

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO

**DCHC**

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PLANNING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION

# MPO 101: Member Orientation for the DCHC MPO

**Kelly Richard, Transportation Planner**  
**April 16, 2024**

- Type your name, title, and jurisdiction in the chat
- Post questions in the chat at any time; we will have several opportunities for questions throughout the presentation
- Meeting will be recorded for future viewing



# Overview of Today's Training

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- Introduction to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Introduction to the DCHC MPO
- Learn about our governing documents
- Understand our major work activities
- Understand your role





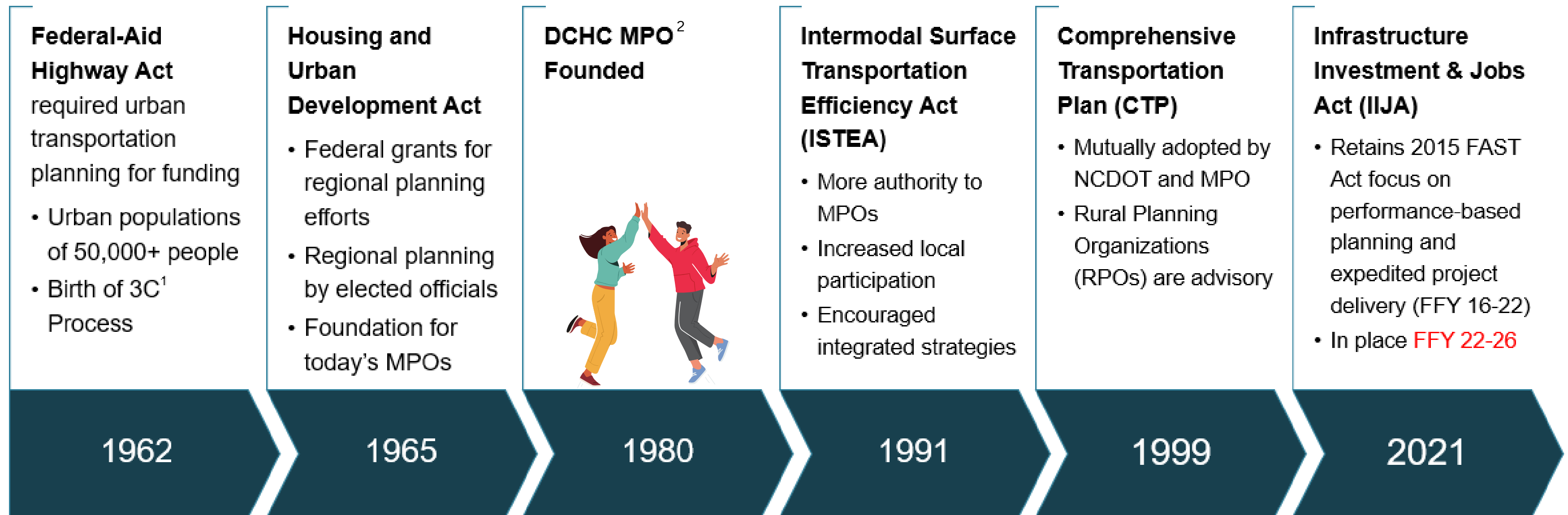
# What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

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# MPO History & Purpose

*Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are responsible for transportation planning and programming for a designated, urbanized region.*



<sup>1</sup> Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive

<sup>2</sup> The Capital Area MPO was founded in 1964 and the Burlington-Graham MPO was founded in 1973. The DCHC MPO name has not changed since its founding but we are actively undergoing a rebrand for public relevancy.





- **Continuing**

Population growth, land use

- **Cooperative**

Regional communication

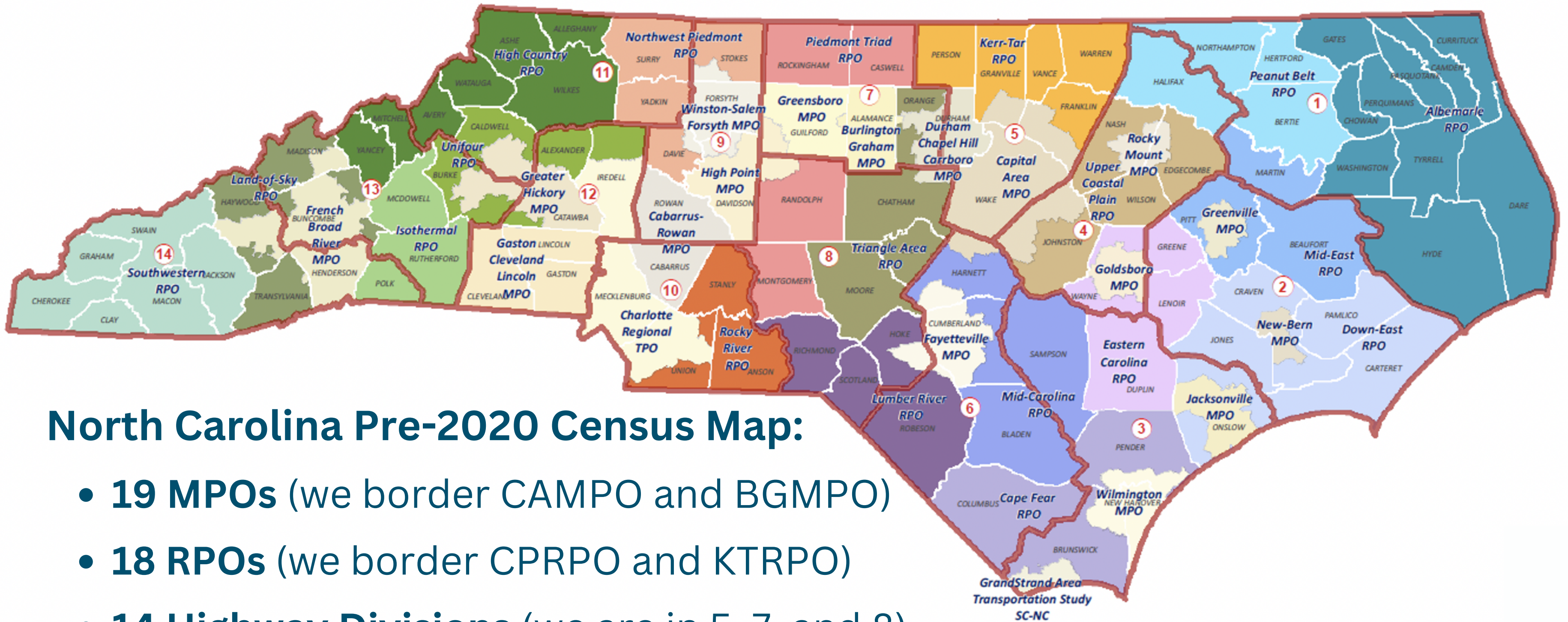
- **Comprehensive**

Safety, connectivity, access



<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/tsp/fhwasa16116/mod2.cfm>

# North Carolina MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT Highway Divisions



## North Carolina Pre-2020 Census Map:

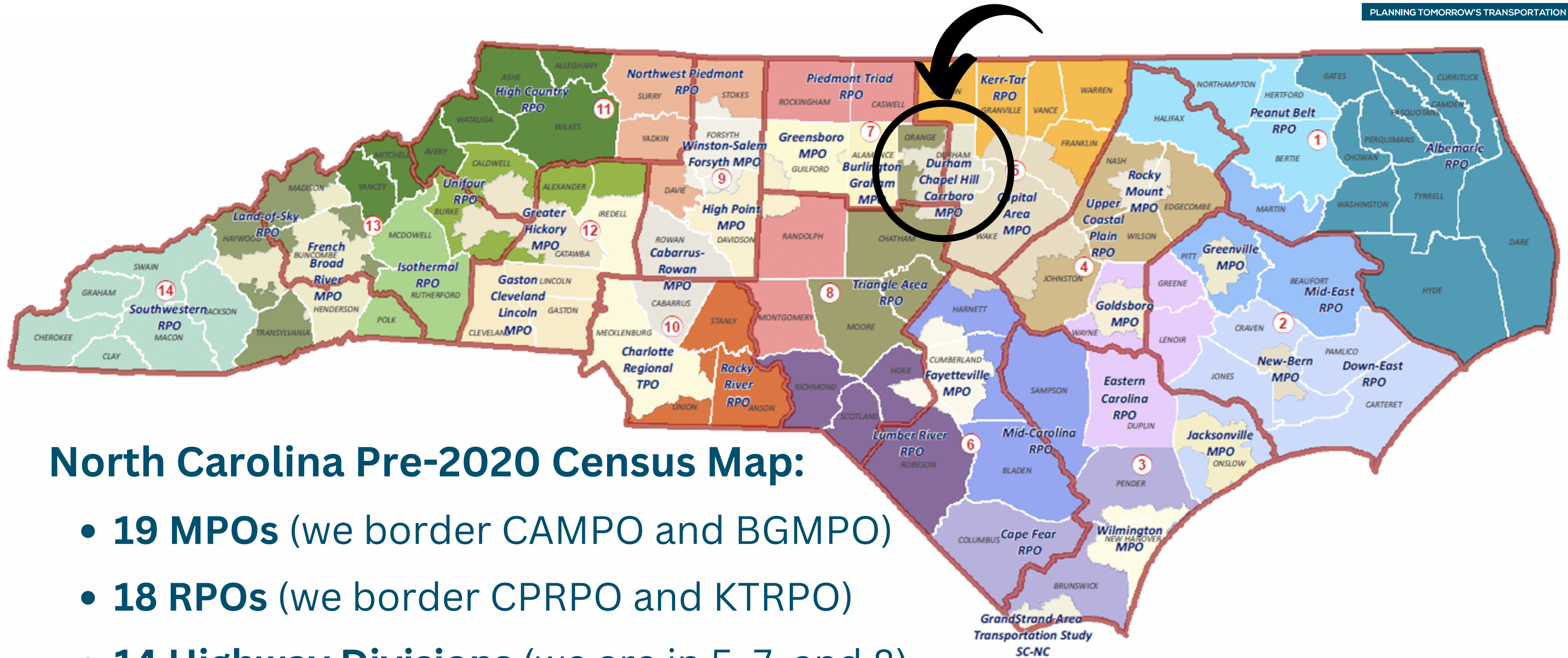
- **19 MPOs** (we border CAMPO and BGMPO)
- **18 RPOs** (we border CPRPO and KTRPO)
- **14 Highway Divisions** (we are in 5, 7, and 8)

