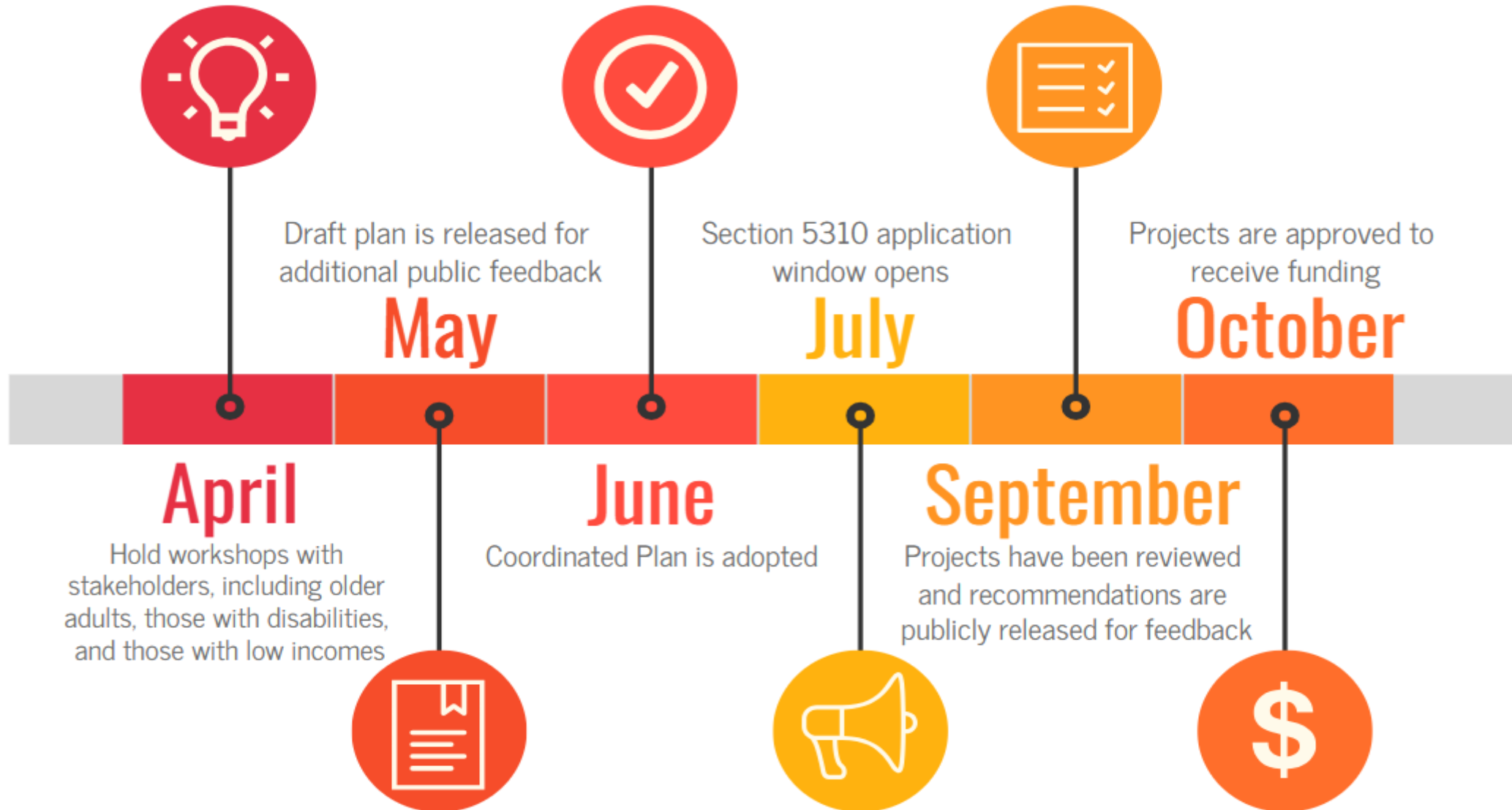
Who can apply for 5310 funds?

