

CRTPO Locally Administered Funding Training  
Planning Program (PL, STP-Da, 5303)

1. What are PL funds?
  - a. PL Funds are allocated under Metropolitan Planning (PL) (23 U.S.C. 104(f) to carry out eligible transportation and transit planning activities as specified under 23 USC 134 (Highways) and 49 USC 5303 (Transit)
2. How are PL Funds allocated?
  - a. From FHWA. Prior to MAP 21, PL funds were allocated to the states based off of the total urbanized area population from the most recent decennial census. For MAP 21, allocation of PL funds was changed to be a percentage of the state's total apportionment based on the State's 2009 total Federal Funding apportionment (State's FY09 Metro Planning \$/State's total FY09 apportionment).
  - b. NCDOT allocates funding based on a formula developed in conjunction with the MPOs and approved by NCDOT and FHWA. It includes a base allocation of \$130k to each MPO with the remaining allocation divided by most recent census population. NC's FFY 2014 PL allocation was \$5,506,226. For the 2010 census, NC added two additional MPOs (New Bern and Grand Strand (Myrtle Beach)), however, MAP 21 did not add any additional funding for the new MPOs, or for NC's expanding urbanized area populations. As a result, NCDOT supplemented some MPOs PL funds with unused balances from other MPOs to ensure the 2014 and 2015 allocations did not fall below their FY 2013 allocations.
3. What can PL Funds be used for?
  - a. Eligible transportation activities under 23 USC 134 (Highways) include carrying out an ongoing transportation planning process, developing the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and developing the TIP. As an area over 200,000, CRTPO is also required to develop other planning products (e.g. Congestion Management Plan). MAP 21 is also adding additional planning requirements. Allowable activities are included in the MPOs annual work program and prospectus. Any activity related to project implementation (environmental planning, design, ROW, construction) is ineligible for planning funds.
  - b. Eligible transit planning activities under 49 USC 5303 (Transit) mirror those in 23 USC 134 with an emphasis on transit and reducing the use of single auto trips.
4. How does the MPO allocate PL Funds?
  - a. NCDOT provides funds to CDOT as the lead planning agency (LPA) for the MPO. CRTPO must use the funds to carry out the required planning activities and may sub-allocate those funds.
5. How are PL Funds administered?
  - a. Annual UPWP – PL funds are provided to the LPA through an ongoing agreement between the Department and the LPA developed by the Local Programs Management Office (LPMO). This agreement is updated periodically based on changes in Federal and State guidelines. The LPA, on behalf of the MPO develops an annual Work Program that

defines the planning activities that will take place during the fiscal year. The work program includes tasks carried out by the MPO staff as well as any funds sub-allocated to other members of the MPO. The MPO is responsible for ensuring that any sub-grantee is following the FHWA requirements. A new work plan is required for each new fiscal year.

- b. Invoicing – The LPA, on behalf of the MPO, invoices NCDOT based on expenditures incurred. Quarterly invoicing is preferred as it allows for the appropriate level of oversight and monitoring.
6. STP-DA funding for Planning
    - a. Planning - The MPO may program STP-Da funds for planning activities. STP-Da funds used for planning must be delineated separately from regular PL funds, but may be invoiced as a separate line item in the PL invoices. Once STP-Da funds are designated in the work program for planning activities, they can no longer be used for STP-Da projects.
    - b. Projects - STP-Da funds used for STP-Da eligible projects (project planning, ROW, Design and construction) must be set up and managed using a separate local project agreement managed by the LPMO in conjunction with the Division Office
  7. Useful Links
    - a. Compliance Supplements - <https://www.nctreasurer.com/slg/State%20Compliance%20Supplements/20.205-5-2013.pdf>
    - b. NCDOT MPO Administration Procedures – <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/Pages/TPManualsMPO-RPO.aspx>
    - c. FHWA Federal Guide to Programs - <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/projects.pdf#mp>
  8. Questions

