

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, May 2, 2022

9:00 A.M. Work Session

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, second floor, Durham County Government
Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chair Brenda Howerton, Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs, and Commissioners Nida Allam, Nimasheena Burns, and Heidi Carter

Presiders: Chair Brenda Howerton

Citizen Comments

The Board of County Commissioners provided a 30-minute comment period to allow Durham County citizens an opportunity to speak. Citizens were given the option to deliver their Citizen Comments in-person or virtually via email to the Clerk no later than Sunday, May 1st at 12 noon.

Erik Landfried, Transit Equity Campaign Manager at Bike Durham, discussed the Durham FY23 Annual Transit Work Program. He spoke in support of the following: 30-minute night and Sunday bus service on Route 9; Crosstown Route; improvements to Durham Station; increasing number of bus stops constructed; sidewalk connections between bus stops; three new FTE positions at the City. He encouraged the Board to consider the following improvements: implement better procedures to increase accountability in the plan; and make the work program more user friendly for the public.

Macio Carlton, Deputy Clerk to the Board, read the following Citizen Comment submitted via email:

DeWarren K. Langley

"Good Morning!

How much longer must boys and young men of color in Durham wait? I urge maintaining the My Brother's Keeper Manager position to collaboratively and strategically work with local agencies and community-based nonprofits to oversee policy and program implementation, pursue funding streams and develop a comprehensive sustainability model for MBK Durham.

I am reaching out to again advocate for the creation of a My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Durham Advisory Board to provide the leadership and accountability required for a robust collective impact strategy that can transform the quality of life of boys and young men of color. In addition, I ask commissioners to direct staff and Dr. Sowell to support a revised Boys & Young Men of Color (BYMOC) Local Action Plan for Durham County by a cross section of stakeholders to improve coordination, strengthen collaboration & shared responsibility, and systemic reforms with clear goals, measurable outcomes and timeframe to inform the collective

impact strategy in partnership with the City of Durham and Durham Public Schools Board of Education.

With the creation of the Board and revised Local Action Plan, we have the opportunity, when implemented, have an aligned and sustainable ecosystem that improves education, health, employment outcomes while reducing the likelihood of justice involvement.

We want BYMOC to define their futures and thrive not merely survive. We want them competent, engaged, prepared and empowered to compete for the career opportunities present and future that will define the workforce in Durham.

According to data from Durham Police Department, over 95% of the city's gun violence victims and perpetrators are black boys and young men. According to academic achievement, proficiency and discipline data from Durham Public Schools, boys of color, specifically black boys, have the lowest percentage that met minimum grade level proficiency and college and career readiness while also having the highest short- and long-term suspensions and dropout since 2015. Unfortunately, the most juvenile petitions and confinements at the Youth Home have consistently been black boys. We have a systemic problem that requires a systemic strategy.

We are not doing enough to educate, equip and empower boys and young men in color (BYMOC) in Durham! The data shows we are failing them, and they deserve better!

Similar to the Durham Early Childhood Action Plan and Durham Master Aging Plan commissioned by the Durham Board of County Commissioners, we need the Durham Board of County Commissioners to actualize and operationalize it's commitment to boys and young men of color by directing the new County Manager to create the My Brother's Keeper Durham Advisory Board and a revised Boys & Young Men of Color Local Action Plan to build and sustain a transformative ecosystem to serve as a living, breathing document that guides work, is reported out on and is assessed and evolved as necessary.

While I understand the administration is engaging in an operational assessment of MBK Durham to conduct an analysis that evaluates operations and processes to identify opportunities for improvement, stakeholder engagement is essential if we are to ensure MBK Durham has the leadership, governance structure and community support to build and sustain an ecosystem that provides responsive services that ensure boys of color enter school ready to learn, reading at level, graduating from high school ready for college and career, completing postsecondary education or training and successfully entering the workforce.

The Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation, Inc. will continue to work tirelessly to ensure boys and young men of color in our Young Men of Excellence Program and Career Pathway Program gain the skills, experiences, and support that will empower them to reach their potential through education and training to achieve career success and economic stability and mobility.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the administration to coordinate this effort for this critical and important work to begin without further delay.”

Discussion Item

22-0266 Opioid Settlement Funding Focus Discussion

The Board was requested to receive a presentation that was recently shared at the April 2022 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) - Funding Strategy Summit titled “Opioid Settlement Funding Focus.”