- Eligible Recipients
 - Private non-profit organizations
 - States or local government authorities
 - Operators of public transportation (*those that provide regular, continuing shared rides services to the general public*)
- Other Things to Keep in Mind
 - Funding match requirements
 - Adherence to the Program Management Plan
 - Funds are not provided up front, but are reimbursed

Examples:



FY2025-2029 Coordinated Plan Update Schedule



Overview of Existing Transit Services

Poll Question #4

Coordinated Plan 2024 - Question 4

1. On a scale of 1-5, how familiar are you with the public transportation available in the DCHC MPO area (Durham County, Orange County, and Chatham County)? (Single choice)

- 1 - Not Familiar at All
- 2 - Slightly Familiar
- 3 - Moderately Familiar
- 4 - Quite Familiar
- 5 - Very Familiar

- Public Transportation Providers in our Region
 - Chatham Transit
 - Chapel Hill Transit
 - GoDurham
 - GoTriangle – *regional transit authority*
 - Orange County Public Transportation
- Providers We Coordinate With
 - Piedmont Authority Regional Transportation (PART) – *exists on the boundary edge; Alamance Burlington Express (commuter bus)*
 - GoCary – *Cary residents are eligible for rides to Durham and Orange counties*
 - GoRaleigh



Existing Services



- Fixed route and complementary ADA paratransit
- Medicaid Transportation Service (setup pre-qualification)
- Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (\$3 one-way)
- Rural General Public (\$12.75 one-way)
- Work First Program (\$0)



- Fixed route and complementary ADA paratransit (EZ Rider)
- Senior Shuttle (M-F; various times)
- FARE FREE



- In County Demand Response Service – Fares charged per mile; transportation within Chatham County



- Fixed route and complementary ADA paratransit (ACCESS)
- County ACCESS (60+, have a disability, work, medical, rural, other eligible needs)
- Partners with UZURV for extra vehicles
- Senior Shuttle (M-F; 10-2:30)
- Fare free through June 30, 2024



- Fixed route and complementary ADA paratransit (ACCESS)
- Fare free through June 30, 2024. However, seniors 65+ to remain free and discounts will be available for those with disabilities

Transit Planning (Transit Tax in the Greater Triangle Region)

- The Triangle Region has three (3) long-range transit plans
 - Two (2) are in the DCHC MPO area
- Annual program of projects
- Annual public engagement



Durham County Transit Plan Project Examples

- Funding for all 1,324 bus stops to have paved, **ADA accessible pads** by 2030
- Funding **GoDurham Senior Shuttle**
- Using the **Direct Investment in Mobility Equity (DIME)** grant to support fare for low-income riders (in addition to opportunities for a low-income fare pass)
- Supporting **GoDurham Connect** service in Eastern and Northern Durham
- Providing funds for **GoDurham ACCESS ADA** paratransit (including expansion of services), and employment and education access



Orange County Transit Plan Project Examples

- Service expansion of **EZ Rider (Chapel Hill)**
- Funding for **Orange County ADA paratransit expansion** due to fixed route expansions
- Funding **rural** ADA paratransit and demand response services
- Funding **mobility-on-demand** expansion
- Continuing **low-cost fare passes**



What 5310 Projects Have Been Funded Since the Last Update?

Section 5310 Funded Projects

– Orange County

- › EZ Rider Senior Shuttle (Chapel Hill Transit)(funded since 2016)
- › Orange County STEAMM* Mobility Manager (funded since 2016)
- › Chapel Hill Transit ADA Bus Stop Review and Design Work (funded 2018-2022)



– Durham County

- › GoDurham ACCESS ADA Trips Beyond ¾ Miles (funded since 2016)
- › GoDurham County Access for Demand Response Service within County (funded 2016-2022)

– Other

- › DCHC MPO Administration of the Section 5310 Program (continuously funded)



*STEAMM – Senior Transportation Expansion, Assessment, and Mobility Management

- What are we doing well?
- What have we succeeded at since the last plan update?

**5-minute
break**





Breakout Sessions Overview

- You will be added to a breakout room to discuss in a smaller group
- There will be approximately 4-5 people per room
- Focus questions will be provided in the chat for your discussion
- You will have 10 minutes to talk amongst yourselves and then we will come back together as a group; there will be a total of (2) breakout sessions
 - › You will be reminded when you have only a few minutes left in your breakout room
 - › Make note of what room you were assigned to

- Assign someone from your breakout group to make note of the main points you discuss
- We will write these onto the whiteboard per group
- We will use this same whiteboard to take down feedback, identify strategies, and then prioritize these items

Identify, Strategize, Prioritize

The goal of this activity is to identify transportation needs and gaps in services, identify strategies to address them, and prioritize those strategies.