MPO = Metropolitan Planning Organization  
RPO = Rural Planning Organization

 <https://ethics.nc.gov/seis/electronic-filing>



# North Carolina MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT Highway Divisions



## North Carolina Pre-2020 Census Map:

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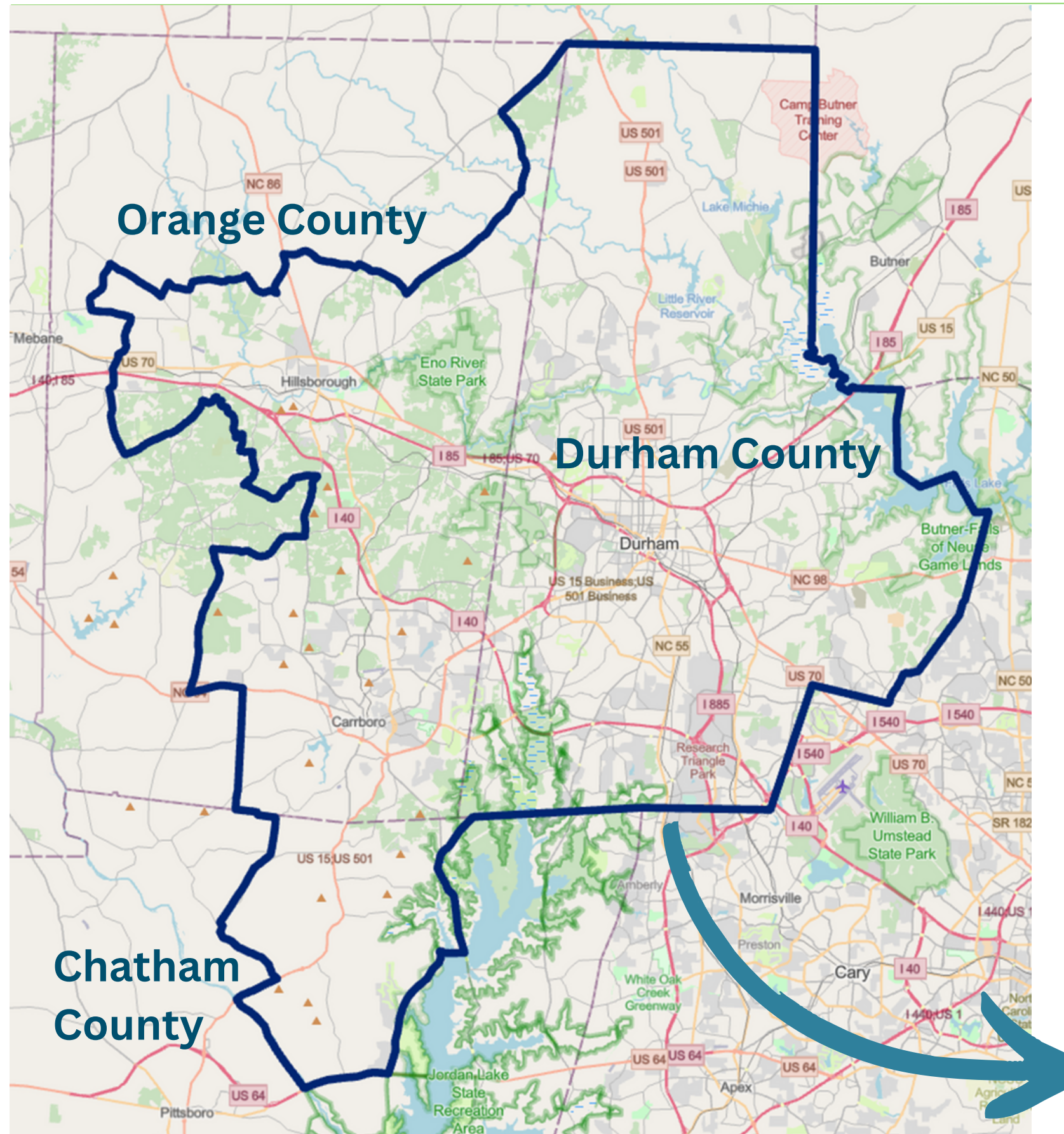


# What Should You Know About DCHC MPO and What Is Your Role?

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# DCHC MPO Boundaries (Post-2020 Census) & Composition



## MPO Composition

*Member Jurisdictions & Agencies:  
Towns, Cities, Counties, Universities, State, Federal,  
Transit Agencies, etc.*

- **MPO Board**

- Voting: Local Elected Officials, NCDOT BOT, GoTriangle; Non-voting: FHA

- **MPO Technical Committee**

- Staff members from member jurisdictions and agencies (voting and non-voting members)

- **Lead Planning Agency (LPA)**

- MPO Staff

Current urban  
area + 20 years



<https://www.dchcmpo.org/who-we-are>



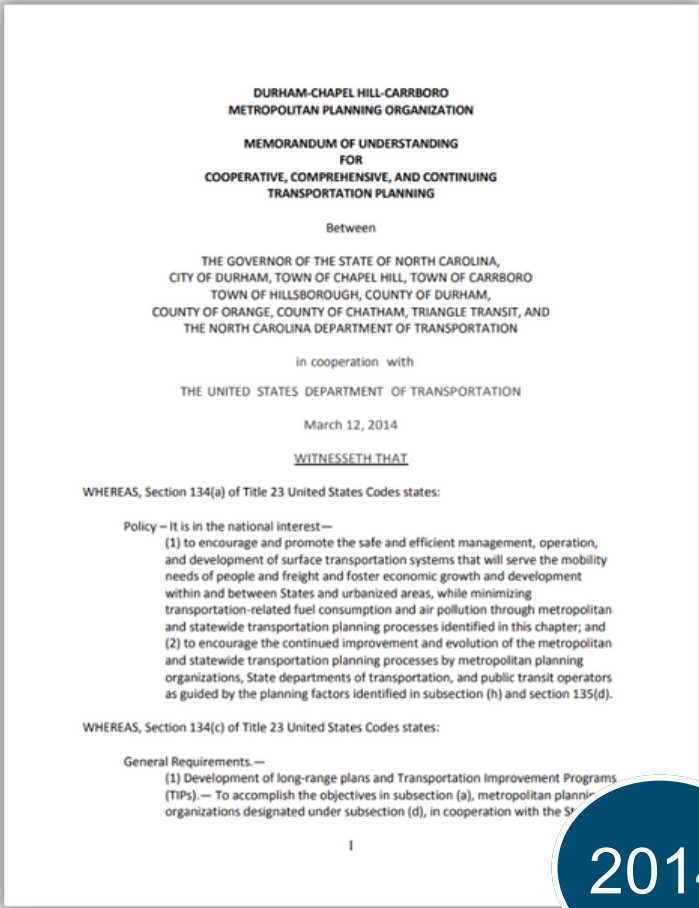
Prior to 1980	Added in 1980	Established in 1989	Added 1990	Other Members
<div><p>CITY OF <b>DURHAM</b></p></div> <div><p>DURHAM COUNTY</p><p><b>DCo</b> NC</p><p>1881</p></div>	<div><p>TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL</p></div> <div><p>TOWN OF CARRBORO • NC</p></div> <div><p>ORANGE COUNTY</p><p>NORTH CAROLINA</p></div>	<div><p>GO <i>Triangle</i></p></div>	<div><p>TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH NORTH CAROLINA</p></div> <div><p>CHATHAM COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA</p></div>	<div><p>STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</p></div>





- These documents lay out the requirements of the MPO, the purpose of the board and technical committee, the requirement to make ethical decisions, and the methods by which the MPO will involve the public in making these decisions

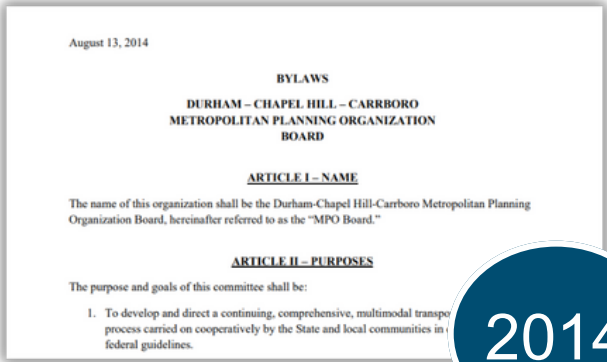
Memorandum of Understanding



2014

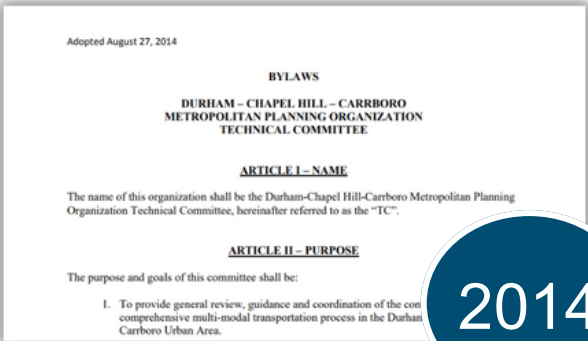
Bylaws

MPO Board



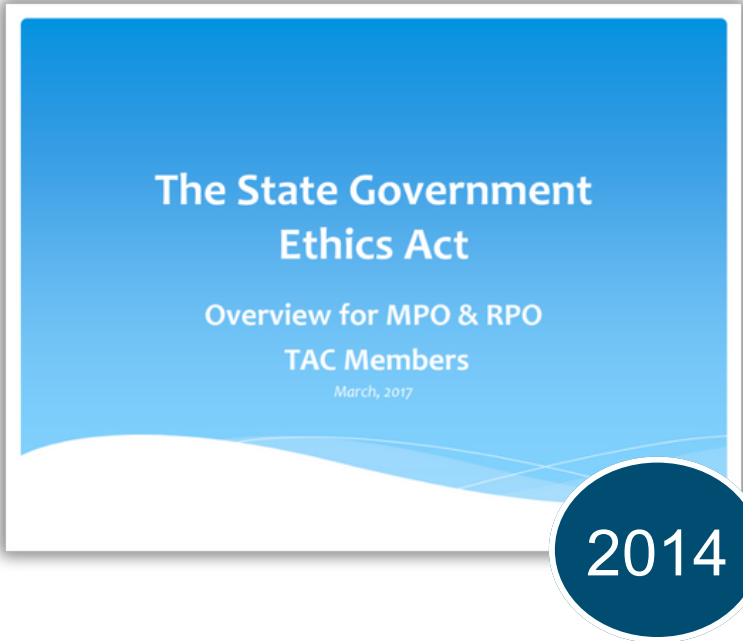
2014

Technical Committee



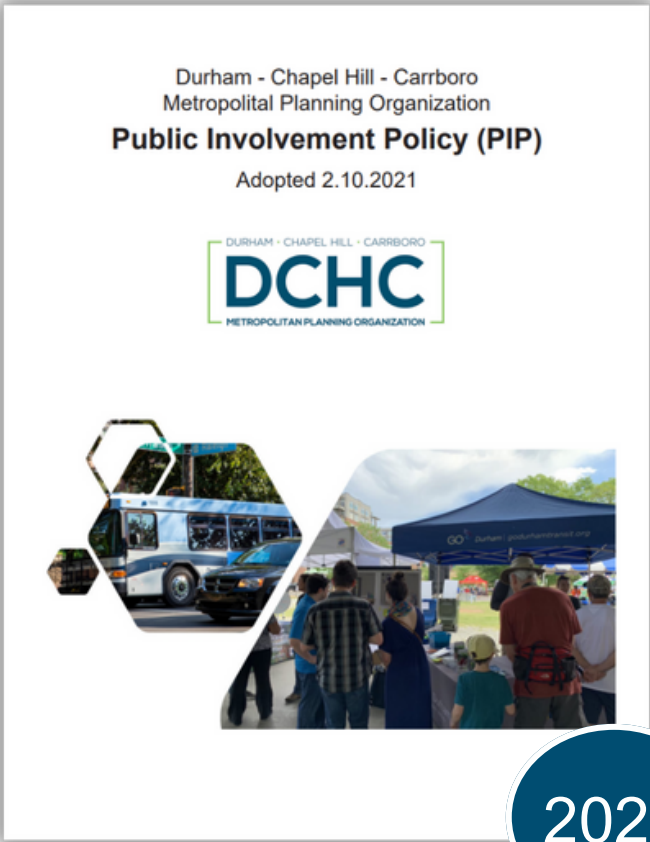
2014

State Government Ethics Act



Note: Training is from 2017; act went into effect in 2014

Public Involvement Policy



2021



## Board

- **Participation** - attend monthly, ad hoc committee, and project meetings; communicate with the public and collect information from your local community; annual ethics filings
- **Oversight** - approve, advocate MPO priorities, provide guidance

## Technical Committee

- **Participation** - attend monthly, ad hoc committee, and project meetings; distribute, coordinate, and collect information within member organizations; distribute and collect information within local community; provide regular project updates
- **Oversight** - guidance and input; advance local transportation projects