Kevin Leonard, Executive Director of the NCACC, and Amy Bason, Deputy Director and General Counsel, shared the actions and discussions that needed to happen to turn the tide of the opioid epidemic. They also provided an overview of the following:

- Direction on the action county governments needed to take now in order to begin receiving settlement funds
- Evidence-based, high-impact strategies for treatment included in Option A of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Mr. Leonard discussed the legal fees, the \$2 billion national attorney fee fund, and Surry County’s hiring of an employee to focus on the opioid issues and crisis.

Discussion was held regarding the strong foundation Commissioner Fred McClure, Past-President of the NCACC, laid for this work and the McKinsey settlement with the State—the General Assembly would decide how to appropriate those funds, but they were obligated to use the funds on opioid related issues.

Mr. Leonard noted County Assembly Day was June 14th.

Directives:

- **Staff to return to the Board with recommendations on how to get organized to spend the money from the opioid settlement**
- **Staff to provide the Board with more information including a visualization showing which areas were most affected by the opioid epidemic—this could help target funds to where it was most needed.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with a presentation on existing programs currently offered by Durham Joins Together partners and information as to which other areas needed additional funding.**

Consent Agenda

The Board was requested to review the following Consent Agenda items for the May Regular Sessions.

22-0234 Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 22BCC00088 Department of Social Services (DSS) to reallocate \$259,406.00 of DSS FY 2021-22 Funds Across Functional Areas to Purchase Seven (7) Toyota Highlanders for DSS Fleet

County Manager Sowell acknowledged the many staff discussions regarding vehicle purchases of hybrid versus electric. She stated the County was not quite ready for a fully electric-only fleet, but it was the goal.

Motiryo Keambiroiro, Director of General Services, confirmed all seven vehicles were hybrid.

Directive: Staff to include that all seven vehicles were hybrid in the AAF.

22-0243 Utility Locating Services Contract Amendment with Taylor, Wiseman & Taylor Inc.

Peri Manns, Assistant General Manager, confirmed all purchases were self-funded by the enterprise fund.

Directive: Staff to include information noting this expense was covered by the enterprise fund in the AAF.

22-0254 Budget Amendment No.22BCC00087 and Capital Project Amendment No.22CPA00026 Appropriating \$250,000 of Debt Service Fund Fund Balance to expand the proposed 300 East Main St. Childcare Facility by Approximately 4,000 square feet to Add two Pre-K Classrooms and Expand Capacity from 58 children to 86 children; Transferring \$250,000 of Debt Service Fund Fund Balance to the PAYGO Fund, and using the PAYGO Funding to Increase the 300 E. Main St. Capital Project (4730DC150) Budget by \$250K to Cover Increased Construction Contingency Costs; as well as Authorize the Increase of the Owners Construction Contingency for the C, M @R contract to LeChase Construction by \$250,000 for a Total Construction Contract Not-To Exceed Amount of \$20,789,669 for the 300 E. Main St. Structured Parking Deck

Mr. Manns confirmed staff planned on hosting a grand opening ceremony in honor of the deck completion and recognition of the project in whole. The affordable housing construction (to begin in June) would overlap the completion of the deck. Vice-Chair Jacobs wanted to recognize not just the deck, but also the affordable housing and Pre-K aspects of the project.

Mr. Manns discussed the commencement of 500 E Main St mixed-use development; construction was scheduled to begin on June 1st. Visitors would need to access the 500 lot via Elizabeth Street and enter the Human Services Complex via the Dillard Street entrance. He noted 104 parking spaces would be made available to the public.

22-0264 Budget Ordinance Amendment No 22BCC00090 Appropriating \$80,000 of General Fund Fund Balance for the Durham Youth Home to Offset Higher Than Expected Use of Out-of-County Facilities

Angela Nunn, Youth Home Director, discussed the reduced capacity at the Youth Home since 2020 due to the pandemic and staff shortages. Around six of 14 staff positions were usually vacant.

Ms. Nunn addressed questions regarding the competitiveness of Durham County's salaries. Durham County had better salary levels than the State but Guilford and Mecklenburg Counties had higher starting salaries.

Commissioner Burns noted, for the public, that the high crime rate in Durham was also a factor even with all the diversion services offered in Durham. A very high percentage of offenders were Black boys and some crimes were very serious in nature.

Ms. Nunn announced that there were currently seven juveniles held in out-of-county facilities, not 12 as shown in the AAF.