 People
4-5 members per group

 Time
1 hour

How it works

- 10 minutes**
Break Out Session #1 to identify transportation needs and gaps in services
- 10 minutes**
All attendees will provide what they discussed in their Break Out Session through room representative.
- 10 minutes**
Break Out Session #2 to identify strategies, activities, and projects to address gaps.
- 10 minutes**
All attendees will provide what they discussed in their Break Out Session through room representative.
- 15 mins**
Each attendee will have one of each color sticky note and will help prioritize the discussed items:
 - Green = 1 point (3rd top priority)
 - Orange = 2 points (2nd top priority)
 - Red = 3 points (top priority)

Drag and drop sticky notes


Green


Orange


Red

Room 1	Room 2
1.1.	2.1.
1.2.	2.2.
1.3.	2.3.
1.4.	2.4.
1.5.	2.5.

Identify Transportation Needs and Gaps in Service

Identify Needs and Gaps in Service: Focus Questions

- What still needs to be addressed since the last plan update?
- Are the needs and gaps from the last plan still relevant?
- What new needs or gaps might there be?
- What impacts has COVID-19 had on how our system looks today?
- Are there particular geographic areas or demographic groups that experience different challenges?

Identify Strategies, Activities, and Projects to Address Gaps

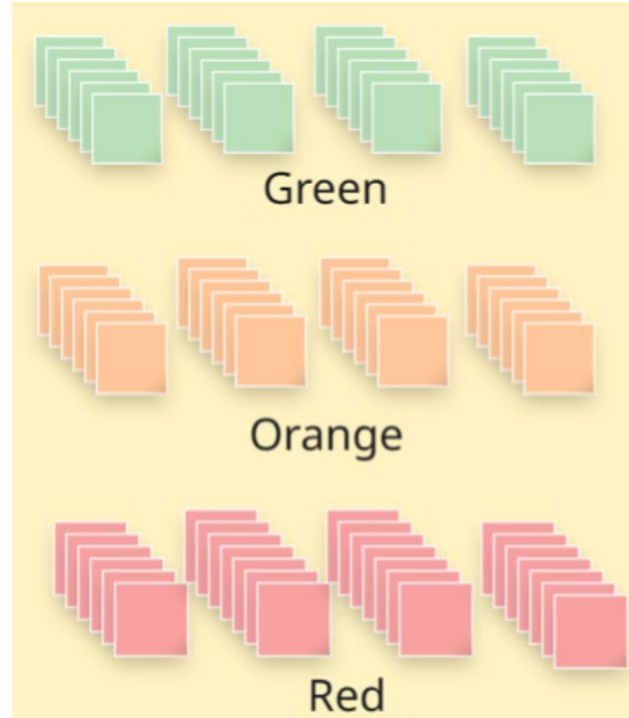
Identify Strategies, Activities, and Projects to Address Gaps: Focus Questions

- How can technology and data be leveraged to enhance coordination, efficiency, and accessibility of transit services?
- Are there partnerships with private transportation providers, ridesharing services, or other stakeholders to expand transportation options?
- Are there short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies?
- How can funding sources such as federal grants, state funding, local initiatives, or public-private partnerships be leveraged to support these activities and projects?
- What data and performance metrics will be used to assess progress?

Prioritize Strategies, Activities, and Projects Based on Available Resources

Prioritize Strategies, Activities, and Projects Based on Available Resources: Focus Questions

- Does the project align with community needs and priorities?
- Is the project feasible?
- What is the impact?
- Is the project cost-effective?