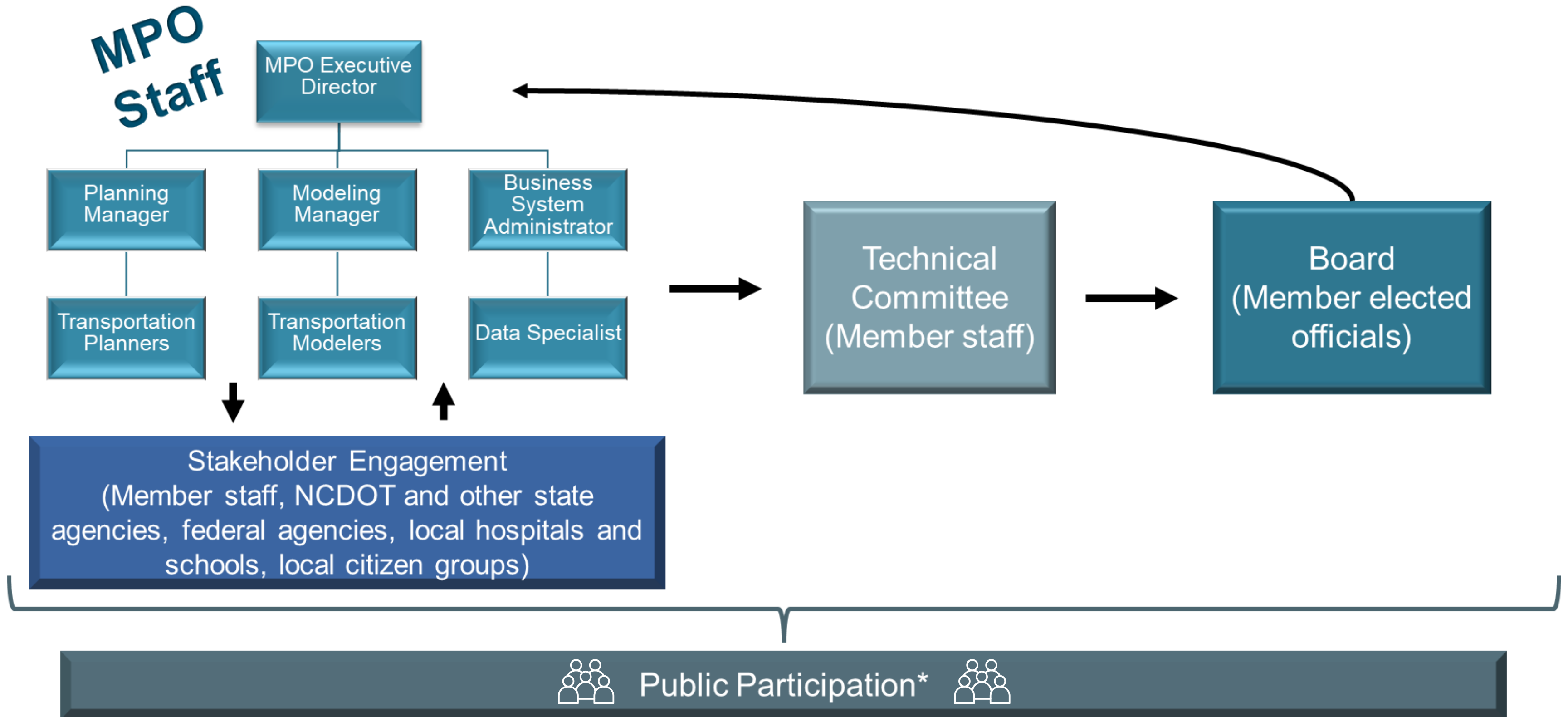
## MPO Staff

- Carries out directives from the Board
- Plans, models, financial management





# What does this process look like?



\*The public is invited to take part at every stage of the transportation process



# Who are the DCHC MPO Staff?



**Andy Henry**  
Principal Planner



**Casey Chae**  
Business Systems Administrator



**Colleen McGue**  
MPO Planning Manager



**David Miller**  
MPO Transportation Planner



**Dolly Hall-Quinlan**  
MPO Transportation Modeler



**Doug Plachcinski**  
MPO Executive Director



**Filmon Fishastion**  
MPO Transportation Planner



**Jean Debnam**  
Administration Support



**Kelly Richard**  
MPO Transportation Planner



**Madeline Galliano**  
MPO Transportation Planner



**Yanping Zhang**  
MPO Modeling Manager



**Monet Moore**  
MPO Principal Planner



## • Many levels/offices

- Transportation Planning Division (TPD) - i.e. comprehensive plans
- Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) - i.e. transit projects
- Local Highway Divisions (5, 7, 8) - local project support
- Strategic Prioritization of Transportation (SPOT) - i.e. run technical prioritization process
- State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) - i.e. manage statewide programming
- Feasibility Studies - i.e. express designs



Integrated Mobility Division  
N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

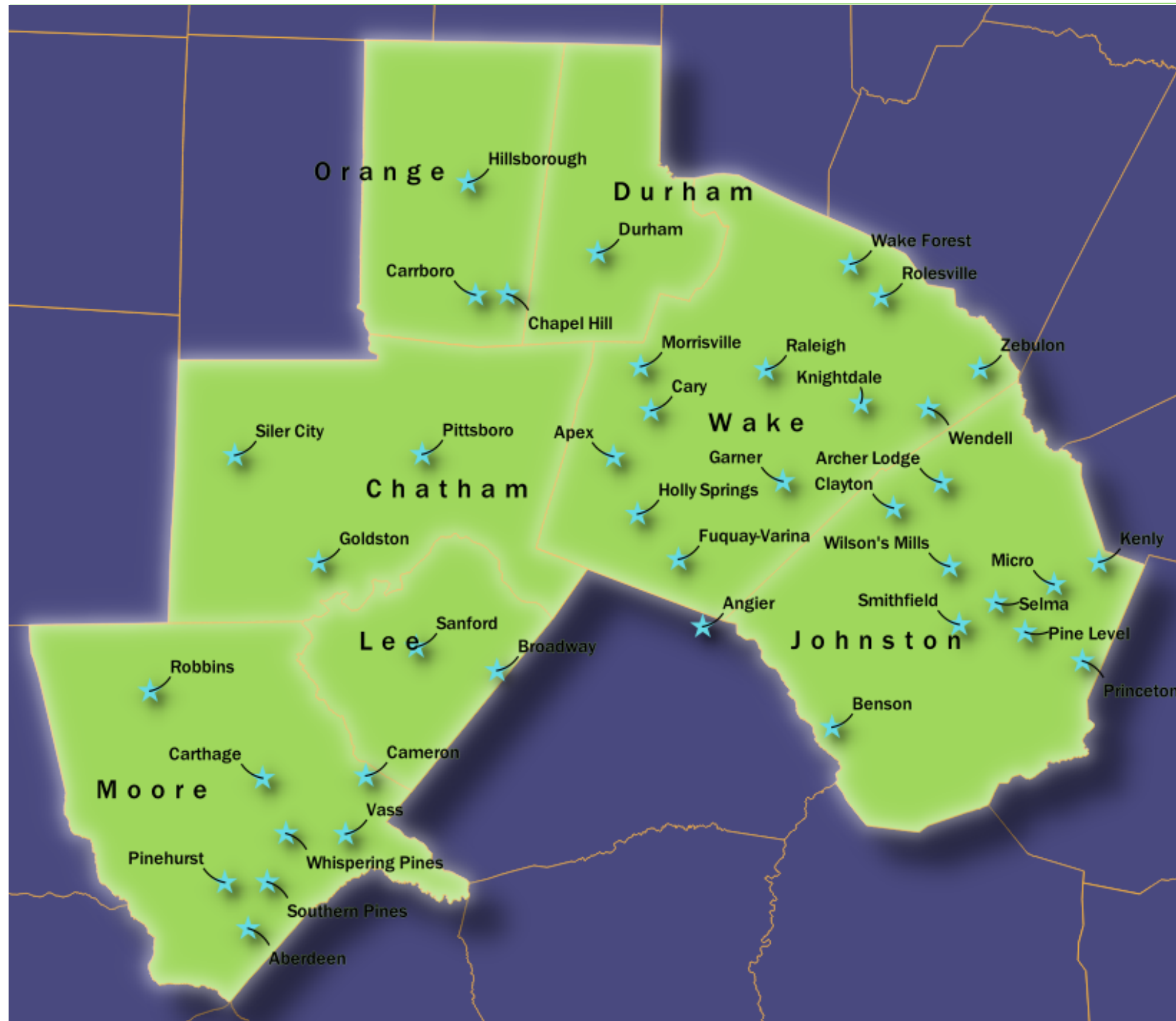
## • Other NCDOT key elements

- Maintain 80,000+ miles of public roads (2nd most in country behind Texas)
- Distribute federal funds to MPO for transportation planning activities





# Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC)



- DCHC MPO officially moved from City of Durham to CPRC in July 2023
- “Regional” Coordination
- Assists with long-range plan (MTP) development
- Administers Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program
- **Coordinates other regional issues:**
  - Aging and Human Services
  - Community and Economic Development
  - Environment and Resilience
    - Water Quality
  - Housing
  - Mobility and Transportation
    - Land Use



<https://www.centralpinesnc.gov/areas-focus>



## Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

- Public transportation (“transit”) includes buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, monorail, passenger ferry boats, trolleys, inclined railways, demand response, and people movers
- Provides financial assistance to develop new transit systems and improve, maintain, and operate existing systems (Section 5303, 5307, 5310, 5339, and 5340 funds)
- Oversees grants to state and local transit providers

## Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

- Funds are allocated to, and administered by NCDOT’s Transportation Planning Division (TPD) and used to support transportation planning activities
- Conducts quadrennial certification review process for all MPOs
- Provides technical assistance and project review assistance



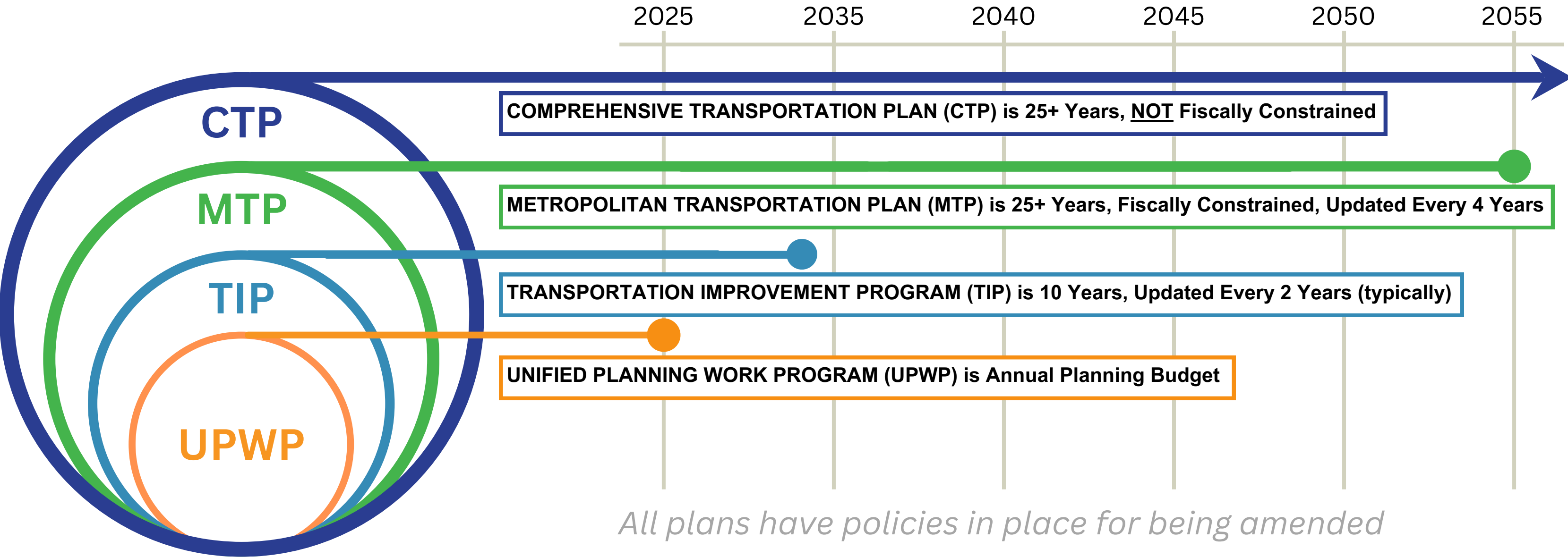


# DCHC MPO Major Planning Documents

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# Major Plans & How They Interact



Source: Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization



# Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)