There were no questions regarding the items below:

22-0229 Interlocal Agreement with Durham Public Schools regarding participating in Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage Program to Meet Renewable Energy Goals

22-0232 City County Planning Department FY23 Work Program

22-0242 Utilities Division Contract Amendment with Veolia Water Technologies Inc.

22-0253 Authorization for Execution of a CSX Transportation Encroachment Agreement

22-0257 Sole Source Exemption for Purchase of Compactor at the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant

22-0258 Approving an increase of \$258,000.00 in the maximum construction limit for Resolute Building Company for the Administration Building Refurbishment Project (4730DC137)

22-0259 Execution of an Amendment to the Architectural Design Service Contract with DTW Architects and Planners, Ltd. for the Administration Building Renovations Project No.: DC 137

22-0263 Replacement of HVAC Package Unit at General Service's Warehouse using Existing CIP Funds

Discussion Items

22-0246 Transit Plan Governance Study Update

In 2011, Durham County approved a county-wide transit plan, which included the development of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DO LRT) project. In 2013, an interlocal agreement (ILA) was developed and approved by the Board of Commissioners, DCHC MPO Board, and GoTriangle Board of Trustees. Upon the discontinuation of the DO LRT project, a new governance framework was necessary to guide the implementation of future county transit plans in Durham and Orange counties.

Project goals included:

- Creation of a clear, operationally efficient governance structure that ensured Durham County priorities were funded and implemented with County transit taxes and fees.
- Formation of new levels of accountability—which included development of an equitable set of processes—seeking to gain further community trust.

In the fall of 2021, members of the Board, as well as members of the GoTriangle Board of Trustees and DCHC MPO Board and staff, participated in initial small group interviews. From those interviews, the team learned about overall needs. The study process continued to allow for a facilitated workshop with elected officials from each of the transit plan governing boards in November 2021. These needs were defined through five overall elements to be incorporated into a new governance framework: Representative, Equitable, Collaborative, Transparent, and Accessible.

Staff from all three parties to the existing governance framework and municipal transit operators in Durham and Orange counties attended a joint workshop in March 2022. This workshop

focused on critical elements that informed the foundation of a new ILA. Discussion focused on multiple alternatives of critical elements that comprised of the following four areas: Membership, Voting Structures, Financial Planning, and Program & Plan Development.

During the spring of 2022, staff and agency management would review draft governance framework alternatives through an updated Interlocal Agreement between the County, DCHC MPO, and GoTriangle, as well as draft supportive policies and procedures (updated Staff Working Group Bylaws, Financial Policies, incorporating plan implementation administration/management elements throughout). County staff expected draft alternatives would be formed into a final ILA in partnership with cooperating agencies and to the Board in Fall 2022 for approval.

Adam Howell, AICP, Atkins, clarified the major changes relating to voting.

Mr. Howell and Ellen Beckmann, Durham County Transportation Manager, discussed the amount of detail that could be included in the plan and noted it was ultimately up to staff. Staff was encouraged to look at the Connect 2050 plan.

Chair Howerton expressed concerns shared by the public regarding the lack of clear, accessible information for funding—it was difficult to determine what the County, City, or GoTriangle were each supposed to fund. Ms. Beckmann clarified that the governance plan only focused on county taxes and fees related to Article 45.

Ms. Beckmann discussed the Board’s current role in the annual Work Program and budget approval process and stated the recommended language would change the Board’s role to an approver role rather than only being notified. The recommended language would provide:

- The County first opportunity to consider approval of the Annual Work Program as recommended by the Staff Working Group.
- County would have oversight to ‘Approve,’ or ‘Deny.’
- Upon Approval, GoTriangle BOT would receive County Work Program (which includes budgets).
- GoTriangle would not be able to make any changes, but could approve or deny while producing a list of Significant Concerns or technical issues

Ms. Beckmann described the Work Program process timeline and noted Board feedback should be provided within a month (at the latest) to allow staff time to make any changes.

Commissioner Carter wanted to hear more details regarding what would be done if there were conflicts between the Board and GoTriangle. She requested more information regarding what 153A mandated in terms of county responsibility for transit that should be supported by property taxes.

Mr. Howell provided some insight into the alternative perspective and shared staff’s concerns regarding how it could impact the plan timeline for how the information was processed, developed, and presented.

