

DTOS59-14-RA-TIGER6
FY 2014 National Infrastructure Investments

FLOW

FREIGHT • LOGISTICS • OPPORTUNITIES • WORKFORCE

A Freight Mobility Plan for the Greater Charlotte Bi-State Region

TIGER Planning Grant Application

Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG)
Regional Planning Organization

TIGER Planning Grant Funding Request: \$315,000



Overview

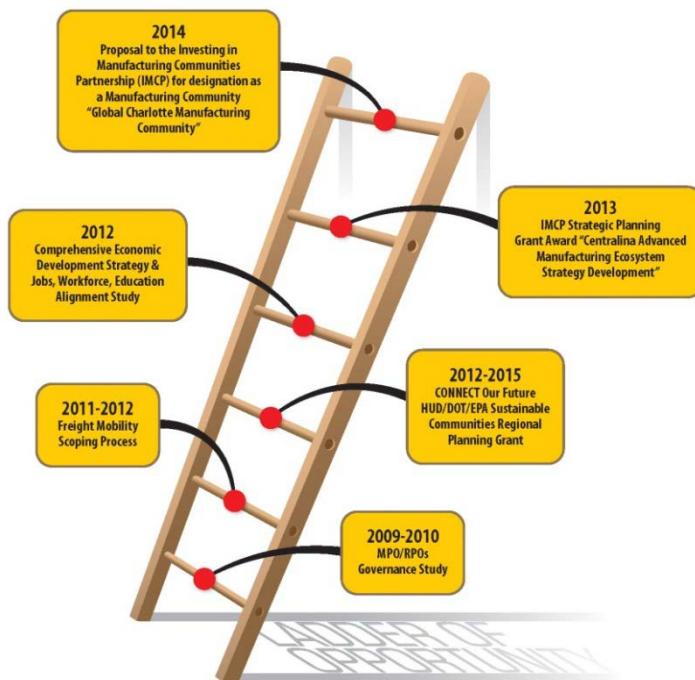
The 14-county Greater Charlotte Bi-State Region is embarking on a process to develop FLOW, a Regional Freight Mobility Plan that will integrate across the disciplines of transportation, land use, economic development, and workforce development. The Plan will include an assessment of our regional freight systems' capability to meet current and future needs of freight-related businesses. It will recommend strategies for each component of the system: transportation, land use, economic development, and workforce development.

The development of the Regional Freight Mobility Plan is expected to be a two-year process beginning early in 2015 with a \$600,000 budget. It will be overseen by a Steering Committee and conducted by CCOG with assistance from professional transportation consultants selected through an open procurement process. The Steering Committee will include representatives of private and public interests in transportation, land use and development, economic development, and workforce development. The project will be funded through a combination a federal grant and contributions from the MPOs/RPO, CCOG, local governments, and private businesses.



Identifying the Need for a Regional Freight Mobility Plan

The region has invested significant resources of time and money over the past several years in identifying the need for a Regional Freight Mobility Plan. With the release in 2012 of the Prosperity for Greater Charlotte report (identifying Logistics – the freight and distribution industry – as one of the region's top six industry clusters targeted for competitive economic growth) it is evident, now more than ever, that we need such a plan:



Many businesses in our communities depend heavily on our regional freight systems which include our highways, railroads, air cargo and intermodal facilities, as well as our freight-related workforce, and freight-oriented land use and zoning.