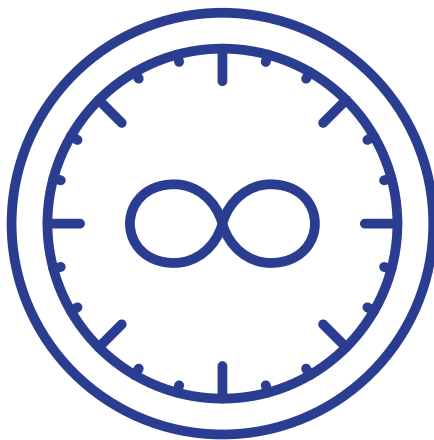
Adopted: 2017  
*Currently Updating*



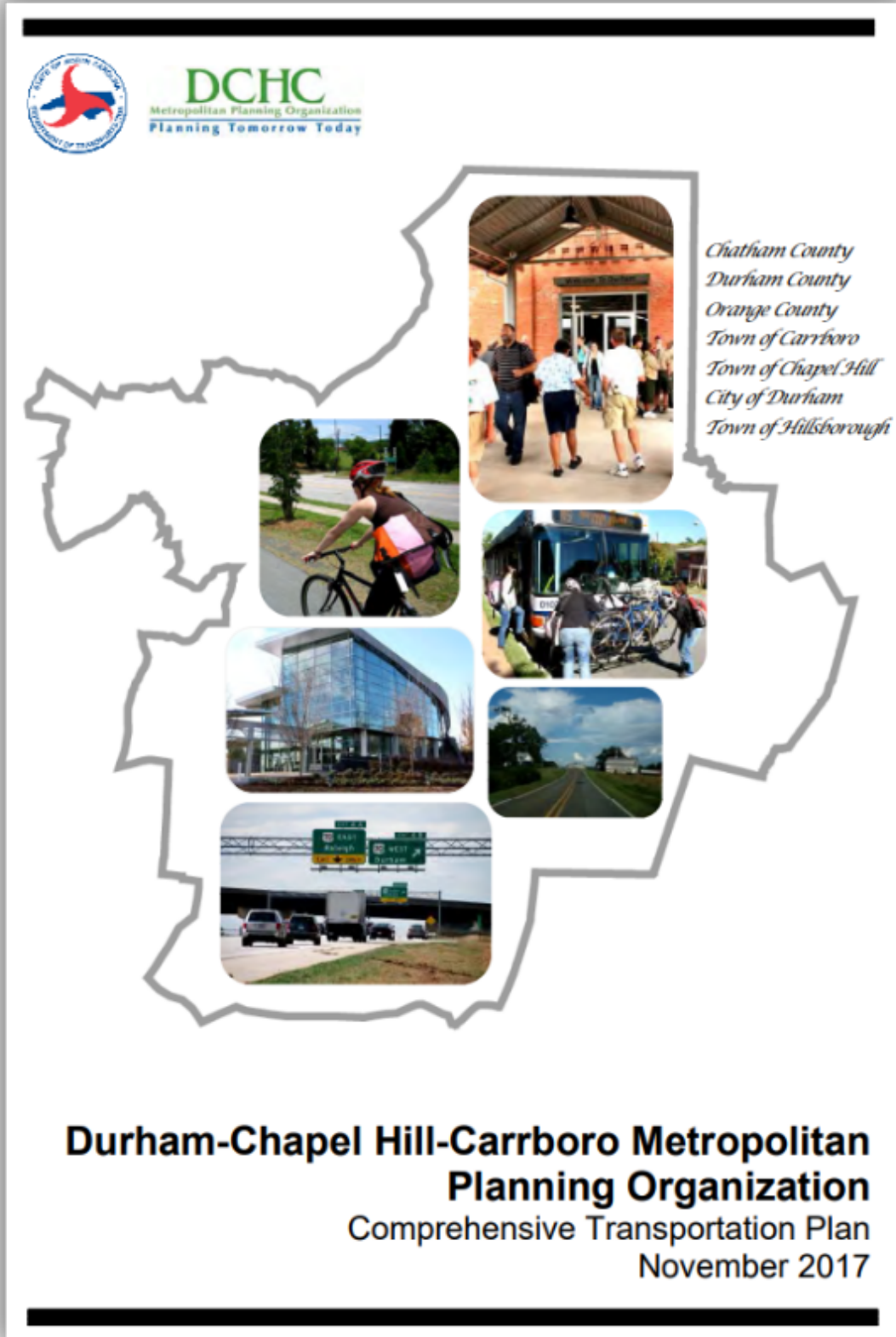
**NOT** Fiscally  
Constrained



Required by State  
(25+ Years; All Projects)



**NO** Update  
Requirement



<https://www.dchcmpo.org/what-we-do/programs-plans/comprehensive-transportation-plan>



# Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)



Adopted: 2022  
*Currently Updating*



Federal Requirement  
(30 Years of Projects)



Air Quality Conformity

- CAMPO
- BGMPO
- DCHC MPO



Fiscally Constrained  
(sets of 10 years)



Updated Every 4-5  
Years (based on  
air quality)

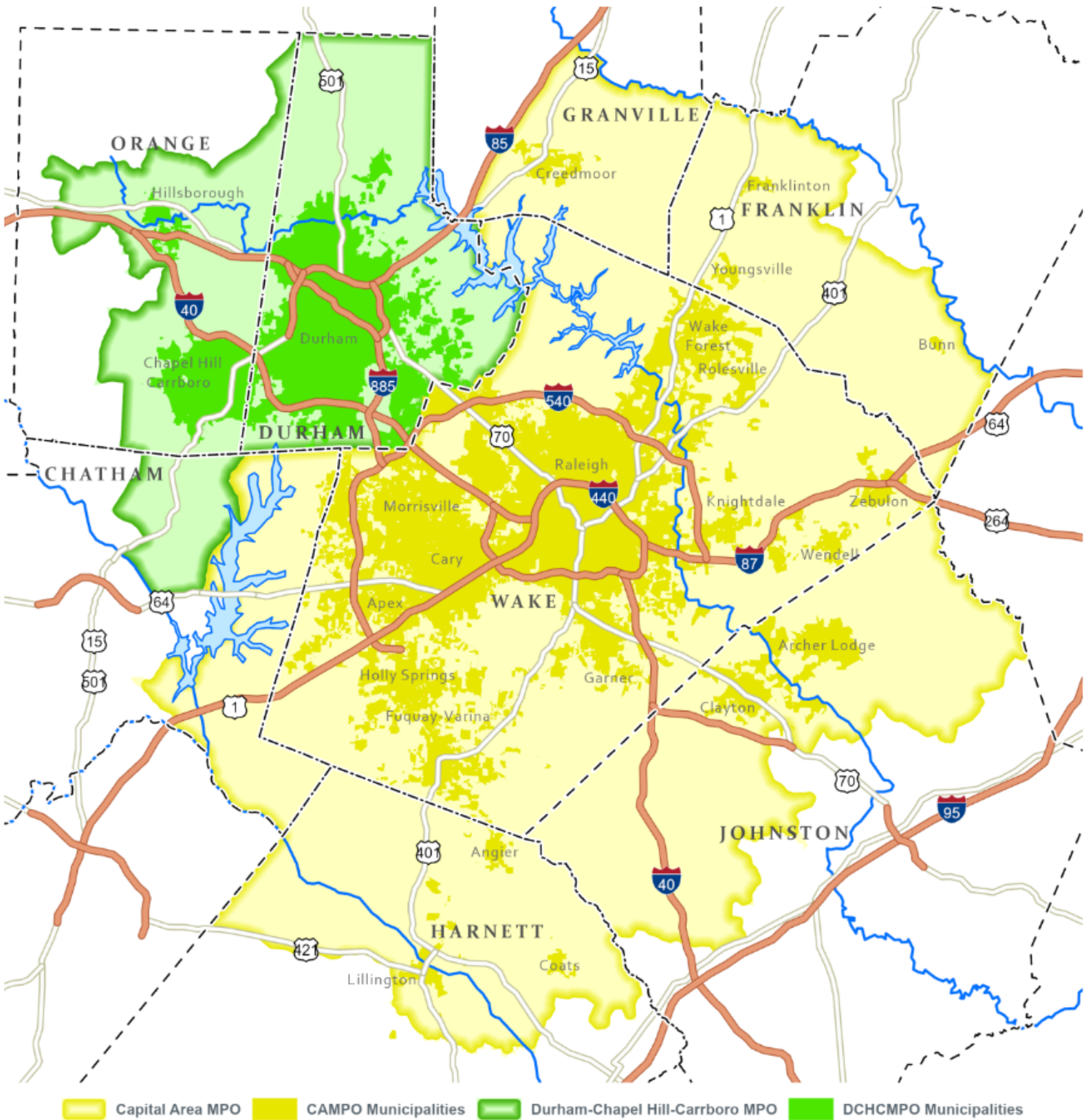


[Destination2055NC.com](http://Destination2055NC.com)



# DESTINATION 2055

*Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Triangle Region*





# Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



Adopted: 2024  
*Continuously Amended*



Required Federally and  
Must Match State Plan  
(10 Years of Projects)



Where Projects  
Get Funded



Updated Every 2  
Years (Typically)



FY2024-2033  
Transportation Improvement Program

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 <https://www.dchcmpto.org/what-we-do/programs-plans/transportation-improvement-program>

# Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): Budget

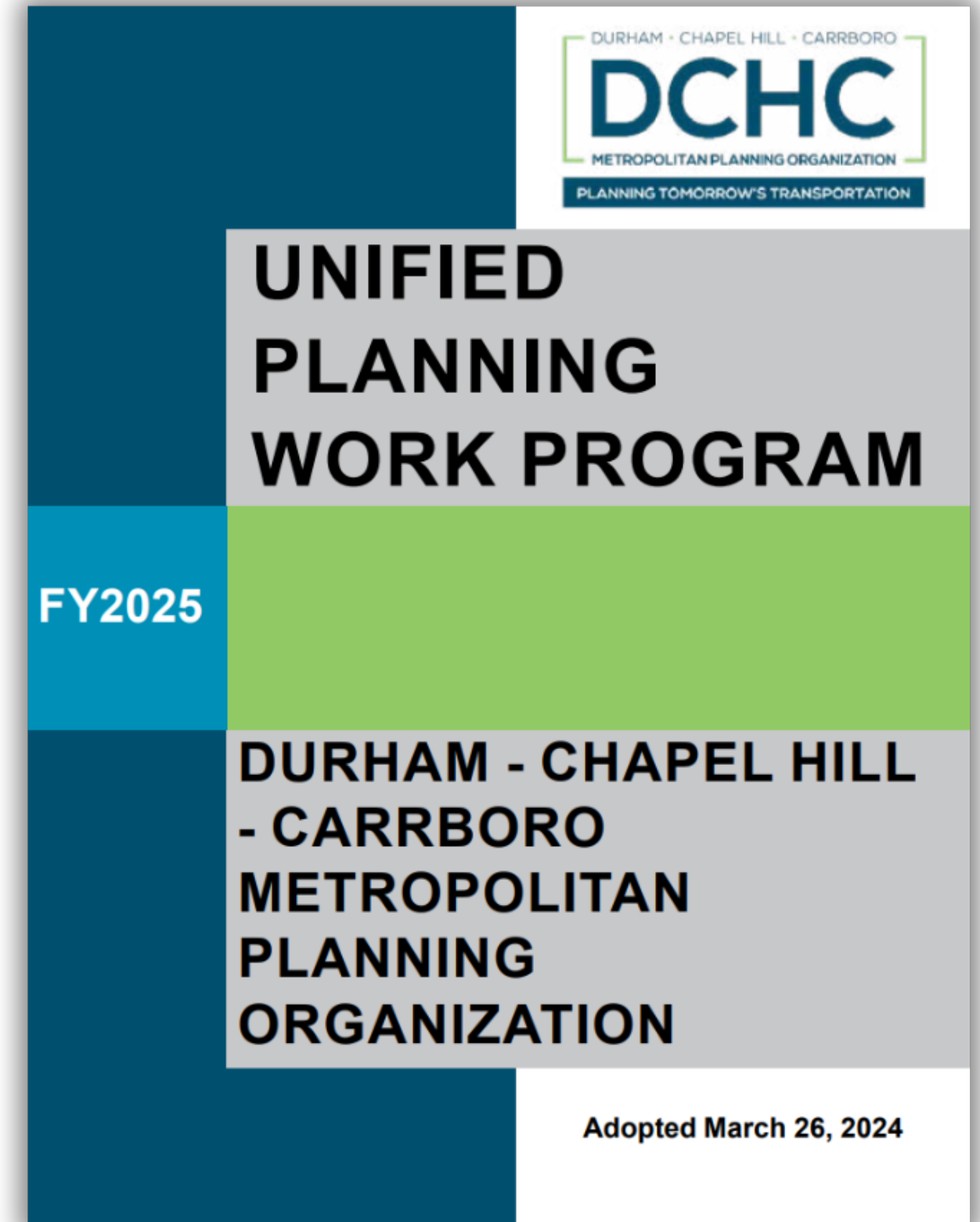
- **Determines funding amount and distribution of:**

- Surface Block Grant (BGDA) - staffing and special studies
- Local shares/ member dues
- Formula Grants (5307, 5309, 5339) - split letters; specific to transit
- Transit planning funds (i.e. 5303)



- **MPO Oversight**

- Competitive FTA Grants (5310 enhanced mobility)
- Triennial Review of FTA Grantees
- 4-Year MPO Certification Review
- Annual Self-Certification (outlines how we conform to federal planning guidelines and requirements)



 <https://www.dchcmpo.org/what-we-do/programs-plans/unified-planning-work-program>