22-0248 Presentation of Material Changes to the 2017 Durham County Transit Plan and Draft Durham FY23 Annual Transit Work Program

Aaron Cain, DCHC MPO Planning Manager and Staff Working Group Administrator, presented the Board with a presentation on the Draft Durham FY23 Annual Transit Work Program and proposed material changes to the current Durham Transit Plan.

As part of the appropriations process for the Durham County Transit Plan (Transit Plan), an annual Work Program was developed which produced a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. During the development of the FY23 Durham County Transit Plan, several items that were to be incorporated into the preferred scenario were proposed to be incorporated into the Durham FY23 Annual Transit Work Program. Per the interlocal agreement (ILA) that governed the Transit Plan, and/or per the request of the Durham Staff Working Group (SWG), the following items were considered “material changes” and must be approved by all three governing boards of the ILA in order to be incorporated into the FY23 Work Program:

- North Durham improvements on the GoDurham Route 9/9A/9B and new crosstown service;
- Durham Station improvements;
- Increased funding for Durham bus stop improvements; and
- New Paratransit Maintenance Facility.

The Durham County Board of Commissioners would consider a vote on this item during their Monday, May 23rd Regular Session. The DCHC MPO Board would review this request on May 11th and consider a vote on June 8th. The GoTriangle Board of Trustees would review this request as part of its consideration of the FY23 Work Program when it voted on the budget at its June 22nd meeting.

While the material changes to the Durham Transit Plan must be approved by the Boards of all three parties to the ILA, per the ILA, only the GoTriangle Board of Trustees had the authority to approve the annual Work Program. The Durham Board of County Commissioners was requested to provide input on the draft FY23 Work Program on May 9th.

In terms of three FTEs being requested by the City before the study’s completion, Mr. Cain clarified that there were a number of capital needs and projects that needed to be designed, managed, and constructed; the request was assuming a hiring date of October 1st. Chair Howerton expressed concerns regarding this process and believed the FTEs should be inside of the plan. Mr. Cain confirmed there was no policy in the ILA or any governing document regarding requests for staff—staff may be requested by any agency as long as it did not trigger a material change.

Ms. Beckmann reviewed the memo containing her recommendations on the Transit Plan amendment. She recommended a 50-50 cost share with the City for the requested three FTEs as well as for other transit project elements.

Discussion was held regarding the need to ensure collective partnership between the City and County via a community driven conversation.

Commissioner Burns spoke about the bus stations and sidewalk issues and stated those needed to be a priority. She also advocated for adding schools to the bus routes.

Regarding whether the Commuter Rail was accessible via bus stops along the Commuter Rail stops, Mr. Cain discussed the formula used by GoTriangle to create bus routes and noted the Commuter Rail was not yet incorporated into the formula because it was still in the air as to whether it would be constructed.

Mr. Cain confirmed bicycle lanes were not a part of the Transit Plan conversation—there were other funding sources for bike lanes, but Transit Plan revenue had not been used for this purpose.

Mr. Cain clarified that the \$4 million in bus improvements was for the design stage of the Fayetteville and Holloway projects.

Vice-Chair Jacobs challenged the City to find and designate more money for sidewalks.

Directives:

- **Staff to provide the Board with information regarding what it would cost to fund all “must have” projects, the most appropriate source of funding for each of them, and what were the fair ways to share the costs between the County, City, GoTriangle, and any other funding sources available.**
- **Aaron Cain to request the City provide the Board with more information regarding the request for three FTEs—information to include the rationale for the request, what currently existed, and the gap that would be filled with the three FTEs.**
- **Staff to add the May 10th Work Program Public Comment event to the County Manager’s blog and PIO staff to add the event to their calendar, Facebook, and any other social media to ensure the public was made aware.**
- **Staff to request a presentation from the City regarding transit emphasis corridors, City transportation plan, and the amount of funding the City was contributing.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with a status update on microtransit for Treyburn and the Northern Durham Tech campus.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with information regarding how much the City was contributing towards bus stops.**

22-0241 Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project Expenses

Chuck Lattuca, GoTriangle President and Chief Executive Officer; Katharine Eggleston, GoTriangle Chief Development Officer; and Sandra Freeman, GoTriangle Chief Financial Officer; provided the Board with a presentation from GoTriangle on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project Expenses.

The Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project was an element of the Durham County Transit Plan from 2011 until the project was discontinued in 2019. GoTriangle led the planning, design, and engineering effort. The presentation provides an overview of the history of the project, the Federal Transit Administration funding process, and a detailed report of the total project expenses and contracts.

