

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

Monday, April 7, 2025

9:00 A.M. Work Session

**MINUTES**

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

Present: Vice Chair Dr. Mike Lee, Commissioners Michelle Burton, and Stephen Valentine

Excused: Chair Nida Allam and Commissioner Wendy Jacobs

Presider: Vice Chair Dr. Mike Lee

Zoom Hybrid  
Participants: 1

**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, virtually or via email to the Clerk no later than Sunday, April 6th at 12 noon.

James Chavis, spoke on disaster relief readiness in Durham County and invited Commissioners and the County Manager to attend a community meeting.

Brandon Love and Shanise Hamilton, spoke on expanding the HEART program to a 24-hour service and integrate HEART into Durham Public Schools.

Dewarren Langley, spoke on workforce readiness within the youth population and asked the Board for support of the Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation.

**Ceremonial Items**

**25-0188 Proclamation – Recognizing and Celebrating National Public Health Week 2025**

Commissioner Stephen Valentine read the following proclamation:

**RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK | 2025**

**WHEREAS,** the week of April 7, 2025, marks National Public Health Week, with the theme "It Starts Here," emphasizing the importance of making a positive impact on our homes, communities, and state; and

- A dramatic decline in HIV/AIDS-related deaths, with treatment advancements allowing many people with HIV to live full, healthy lives.

- A decrease in smoking rates from 25.5% in 1994 to 11.4% today through public awareness, smoking bans, and tobacco taxes.
- A reduction in childhood mortality, from 13.8 to 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, thanks to vaccines, improved healthcare, and better nutrition.
- Progress in mental health care, with more individuals receiving support thanks to expanded services and a growing understanding of mental health needs.
- A significant reduction in childhood lead exposure, from 4.4% to under 0.5%, due to important policy changes.
- Increased recognition of how environmental factors, like climate change, can affect health, with efforts like cooling centers and public health campaigns to address these concerns.
- Advancements in preparedness for health threats, including innovations like mRNA technology and global vaccine distribution; and

**WHEREAS,** it is recognized that certain communities continue to experience health challenges due to factors like access to resources, environmental conditions, and availability of healthcare services; and

**WHEREAS,** public health organizations use National Public Health Week to inform policymakers, professionals, and the public about ongoing efforts to improve health across the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** public health professionals play a vital role in supporting communities to prevent health issues, recover from emergencies, and promote long-term wellness; and

**WHEREAS,** ongoing support for public health efforts can help shift the focus from treating illness to preventing disease and encouraging healthy living;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Durham County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 7-13, 2025, shall be designated as

**“Public Health Week”**

in Durham County, and call upon all residents to observe this week by recognizing the contributions of public health in improving the health of our county and promoting overall well-being for all. "It Starts Here."

This 7th day of April 2025

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

**Consent Agenda**

The Board reviewed the following Consent Agenda items for the April 14, 2025, Regular Session meeting.

**25-0114 Approve Lease Agreement Between Bakers Dozen LLC and Durham County at Shoppes at Hope Valley for a 10-year term, with an Annual Lease Amount of \$30,250 and Annual Common Area Maintenance in the Amount of \$4,875, with Other Terms as Noted in the Attached Lease Agreement.**

**Directive:**

- Staff to include the total amount that comes from the term of the Lease.

**25-0123 Authorization to Enter into a Contract with Siemen's Industry for the Replacement of Fire Alarm Systems at Six Durham County Facilities in the Amount of \$335,149.00.**

**Directive:**

- Staff to provide the name of the facilities.

**25-0143 Execution of a Contract with Summit Design & Engineering Services, Inc. for Construction Materials Testing (CMT) and Special Inspections for the New Durham County Sheriff's Training Facility in the amount of \$128,550 plus ten percent (10%) contingency in the amount of \$12,855 for a total contract not to exceed \$141,405.**

Joel Jones, Project Manager, shared that the time frame for completion of the project was 24 months once construction started in May 2025.

**25-0181 Authorize the County Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Durham Governing the Development of a New Durham Cultural Roadmap by the Durham Cultural Advisory Board.**

Rebecca Holmes, Cultural and Arts Manager City of Durham shared that the Durham Cultural Roadmap was currently in phase two. She added that the plan would help support the Cultural Art Sector in Durham and MJ Consultants were contracted to help with the engagement phase.

**There were no questions regarding the items below:**

**25-0074 Award of Contract with Innovative Emergency Management (IEM) in the Amount of \$99,853 for the Joint City and County Crisis Communications Plan.**

**25-0103 Approval of Updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Durham Public Schools (DPS) for Shelter Sites.**

**25-1108 Approval of the Contract to Install a Partial Roof Replacement at Durham County Southwest Library Using Capital Funds Set Aside for the Purpose of Roofing Life Cycle Replacement in the Amount of \$71,000.**

**25-0116 Authorization to Execute Amendments to the Service Agreement and Cooperative Agreement for Participation in Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage Program in Alignment with the County's Renewable Energy Plan.**

**25-0138 Approval of Contract Amendment for Sanford Electrical Contractors, LLC, for Electrical Services in the Amount of \$19,504.97 Bringing the Total Amount to \$139,504.97.**

**25-0144 Approval of Sole Source Exemption for Utilities Division Purchase of Reclaimed Water System Compressor in the Amount of \$23,409.11.**

25-0146 Authorization of an Amendment to Design Contract with RND Architects, PA for Design Development and Construction Administration Services Related to the Durham County Sheriff's Training Facility (Project No. 4310DC091) in the Amount of \$186,000, plus approval of a 5% design contingency in the amount of \$47,425 for a Total Revised Contract Amount not to exceed \$995,925.