Each participant chooses their top (3) priorities (i.e. you get one color of each)

Green = 1 point
Orange = 2 points
Red = 3 points

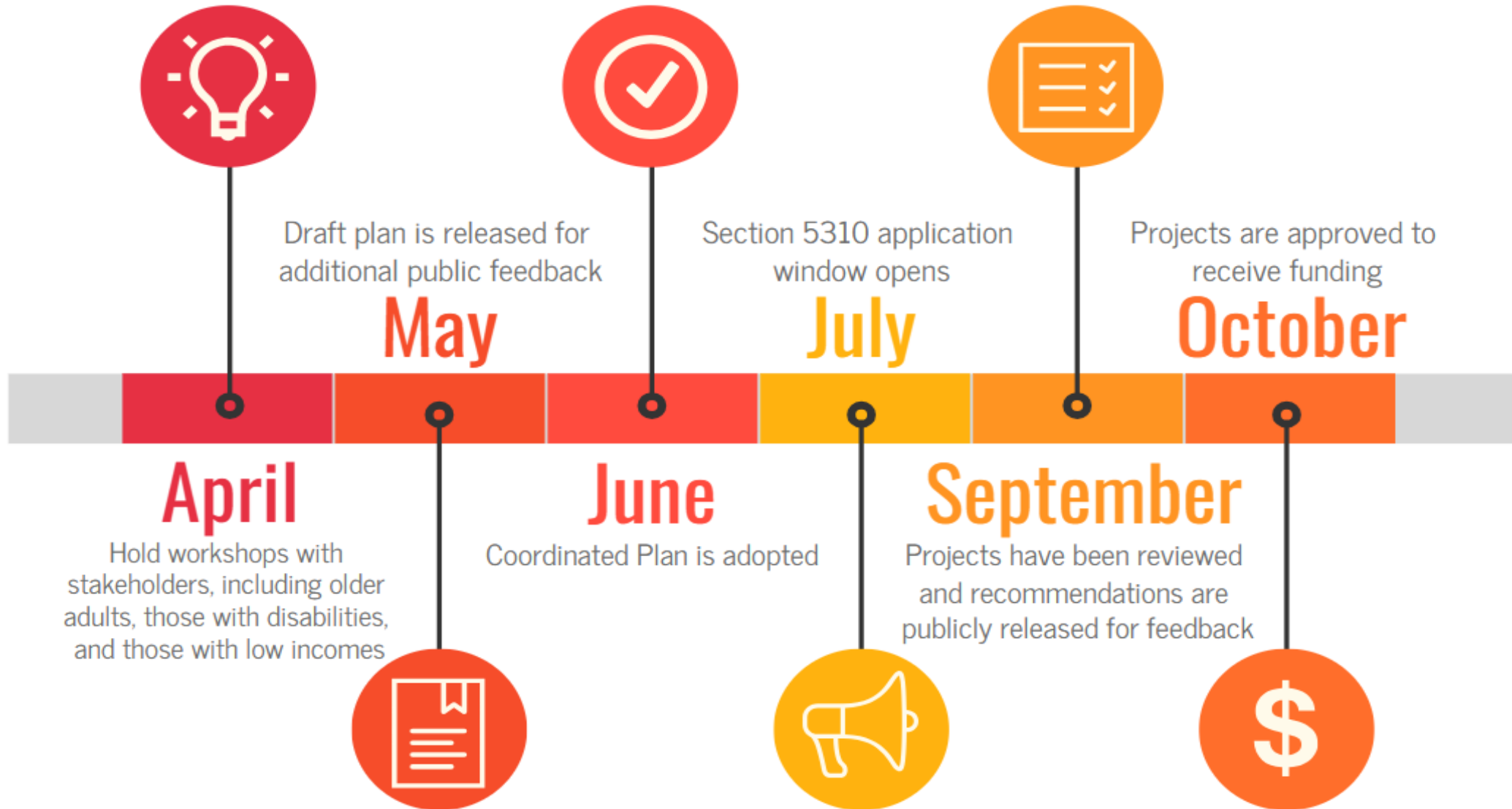
More Points = Highest Priority

Example of what to add to chat:

1 – 2.5
2 – 1.3
3 – 3.1

Wrap Up and Next Steps

FY2025-2029 Coordinated Plan Update Schedule



Post-Workshop Survey



Scan the QR code with
your phone camera

OR

visit bit.ly/CPlan2024

Thank You!



Kelly Richard



Kelly.Richard@dchcmpo.org



919-503-4119