Brenda Howerton spoke on the community's frustration pertaining to the length of time it took for this report to be published.

Commissioner Burns shared her concerns and asked information for the following:

- When the DO LRT project was terminated, it was announced that \$130 million had been spent for the project but the current presentation showed \$156 million was spent; what was the extra \$26 million spent on?
- Of the information and data gathered during the DO LRT project, was any of it being spent by GoTriangle on other projects or services? (Staff asked to provide response in writing.)

Mr. Lattuca confirmed staff could compile a list of municipalities who had requested and received information (whether it be seismic or site development information) from collected DO LRT data.

Staff was encouraged to consider other ways to get this information out to the community.

Regarding the property of 23.71 acres acquired for the project's Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility, the Board inquired as to the process to request that the property be sold and funds used for other transit projects. Mr. Lattuca discussed the process and noted a portion of the property could be kept for a future park-n-ride lot or other municipality needs.

Ms. Eggleston agreed to provide the Board and the public with more information regarding the properties owned by GoTriangle that were going to be used as station areas for the DO LRT. She noted the properties overlapped with Commuter Rail station areas.

Commissioner Allam discussed how the time invested into the DO LRT was also a considerable loss and wondered whether the roadblocks and flaws—that eventually prevented the project from coming to fruition—were not apparent earlier on. Ms. Eggleston discussed the process of multi-billion-dollar projects with many stakeholders and how the federal grant process required certain checklists be completed at specific times and those early steps required significant investments in preparation for the next step. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and oversight contractors worked with project sponsors to evaluate risks to the project. One of the key items in the Federal Transit Administration's oversight process required critical agreements to be in place prior to the full funding grant agreement being awarded. The FTA expected project sponsors to work through the project development phase and engineering phase to get those critical agreements in place. Ms. Eggleston described the take-away lessons GoTriangle learned and would be focusing on for future transit projects.

Staff was encouraged to have information (a statement or two) ready regarding why the project was stopped as it might be a frequently asked question by the public.

Mr. Lattuca addressed questions regarding strategies GoTriangle was putting in place to increase their Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation and non-profit fundraising management for the Commuter Rail. Chair Howerton emphasized the importance of knowing that things could be done differently than they had in the past. Policies could be shifted to allow

for more DBE participation in the Commuter Rail. Ms. Freeman spoke on their research on the DBE situation.

Commissioner Burns discussed HUBs and DBEs and stated she wanted people to understand that even though there were 59 DBEs in Durham, it only meant that there were 59 companies that were on a list at the Department of Transportation not that there were only 59 companies in Durham that could actually do the work. The number was due to lack of proper outreach rather than competent, high-quality companies.

Vice-Chair Jacobs encouraged everyone to keep in mind the big picture: with large transportation infrastructure projects, there were many types of economic opportunities for the Durham community.

Directive:

- **Staff to create an informative “cheat sheet” (front and back) that could be handed out at town halls.**
- **GoTriangle staff to provide the Board and the public with more information regarding the properties owned by GoTriangle that were going to be used as station areas for the DO LRT.**

22-0193 Update on the Upper Neuse River Basin Association Efforts on Falls Lake Rules Readoption Process

The Board was requested to receive an update from Forrest Westall, Executive Director of the Upper River Basin Association (UNRBA) on the Rules Readoption Process for the Falls Lake Rules. The UNRBA was formed in 1996 to provide an ongoing forum for cooperation on water quality protection and water resource planning and management within the 770-square-mile Falls Lake watershed. Since 2011, the UNRBA focused on finding more productive ways to protect and improve the quality of the water in Falls Lake by controlling the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous that flowed into it. This included significant investment in water quality monitoring and modeling to better inform a reexamination of the Falls Rules. The update detailed some of the results of that reexamination and discussed the next steps in the Falls Rules readoption process.

Mr. Westall addressed questions regarding chlorophyll and algae.

Directive: Staff to send the presentation PowerPoint to the Board.

22-0260 Interlocal Agreement Renewal for Durham City-County Strategic Youth Initiatives

Lara Khalil, MPH, RD, Director City of Durham Office on Youth (OOY), and A’lice Frazier, MSN OOO Youth Engagement Officer, provided the Board with recommendations regarding the renewal of the City-County Strategic Youth Initiatives Interlocal Agreement with the City of Durham to support the renewal of City-County Strategic Youth Initiatives.