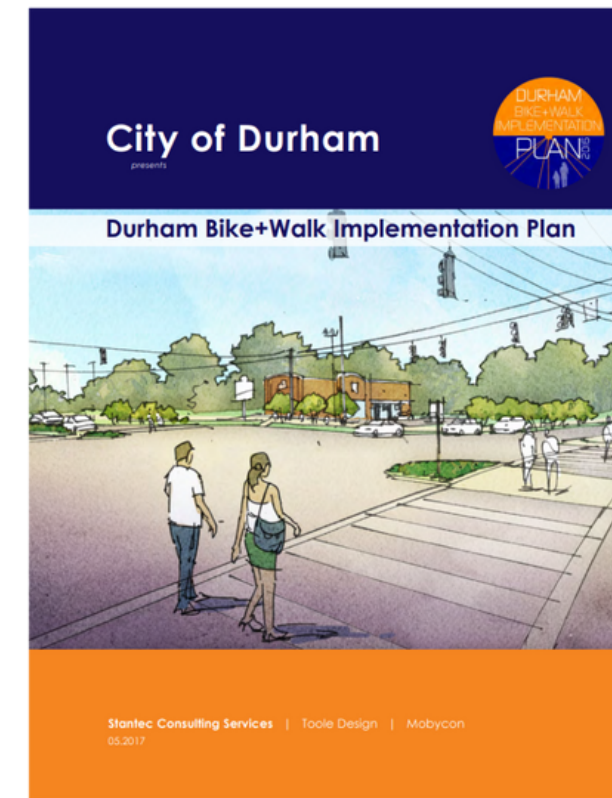
# Other Planning & Policy Work

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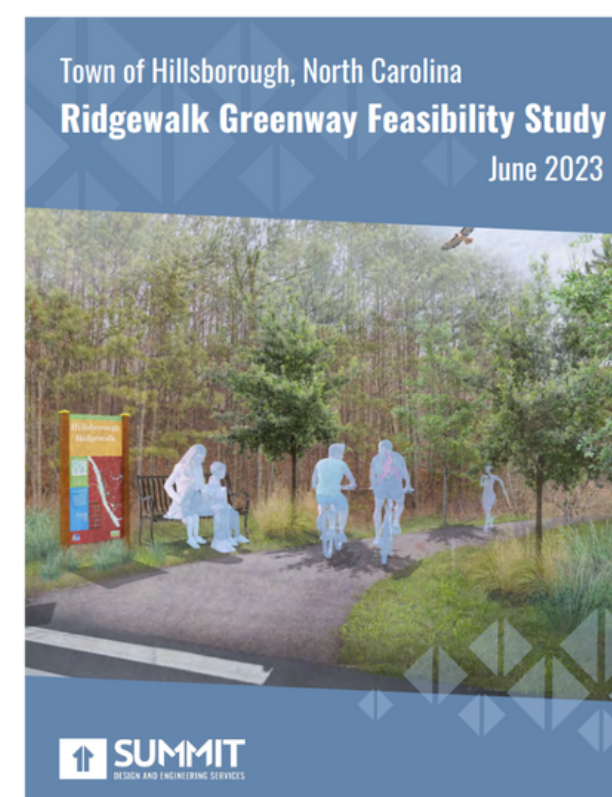
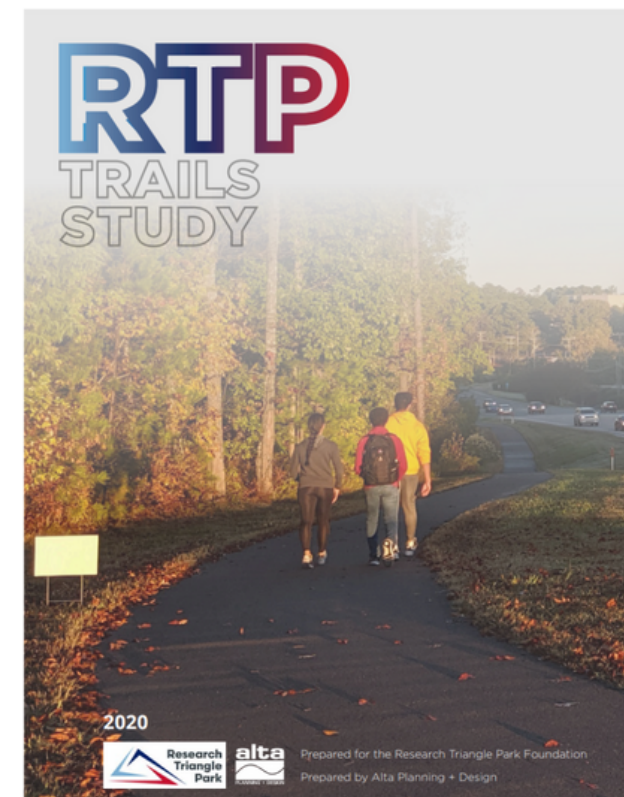


# Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

- Projects should be in local plans and vetted
- Projects should be prioritized by members prior to submission to MPO for funding
- Regional efforts such as the Triangle Bikeway Study (more coming soon)



**David Miller**  
MPO Transportation Planner  
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919-503-4118

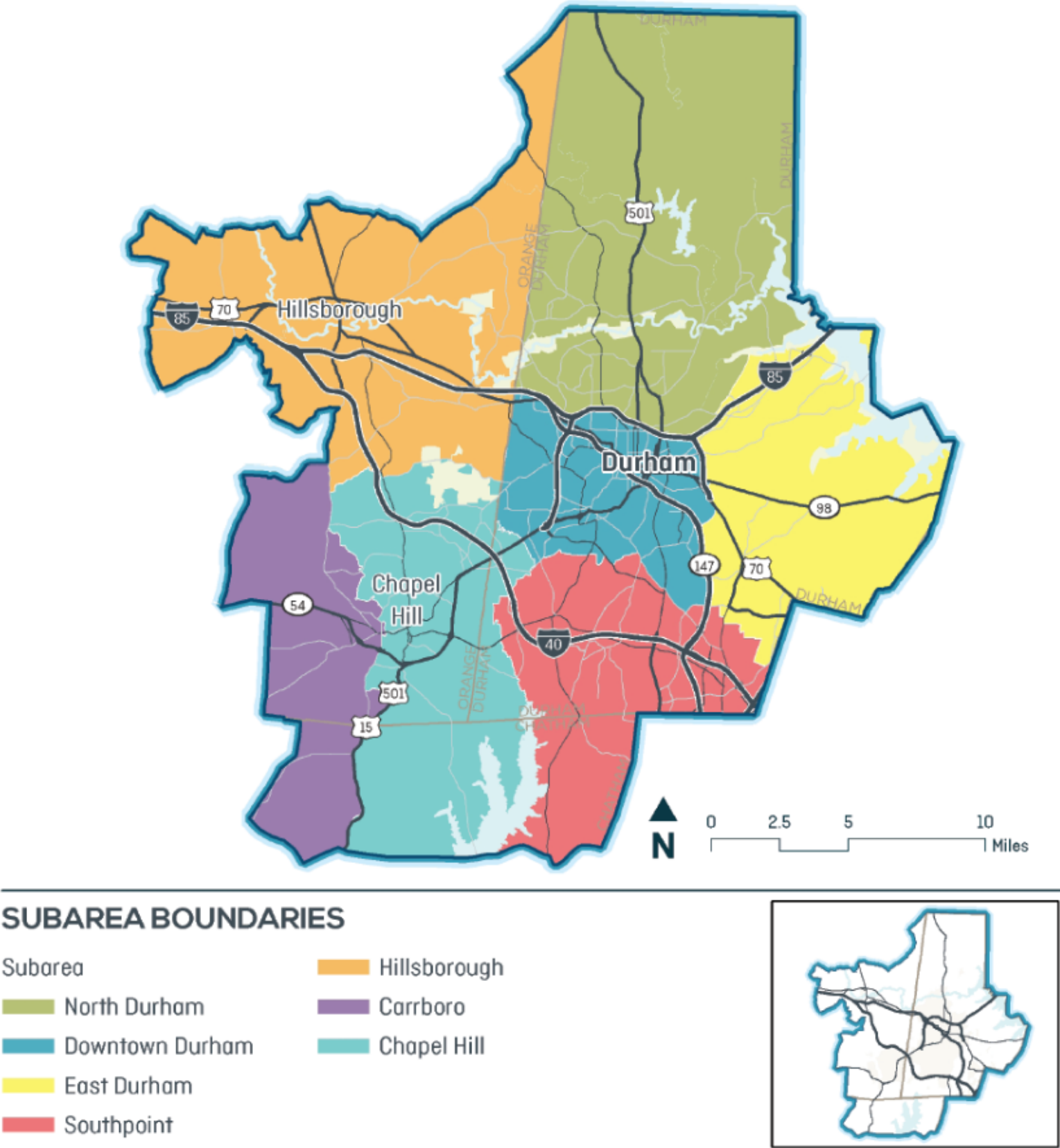


 <https://www.dchcmpo.org/what-we-do/programs-plans/bicycle-pedestrian-programs>





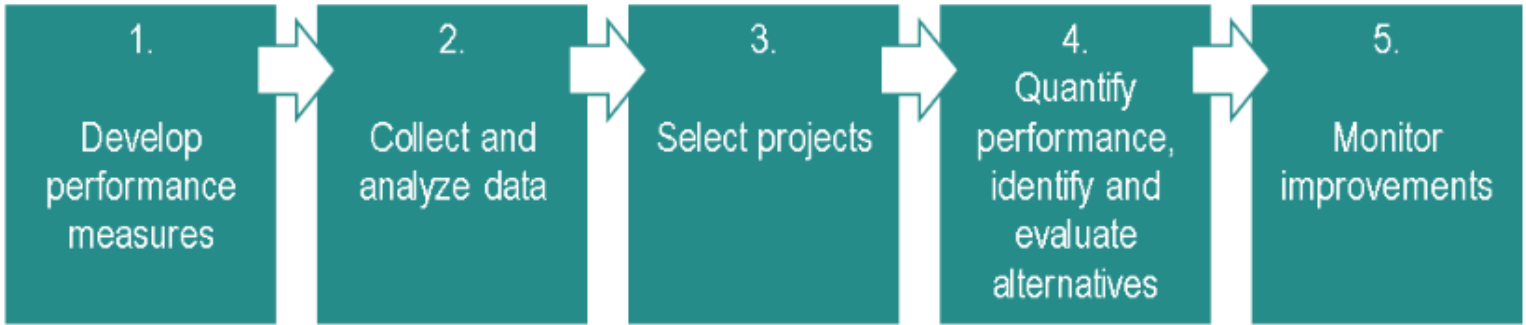
# Congestion Management Process (CMP)



- Required by federal law
- Relieve congestion and maximize safety/mobility of people/goods
- Recent survey looked at prioritizing types of projects
- Congestion Reduction Training Available



**Yanping Zhang**  
MPO Modeling Manager  
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919-503-4125





# Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

- **Funded by DCHC MPO and CAMPO**
- Program that encourages individuals to use existing transportation infrastructure more efficiently by using alternative transportation methods, including:
  - Transit
  - Walking
  - Biking
  - Carpool & Vanpool
  - Telework & Flexible Schedules
- Program participants include:
  - City of Durham, GoTriangle, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, NCSU, UNC, NCCU, Duke University



**WOLFTRAILS**



**Shuchi Gupta**

Principal Planner

[sgupta@centralpinesnc.gov](mailto:sgupta@centralpinesnc.gov)

919-558-2715



**TRIANGLE  
TRANSPORTATION  
CHOICES**

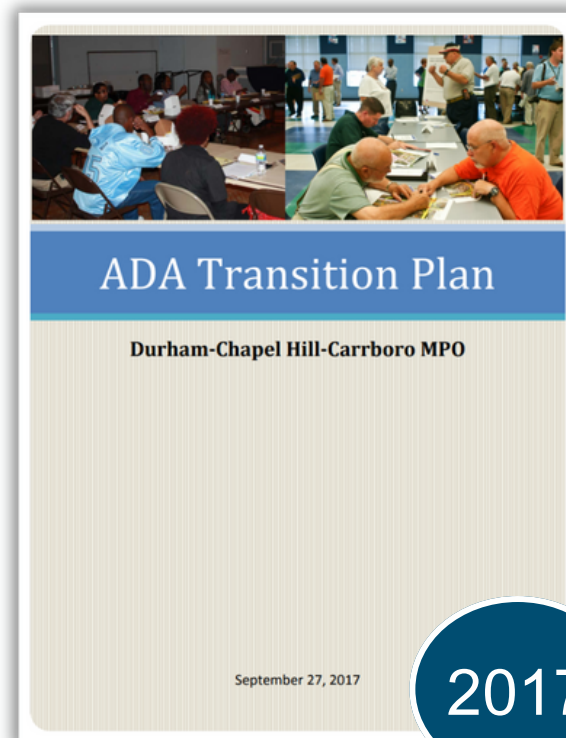


# Title VI and Environmental Justice

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan** - no update requirement
- **Title VI** - updated as needed, annual assurances in UPWP
  - Internal Title VI training
- **Environmental Justice Report** - actively being updated
- **Limited English Proficiency Plan** updated every 3 years = 2024
  - Documents should be in English and Spanish