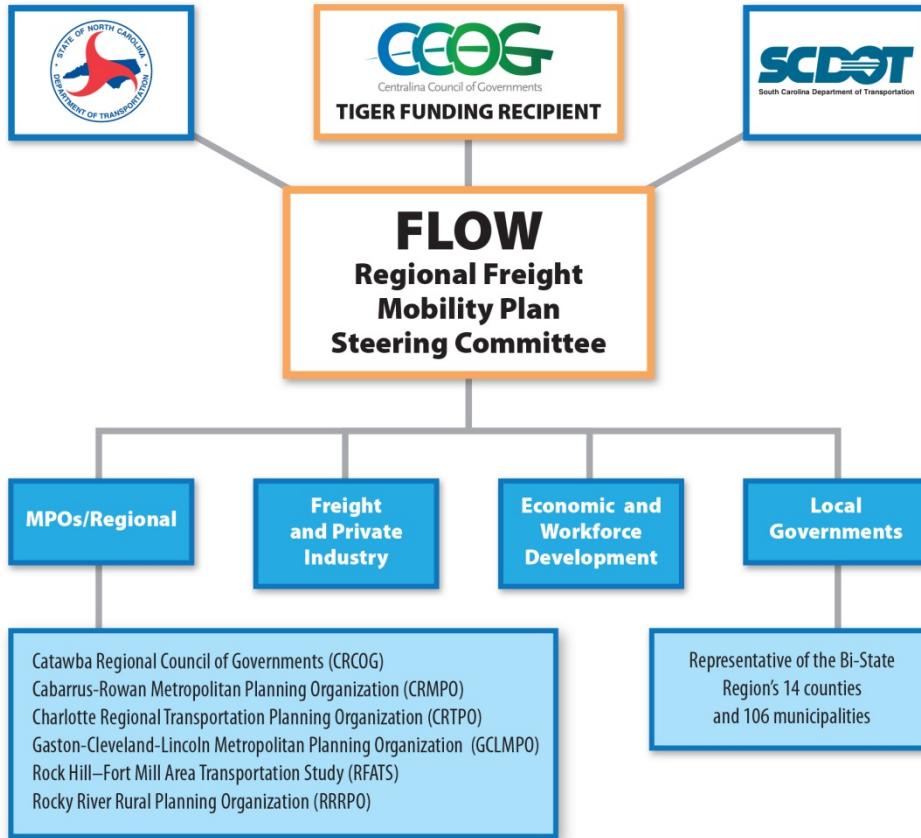
As our region grows, a Freight Mobility Plan will ensure that these systems grow in a coordinated and cost-efficient way to meet the needs of those businesses that are so critical to ensuring our region's future prosperity.

Companies whose business depends on efficient movement of freight will see smoother flow and fewer bottlenecks, a more reliable "talent pipeline" of workers with relevant skills, and more predictability in local ordinances governing freight-oriented land uses.

Key Partners: Centralina COG, Catawba Regional COG, CRTPO, CRMPO, GCLMPO, RFATS, RRRPO, City of Charlotte, CONNECT are collaborating with state and local governments and private sector organizations.

FLOW Steering Committee

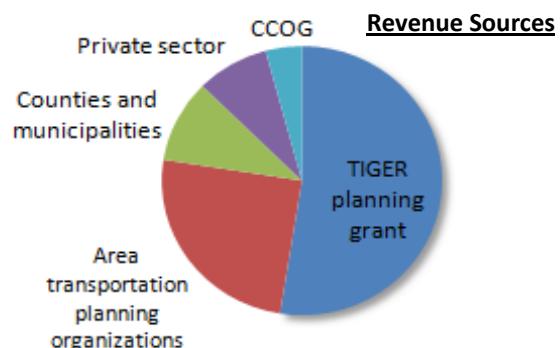
The Steering Committee will include representatives from the public and private sectors, and will oversee development of the Plan from January 2015 through December 2016. Members will provide guidance and direction to CCOG as the project manager, and will ensure that their constituents' interests are well-represented in the process and in the final recommendations, and that there is adequate buy-in for successful implementation of the resulting Plan. We anticipate the Committee will meet bi-monthly and at major milestones over the two-year time period.



FLOW Budget

The development of the Regional Freight Mobility Plan is estimated to cost \$600,000, including \$325,000 for a comprehensive Assessment and Gap Analysis, \$150,000 for Strategy Development, \$25,000 for Plan Writing and Presentation, \$25,000 for Steering Committee and Stakeholder Engagement, and \$75,000 for Project Management.

CCOG has applied for a \$315,000 TIGER Planning Grant and the region's MPOs and RPO have pledged \$150,000 toward the project. We need to raise a cost-match of \$60,000+ from local municipalities and counties, and \$50,000+ from local businesses and trade groups. CCOG has committed \$25,000 in staff time for project management.