In 2017, Durham County entered a 5-year Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Durham to offer partial funding support for a joint Youth Initiatives Manager position—housed at the

City of Durham Office on Youth (OOY). The position was leading the work of the Strategic Youth Initiative and directing all OOO operations. The ILA expired on Jun 30, 2022.

Following numerous conversations with stakeholders, and internal discussion based on the finding of the Durham Youth Listening Project, the OOO was recommending a renewal of the ILA and an amendment to the current scope of work. A list of proposed amendments was provided below:

- Agreement Name: The renewed ILA would be named, “City-County Strategic Youth Initiatives”, instead of “City-County Youth Initiatives Manager Position” to reflect a broader scope of work.
- Scope of Work: The renewed scope of work would encompass three primary goals related to: Youth Engagement; Enhancement of Youth Services; and Celebrating Young People.
- Focus area-Ages: To maximize the initiatives resources and to have a more focused scope of work that allowed for greater attention to issues such as jobs and violence prevention, the ILA would prioritize ages 13-24 years.
- Focus area-Agencies: Executive coordination with youth serving providers in City and County departments and community organizations would be a key focus.
- Funding: The ILA renewal would include City and County contributions for the Youth Initiatives Manager position (\$70,000); Changes by Youth Ambassador program (\$21,000); and community grant funding programs (\$165,900). Some items were currently being reviewed as budget requests for FY23. In addition to the ILA, other contributions that supported youth goals were provided by the City and included OOO personnel and operations expenses. If all City and County FY budget requests were approved, the County’s contribution to the total budget would increase from 30.0% currently to 39.0% which included one-time funding for a community grants funding program.

The total request for Durham County funding in FY 2022-23 was \$256,900. Of this, \$165,900 was for one time funding for focus-area agencies. The net increase of this proposal was \$128,820 because the funds for the Youth Initiative Manager position (\$70,000) and awards from the Nonprofit Funding Program (\$58,080) were included in the FY 2021-22 budget.

- Reporting Schedule: Current schedule would remain in effect.
- Duration: The renewed ILA would begin on July 1, 2022 and auto-renew with a built-in check-in after three years for potential amendments.

The presentation included a summary of accomplishments and impact over the last four years and detailed the aforementioned recommendations for the ILA renewal. Specific strategies related to each of the three recommended ILA goals were highlighted.

Vice-Chair Jacobs expressed her concerns on how to scale this up and actively engage more youth in Durham.

Chair Howerton invited the OOO to present at a Joint City-County Committee meeting for further discussion.

Directive:

- **Staff to provide the Board with information regarding whether the OOO would work with the County to submit to the Carolina Cross 100.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with more information on the Ambassador Program.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with a status update on the Youth Commission.**
- **Staff to add language to the ILA regarding regular updates to the Board.**
- **Staff to provide the Board with more information regarding grant funding.**

22-0143 American Rescue Plan Act Update

The Board was requested to receive an update on the American Rescue Plan Act funds. The American Rescue Plan would deliver \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. Funding would also focus on infrastructure issues that faced communities including efforts to bring back jobs. Durham County would receive \$62,445,275.

ARPA funds could support several priorities including a public health response due to COVID-19, address negative economic impacts, replace public sector revenue loss, and fund premium pay for essential workers. The federal dollars could also address water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Funding had to be encumbered by 2024 with all invoices paid by 2026.

General Manager Claudia Hager presented the framework for ARPA allocation to occur over the next two years. The update included the proposed RFP timeline to ensure that fund allocations aligned with US Treasury guidelines. Staff was requesting the Board to suspend the rules to vote on the proposed ARPA allocation plan. Based on fund use, the allocation would be revised based on spending patterns and other resources that could become available to support priorities.

Commissioner Carter was in support of the framework and appreciated that it allowed flexibility. Ms. Hager discussed the rubric and clarified why the measure that awarded points for complexity did not give any points for projects that took longer than a year to implement.

Vice-Chair Jacobs spoke in support of the proposal and hoped the County made progress in terms of housing.

Ms. Hager described how staff was examining projects and determining whether it was appropriate to use ARPA funding to support them.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Jacobs, to suspend rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Allam, to approve the proposed ARPA allocation plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Jacobs moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tania De Los Santos", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Tania De Los Santos
Administrative Assistant