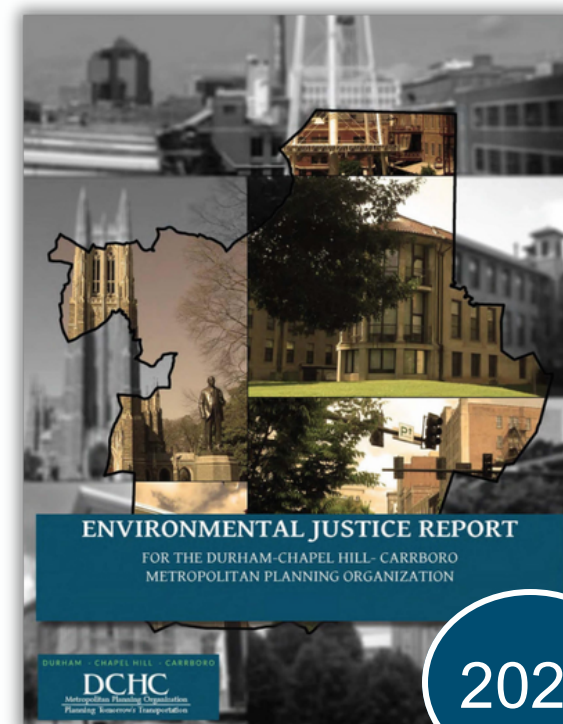
**Kelly Richard**  
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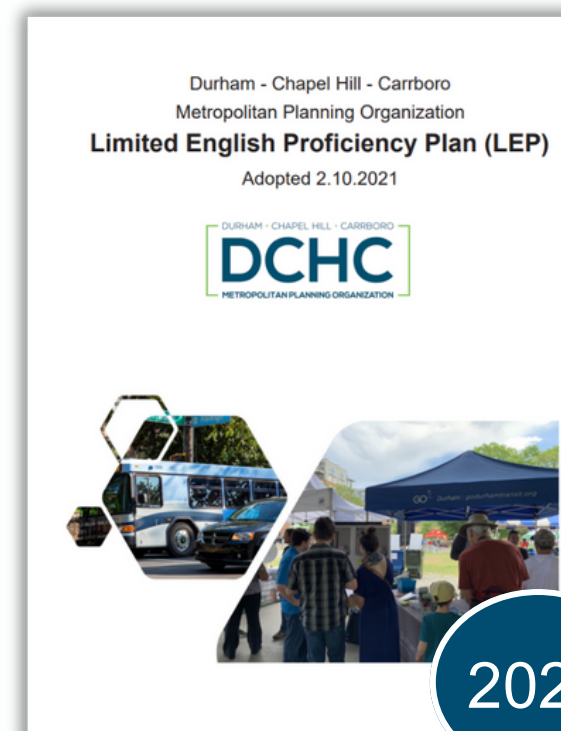
2017



2019



2020



2021



<https://www.dchcmpo.org/work-with-us/non-discrimination-policy-title-vi>





# County Transit Plans and Mobility Management

- The Greater Triangle Region has three (3) transit plans
- Plans use transit tax funds
- Long-term, but implemented through 4-year plans (short-range) and 1-year programs
- MPO Roles
  - Leading Bus Speed and Reliability Study (Durham)
  - Oversight of alternate fund sources and plans, such as the Coordinated Plan
  - Oversee flexible funding requests





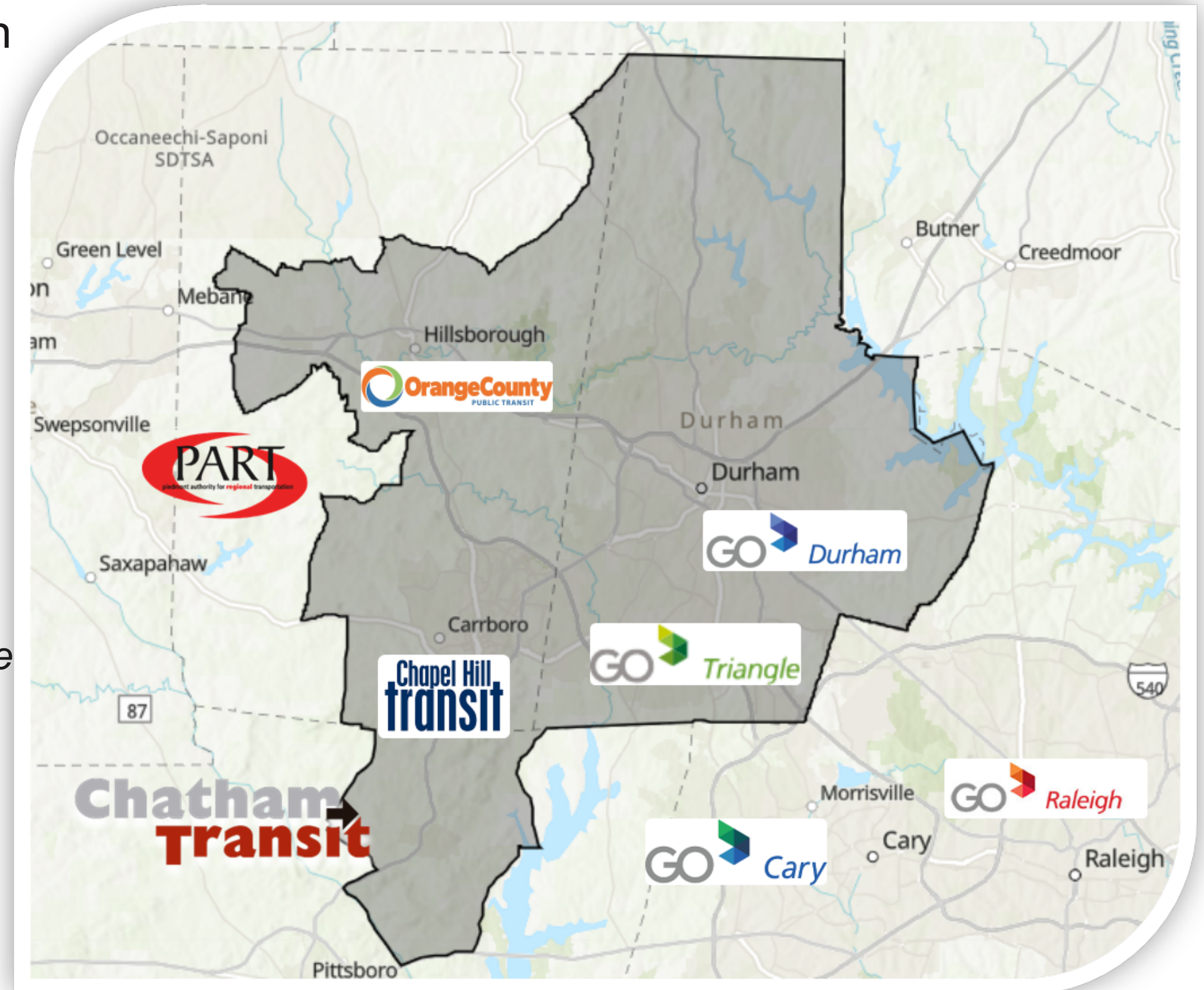
# Existing Regional Transit

## Public Transportation Providers in our Region

- Chatham Transit
- Chapel Hill Transit
- GoDurham
- GoTriangle – *regional transit authority*
- Orange County Public Transportation