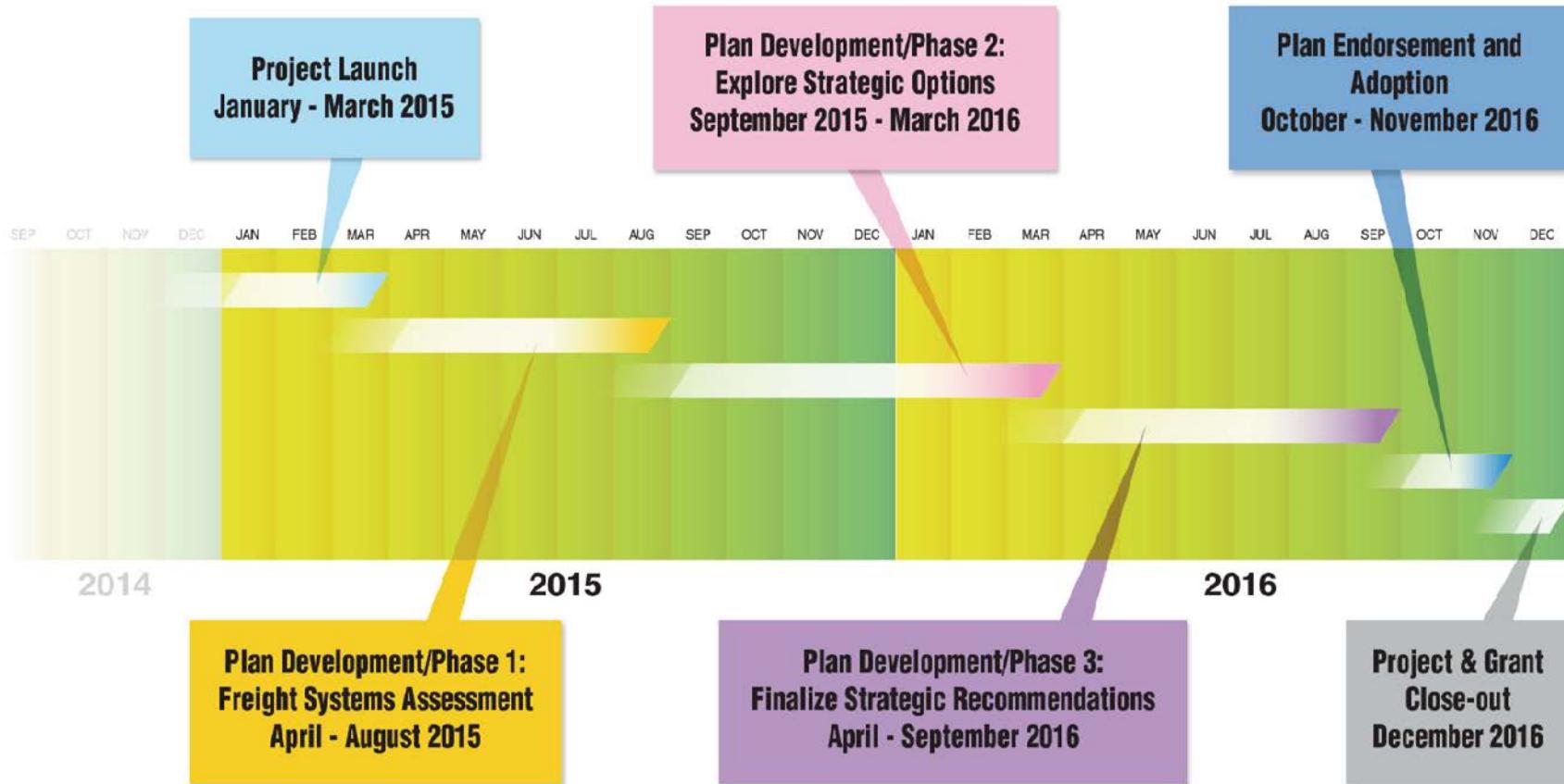


For More Information

To learn more about how to support this important project, contact Sushil Nepal, Centralina's Project Manager, at (704) 688-6509 or snepal@centralina.org. (CCOG: 525 North Tryon Street – 12th Floor, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, Phone: 704-372-2416 Fax: 704-347-4710, www.centralina.org)

FLOW: A Freight Mobility Plan for the Greater Charlotte Bi-State Region PROJECT TIMELINE

(Assumes grant award contract executed by end of 2014)



(Excerpted from the TIGER Grant Proposal: <http://www.centralina.org/regional-planning/transportation/freight/>)

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