25-0153 Authorize the County Manager to execute a Standard Non-Reimbursable Utility Agreement and any other required documents for the Relocation and Upsizing of a Durham County Lift Station and Related Appurtenances for Lumley Road Multifamily.

25-0154 Approve and Authorize the Manager to Sign the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the County of Durham and City of Durham for the Purchase and Storage of Sodium Chloride (salt).

25-0156 Upgrade BAS Building Automation System with Schneider Electric for the HHS and Courthouse Buildings for the amount of \$774,045.00.

25-0163 Approval of Easement Deed to City of Durham for a Sidewalk Easement at 750 Stadium Drive.

25-0167 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 25BCC086 - Appropriate General Fund Fund Balance Totaling \$452,437.63 to Increase Expenditure Authority for the Sheriff's Office Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) grant and to Classify These Funds as Restricted.

25-0173 The Board is Requested to Approve the Department of Public Health (DPH) to Administratively Write-Off \$996,162.75 in Uncollectible Debt from Two Electronic Health Records (EHR) Systems No Longer in Use.

25-0180 Approval of Contract Amendment with Brame Specialty Company in the amount of \$100,000 for the Durham County Detention Center.

25-0183 Approve Acceptance of Impervious Surface Conservation Easement (19.302 acres, a portion of REID 237256 at 2421 Stagville Road) for Permanent Open Space.

25-0186 Approval of Subaward Agreement to Central Pines Regional Council in the Amount of \$142,799 to Implement the Client Intake Process and Manage Contractors Conducting Low-Income Residential Energy Efficiency Improvements and Minor Home Repair Associated with the Energy Burden and Emissions Reduction Program.

25-0187 Authorize the County Manager to execute a Subaward Agreement with the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association for \$49,820 to Provide Program Design and Support for the Energy Burden and Emissions Reduction Program.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Request to Suspend the Rules and Authorize the County Manager to Enter into a Contract with Premier Sports Lighting, LLC, in the Amount of \$535,000 for the Replacement and Upgrade of the Field Lighting System at Durham County's Memorial Stadium.**

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton, to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine, to authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with Premier Sports Lighting, LLC, in the amount of \$535,000 for the replacement and upgrade of the Field Lighting System at Durham County's Memorial Stadium.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **25-0140 Presentation from the Museum of Life + Science**

The Board received a presentation from the Museum of Life and Science which provided an update on capital projects, programs, and other informational items.

Carrie Heinonen, President, and CEO stated options were being explored on ways to better engage with youth. She continued to speak on programing targeted to youth in Durham like the annual North Carolina Youth Climate Summit, The Climate Exhibit and Black Excellence in Science.

Discussions were held regarding other sources of revenue for the museum. Ms. Heinonen shared membership offerings were a good source of revenue, and the addition of the gallery/coffee bar and Sprout Café also created additional revenue.

Ms. Heinonen answered questions pertaining to the Ignite Program that was offered by the museum. She stated the program addressed the opportunity gap by providing full membership benefits to thousands of families from communities traditionally underrepresented in STEM with close to 17,000 family visits, not including free County days.

#### **Directive:**

- **Museum staff to follow up with list of Durham elementary schools that utilize the 5<sup>th</sup> grade science program.**

### **25-0168 Presentation from Made in Durham on the BULLS Academies**

The Board received an updated presentation on the BULLS Academies from Made in Durham.

The goals of the BULLS Academy - Life Sciences were to align, strengthen and scale the current system which supported Durham residents in obtaining a life science credential and career that provided higher incomes, which were essential to their ability to create wealth, while scaling a dedicated track which provided Durham young adults with this transformational opportunity.

The BULLS collaborative engaged key institutions in the community which played a role in the current Education-to-Career system in a series of discussions to identify the most effective solutions. The goal was to learn how to scale best practices while also addressing the system's existing inequities, specifically for Durham's opportunity youth and young adults of color. The result was a BULLS System Scale Plan that identified the process for creating Academies within existing Durham Tech's industry certification programs designed specifically for these population groups by addressing those inequities in the design. Employing this process, the BULLS collaborative identified Biopharma Manufacturing as the most appropriate first industry sector to scale and create the BULLS Biotech Academy to support.

Casey Steinbacher, Executive Director of Made in Durham, stated data was specific to their target audience which allowed them to make decisions based on whether the cohorts worked. She continued to say 33 percent of students were employed after graduating through the program and could create additional dashboards to reflect the number of students who were employed and their salaries.