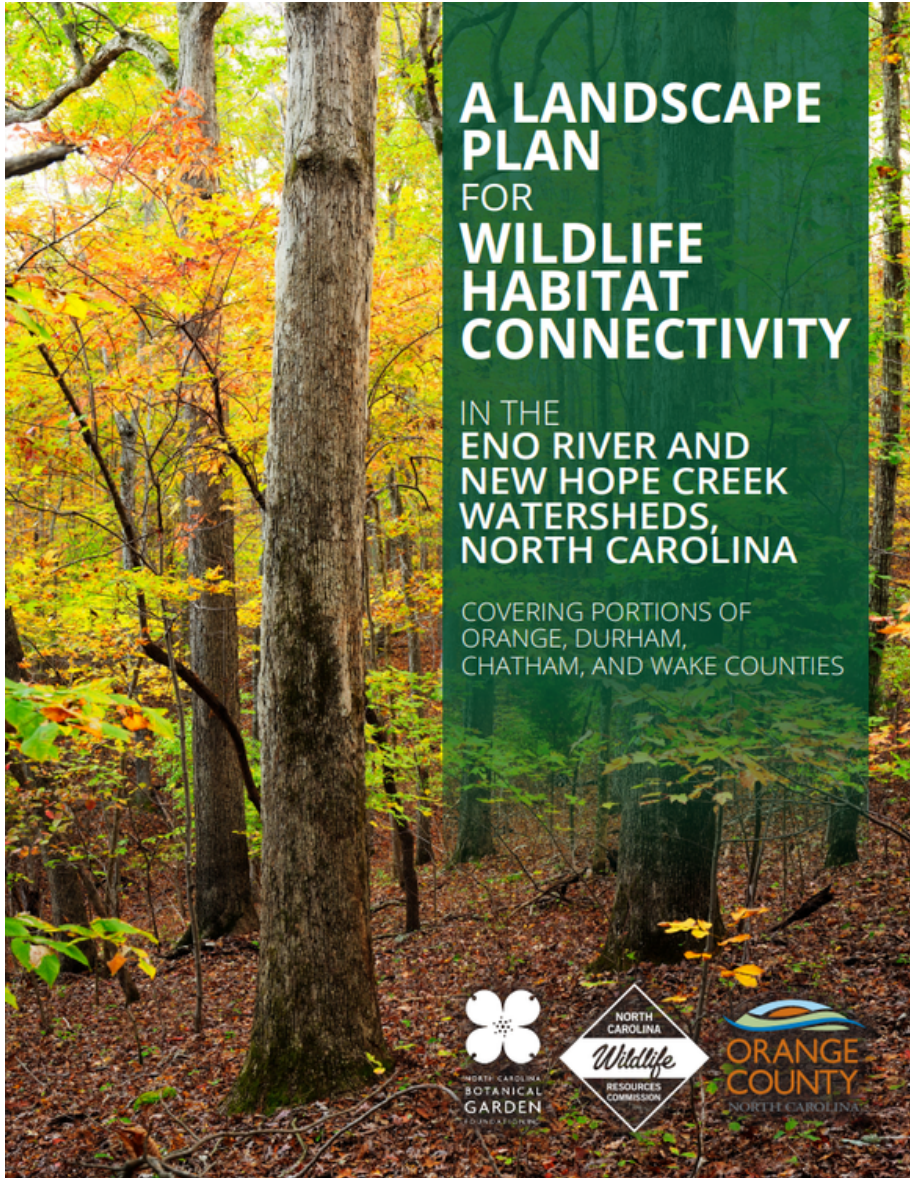
## Providers We Coordinate With

- 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





# Wildlife Corridor Management - COMING SOON!

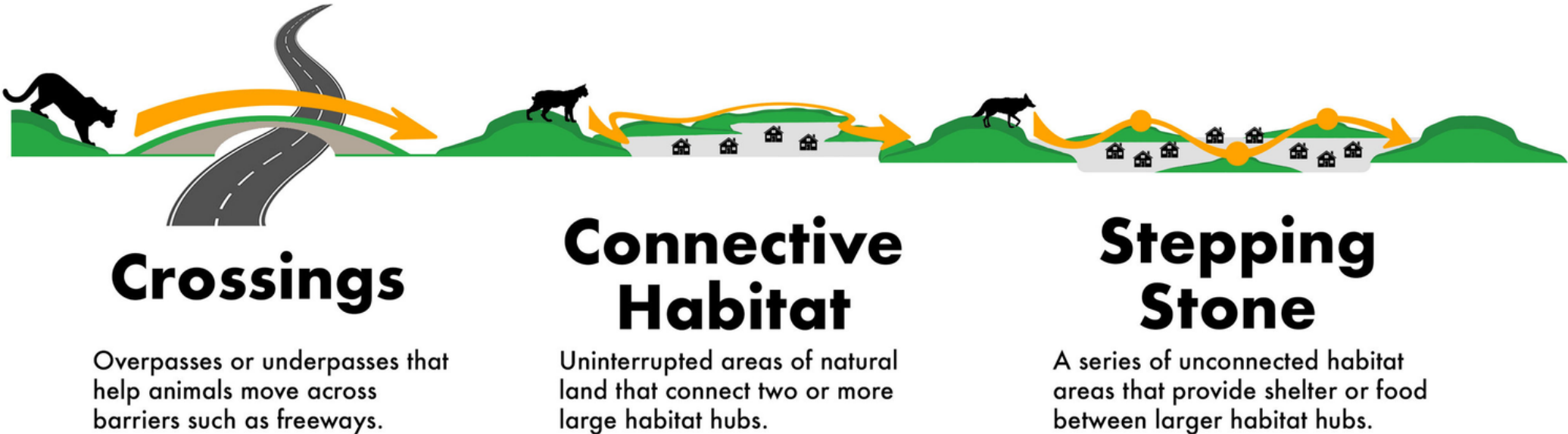


- French Broad River MPO also has a plan
- FHWA Wildlife Crossings Grant Program



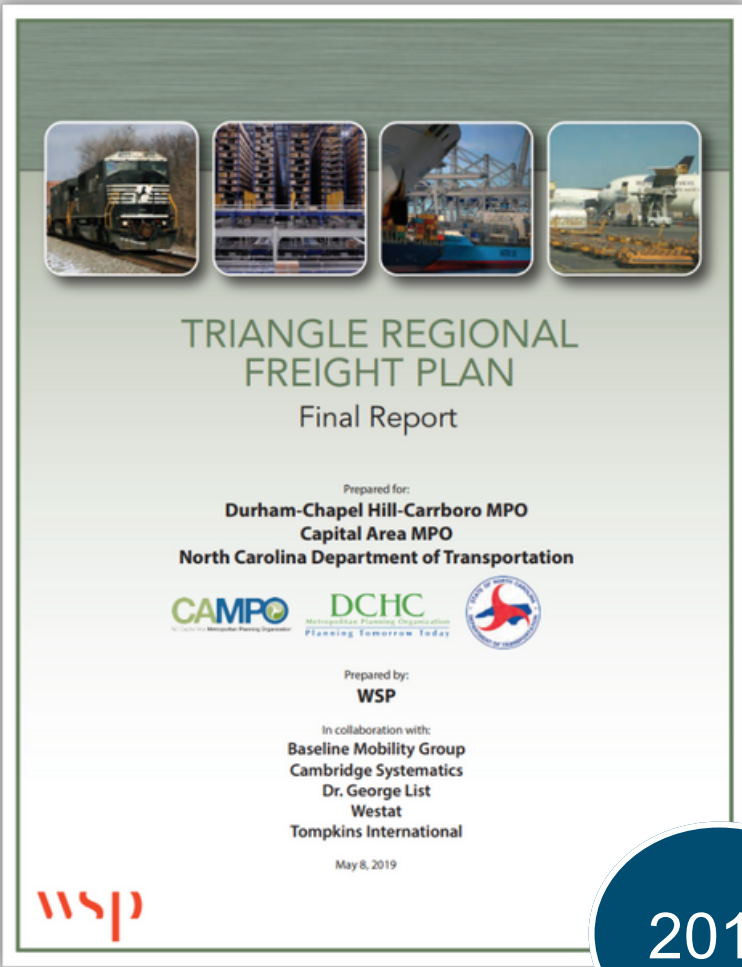
## Types of Wildlife Corridors

State	Annual Average # of Animal-Vehicle Crashes	Societal Cost Using State's Crash Costs	Societal Costs Using FHWA Crash Costs
North Carolina	21,658	\$424,460,520	\$509,066,100





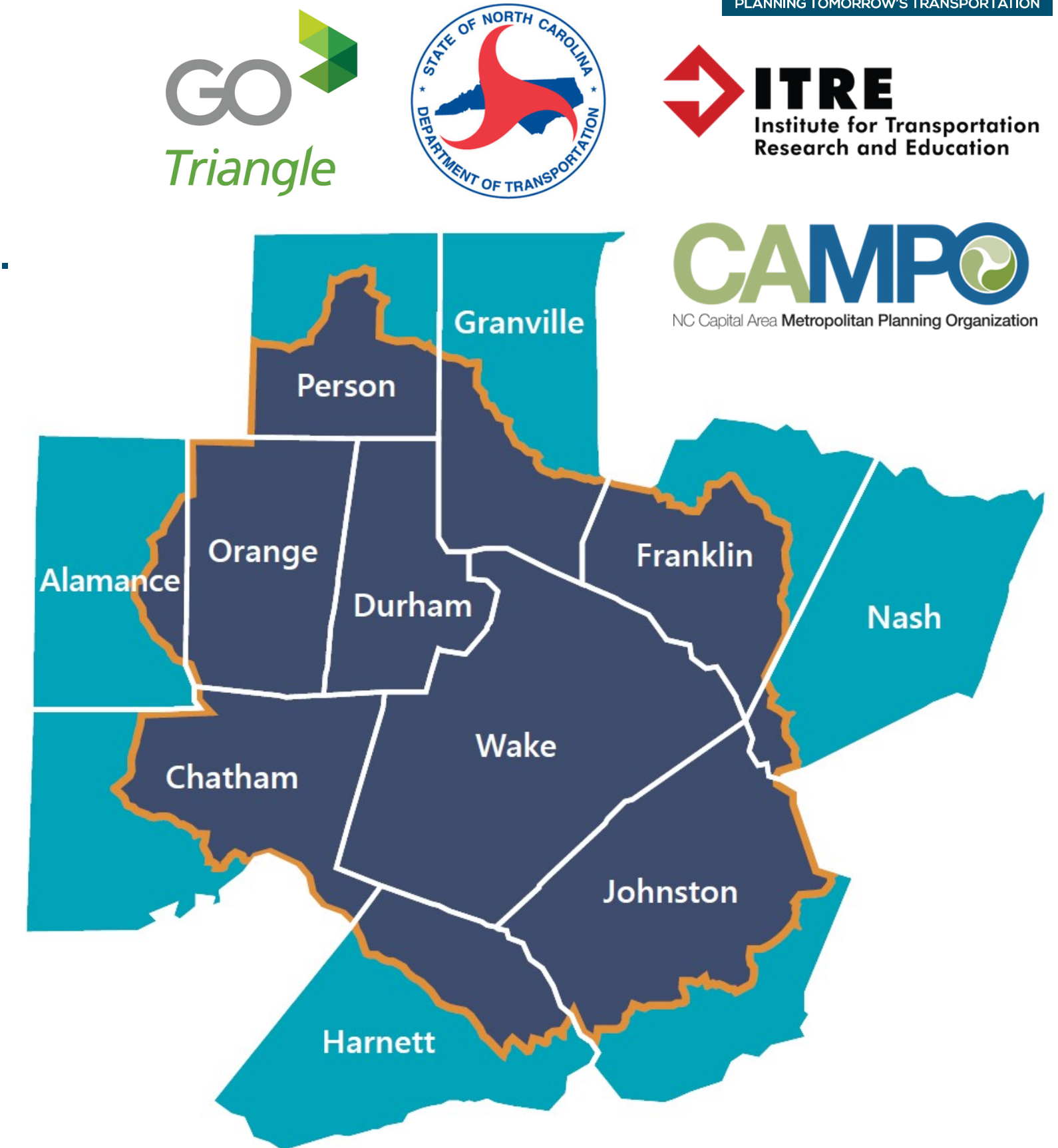
# Other Special Studies and Plans





# Triangle Regional Model (TRM)

- The TRM is a mathematical computer model used by transportation planning agencies in the region to develop and evaluate strategies that support mobility, access, economic health, and quality of life.
- Area covered by the TRM:
  - 3,533 square miles
  - 40 jurisdictions
  - 2,965 analysis zones
- The Triangle Regional Model Generation 2 (TRMG2) is a new travel forecasting tool that supports regional transportation planning
- CommunityViz process is input from local jurisdictions that are critical to this model





## Planning Resources (transit & streets)



## Project Updates (new and existing)

https://gis.dhcmmpo.org/tipapplication/amendmentrequests/create

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Projects

Reports

Account

Request TIP Amendment

Note: If you need to amend an existing TIP Project, you will be redirected to the Request TIP Amendment project screen.

Amendment Request Details

Request Type*	New Project
Status	Initial Submission
Request Date	04/09/2024



Agendas - <https://dhcmmpo.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

## Agenda Item Requests (including letters of support)

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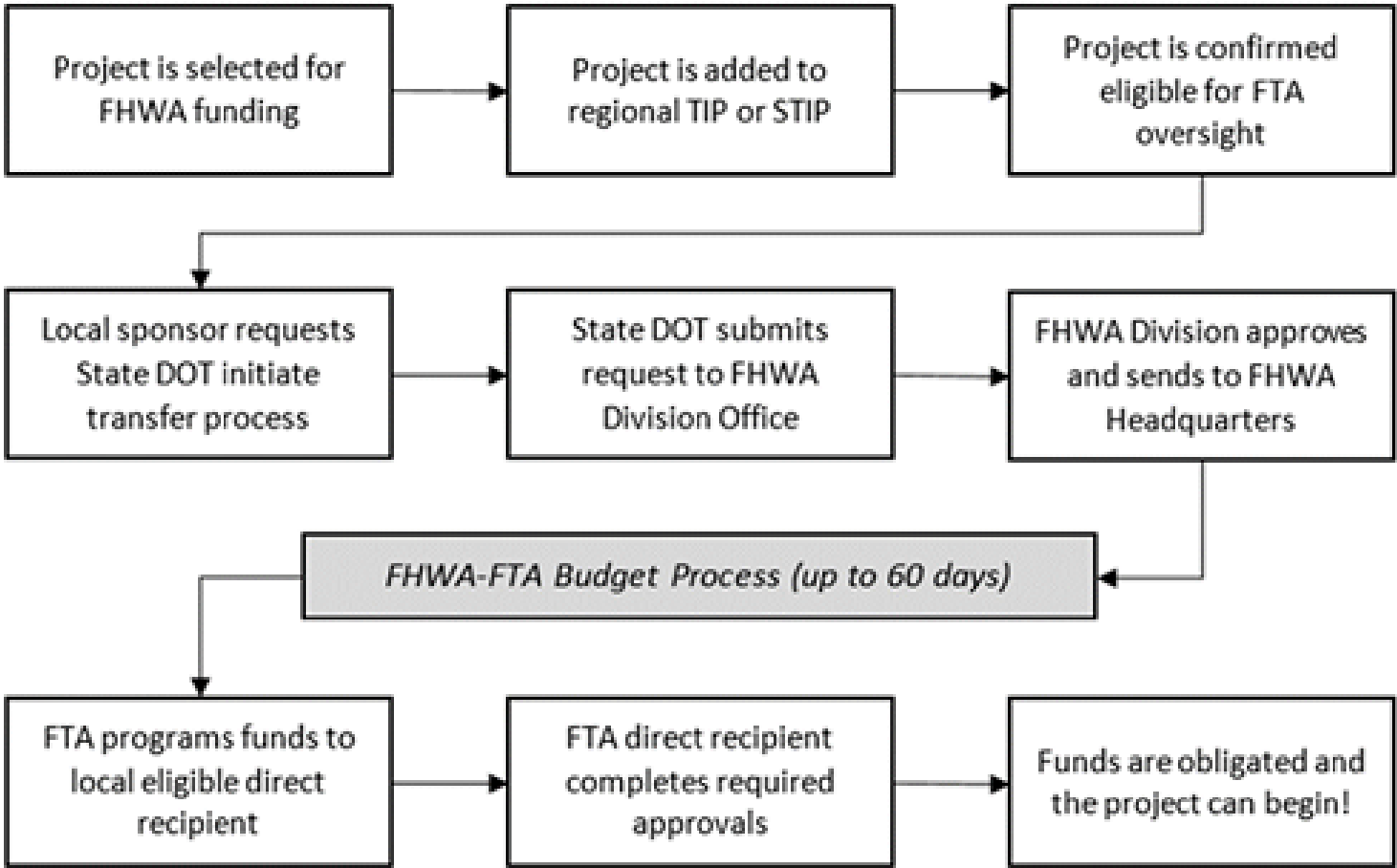
PLANNING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION

AGENDA ITEM

REQUEST FORM

Agenda Item Request Forms must be submitted to DCHC MPO by Tuesday at 5 p.m. - two weeks before the meeting date. The supporting attachments may be submitted to DCHC MPO by Tuesday at 5 p.m. - one week before the meeting date. Meeting dates can be found [here](#). A listing of DCHC MPO staff can be found [here](#).

