

01-11-2023 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #10: Receive the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization's (DCHC MPO) 2021-2022 Annual Report

Council Question:

Could the presentation please include a visual that shows (an org chart type thing) the relationships between the various transportation and transit bodies at local, regional and state levels?

MPO Response:

There will be a visual that shows the MPO's relationships at various levels.

Council Question:

Does the MPO approve local plans or do local plans feed into the MPO plans?

MPO Response:

Local plans 'feed' into MPO Comprehensive Transportation (Long-Range Conceptual) and Metropolitan Transportation (Long-Range Fiscally Constrained to Available Resources) Plans. Local plans and capital improvement programs should develop projects concurrently with MPO Transportation Plans and Programs.

Council Question:

Do the plans developed by the MPO have to be approved by DOT? What if they conflict with DOT policy?

MPO Response:

Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP) are created by NC law and although NCDOT and the MPO mutually develop the projects and policies contained in the CTP, the NCDOT Board ultimately adopts the project maps. We work to resolve potential conflicts during the plan development process. The CTP's conceptual nature provides opportunities for the MPO to prioritize its own policies. Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP) follow a prescriptive federal planning process. If there are policy conflicts between the MPO and NCDOT then we find consensus during the MTP process. The MPO can adopt MTP without NCDOT approval.

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Council Question:

For the Triangle Bikeway - are there any current plans for investment outside of Wake County/RTP? How can we make sure that Orange County is not left out as it moves forward?

MPO Response:

The MPO proposes examine regional structures and physical connections as part of our 2023-2024 work program.

Council Question:

For the mobility grant, what projects were funded for Orange County and Chapel Hill Transit?

MPO Response:

Orange County used those funds to expand senior transportation. Chapel Hill Transit used those funds to support the EZ Rider program.

Council Question:

For the safe streets grant, does that only focus on connector areas within the MPO or specific safety needs within town boundaries (i.e. MLK Blvd.)?

MPO Response:

Great question, the answer is the SS4A grants will consider safety improvements regionally and locally. We will look at the places where we have frequent and severe crashes and recommend improvements that are expeditious and transferrable to other locations in the same transportation/land use context.