## “Flex” Funding (transit projects)





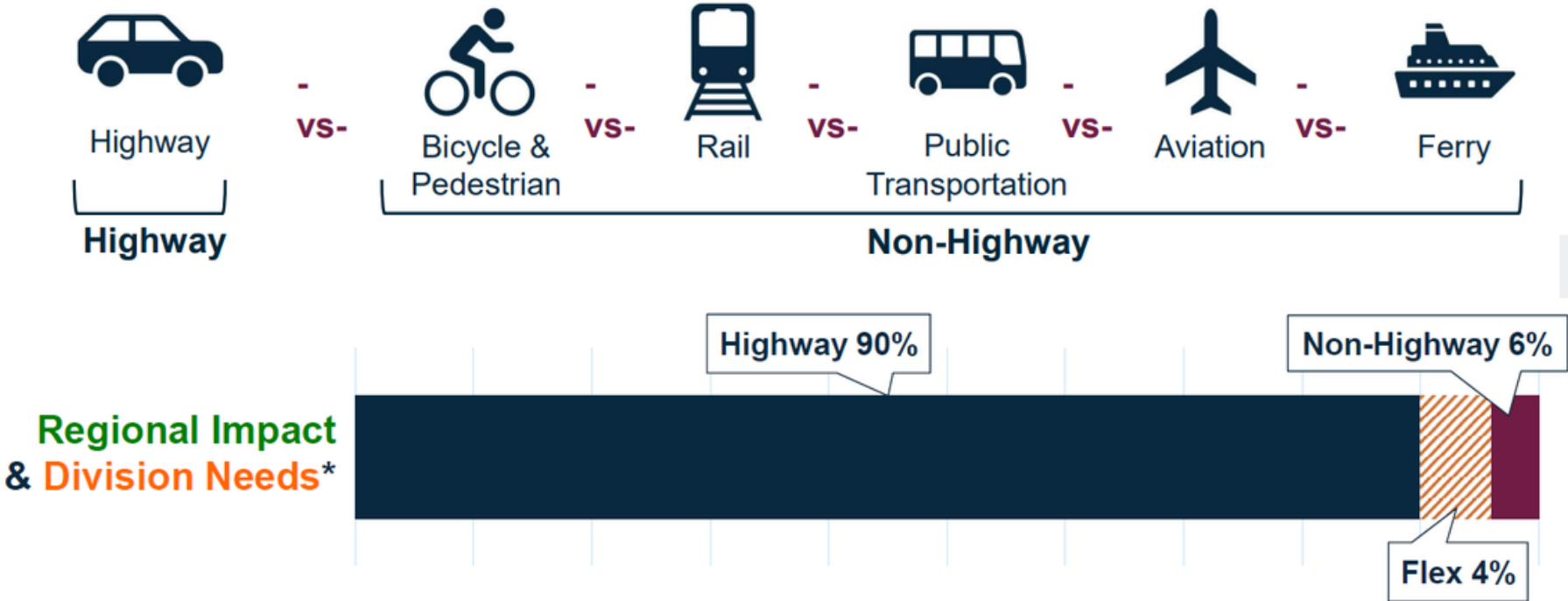
# How Do Construction Projects Get Funded?

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# Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Law - State Priorities

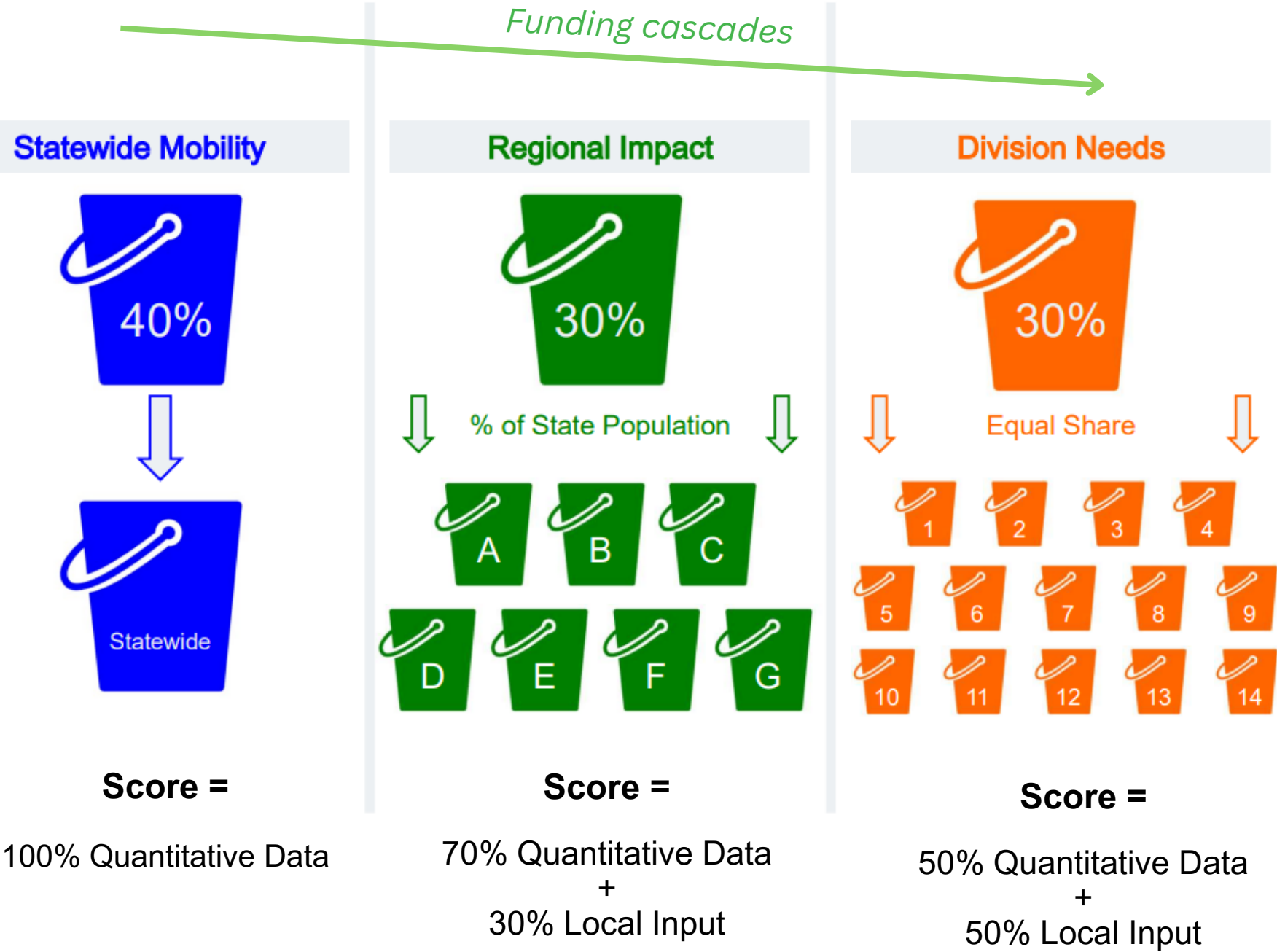
**Modal Allocation** = Allocation of funds between Highway & Non-Highway Projects



\***Statewide Mobility** – No modal allocation, competition based only on quantitative scores

- MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT submit their BEST projects (most competitive)
- Currently in 7th cycle (P7) which provides funding for projects for FY26-35 STIP

## STI Funding Distribution and Scoring





# Locally Administered Projects - Local Prioritization (competitive)

- Strategy for funding local projects that are less likely to receive SPOT funding
- Projects scored based on MPO federal funding policy
- Requires at least 20% local match (general rule of thumb for federal funds is 80% federal/20% local)
- New projects are scored differently from existing projects
- Revisions to policy coming soon

80 | 20

## Competitive Scoring Criteria

10	Connectivity
10	Access to Transit
10	Population and Employment Density
30	Project Phase
10	Local Priority
15	Environmental Justice and Equity
15	Safety
15	Emission/VMT Reduction
115	TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE

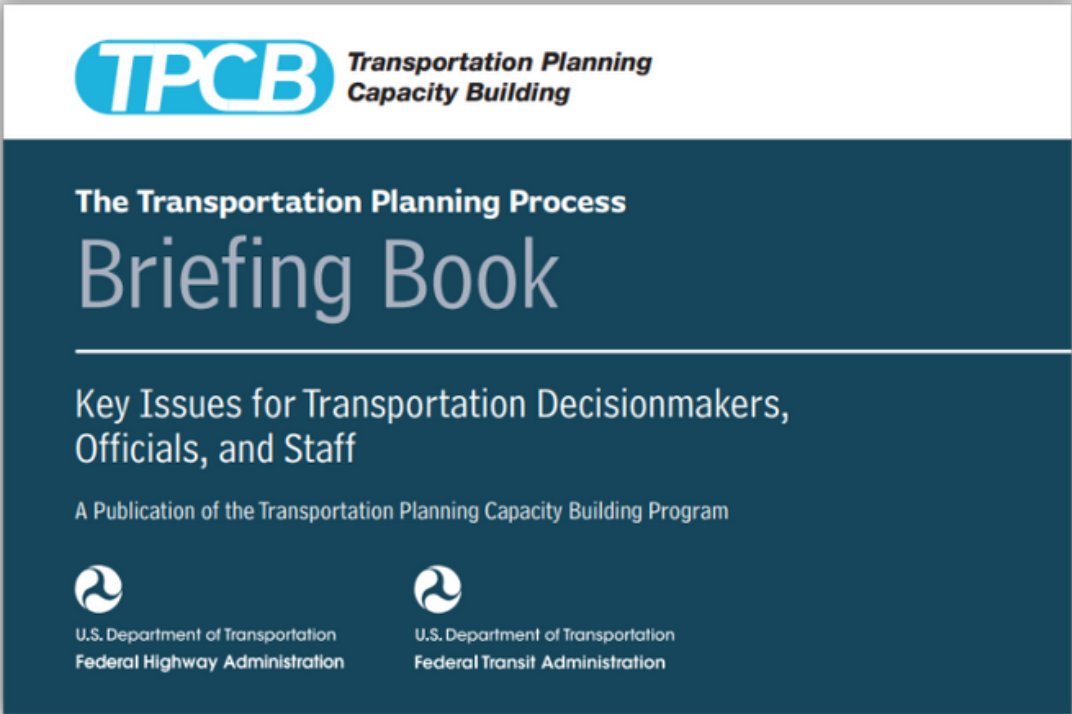


# How Do I Share What I Have Learned?

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# Spread the Word (and some additional perspectives)

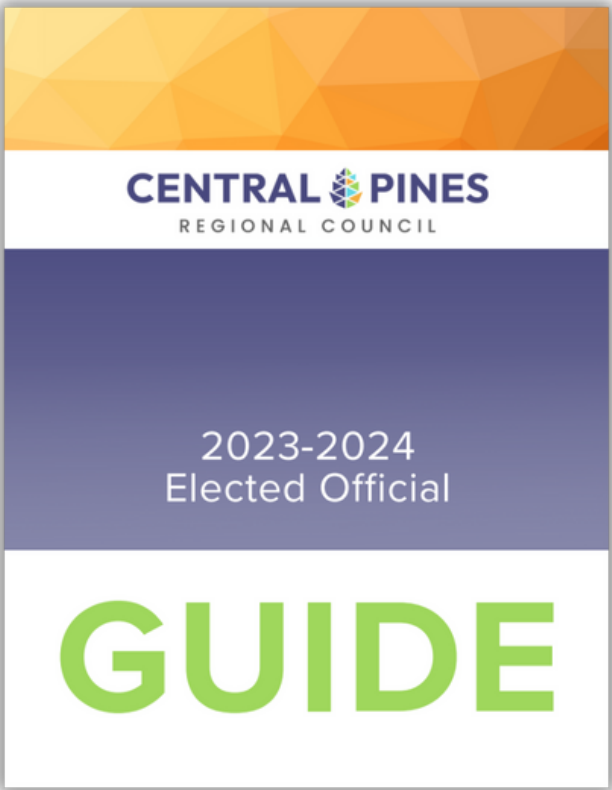


Find this presentation on our website

 <https://www.dhcmmpo.org/who-we-are/overview>



Learn more about  
Central Pines and stay  
tuned for an updated  
guide coming soon



Watch a video or read  
the 12-page document





# Thank You!

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**Kelly Richard**



**Kelly.Richard@dchcmpo.org**



**919-503-4119**