Ms. Steinbacher shared that all demographics were for students aged 18-25 years old of historically excluded populations and 96 percent of the students – both male and females, were people of color. She added an alumni association was created to keep the students actively engaged with each other.

**Directive:**

- **Staff to provide 2012 MDC report to the Board**

**25-0172 Presentations from Forward Cities and Knox Street Studios on Small Business Support Programming**

The Board received presentations from Magalie Yacinthe, Senior Director of Programs, Forward Cities and Lee Gray, Associate Director, Knox Street Studios, which provided an update on their ARPA-funded programs that support Durham entrepreneurs.

In September 2023, Durham County issued a Request for Proposal for a Small Business Support Program (RFP) to create and maintain a comprehensive entrepreneurial support system that provided targeted support for qualifying small business operating in Durham County. The two main priorities of the RFP were to establish and maintain an entrepreneurial support system for small business owners impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and provided targeted small business support for qualifying small business.

Funding for both awards were approved by the BOCC on December 11, 2023. The Forward Cities contract was approved on March 25, 2024, and the Knox Street Studios contract was approved on April 29, 2024. Both contracts had an end date of June 30, 2026.

Forward Cities intended to leverage their E3 Durham experience and the funding opportunity to scale the program by transitioning to a community-informed model that maintained the navigation function at no-cost to entrepreneurs.

Knox Street Studios programming and services prioritized technology companies and growth-stage companies (4-8 years in operation) while also supporting the broader needs of the ecosystem. A high-level summary of contracted services is listed below:

- Hosted Start-Up Weekends as part of the Early-Stage Accelerator cohorts that focused on topics ranging from Sustainability to Health and Wellness.
- Hosted the Support to Scale Incubator cohorts that included a Commercial Real Estate Track and a venture Capital Track.
- Digital Certification programming and support that included an 8-week cohort focused on AI skill development.
- Tech Skills Workshops and Industry Awareness Campaign that included Prototyping with AI and Building.
- Provision of 1:1 Counseling through Trusted Advisors.
- Access to Capital through third-party support.

Ms. Yacinthe answered questions pertaining to social capital and support services that local business owners utilize.

Ms. Gray also invited local business entrepreneurs to share their stories on the benefits they received from Knox Street Studios.

### **25-0182 Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan Preliminary Findings Update**

The Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan explored the 18-mile inactive rail corridor from Downtown Durham north to the Person County line, that started October 2024. The first round of public engagement, research and analysis was completed. Eric Woolridge, Director of Planning and Business Development, Destination by Design, presented results of the community engagement planning phase and highlighted preliminary findings such as key connections and potential complementary project opportunities.

Mr. Woolridge discussed the community engagement survey results and highlighted the desired trail use activities, trail surface type and future trail use frequency. He also shared the top four trail amenities which included public restrooms, trailheads, rest areas with benches/shade, directional signage and the top for trail connection destinations that encompassed other trails or greenways, parks, main streets/downtown areas and neighborhoods.

The overall level of support of the 2713 respondents were as follows: 71 percent strongly supported, 10 percent supported, and 15 percent strongly opposed the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan. The main concerns with the survey respondents were safety, long-term sustainability and amenities.

Mr. Woolridge listed the five geographical planning sections that included Downtown Durham, Braggtown, Two Rivers, Bahama and Rougemont. He reviewed potential complementary project opportunities for each section of the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan that included draft project opportunities, proposed trail connectors, road crossings and stream crossings.

The next steps for this project were the plan development, a second round of public engagement and the Final Plan Report presented to the Board by October 2025.

Ellen Beckmann, Transportation Director, Durham County, answered questions pertaining to the Feasibility Study and Federal Funding for the project. She explained that 80 percent of the funding came from Federal Funding and 20 percent came from local government and grants.

**Directive:**

- **Staff to add City of Durham PACs, Peoples Alliance and Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People to their public engagement email list.**

**25-0189 Presentation on the Durham County Naming/Renaming Policy**

Shannon Trapp Chief of Staff shared a presentation on the Durham County Naming/Renaming Policy that was adopted in 2016. Ms. Trapp discussed the regulations of the Renaming Policy listed below:

- No entire building can be named for an individual, only features, areas, spaces, rooms, articles located within a Durham County facility.
- The authority to name, rename or revoke a name is vested in the Durham County BOCC.
- Requests must be made via application.
- Applications are reviewed via the Naming Committee which reviews the application and makes a recommendation to the BOCC.
- The BOCC reviews and approves the recommendation or makes its own recommendation
- Once approved, the recommendation goes to public hearing to discuss and receive public comment.
- Following the public hearing, the BOCC votes on naming/renaming.

The Board stated that this item was being discussed due to community interest in naming/renaming a Durham County building after former Durham Commissioner and former Durham Mayor William “Bill” Bell.

Commissioner Valentine stated that renaming a Durham County building would be an extraordinary exception to the policy, and he requested that the Board worked outside of the purview of the existing policy to approve the request.

Larissa Williamson, County Attorney, requested that the Board keep in mind the precedent and the criteria the Board set forth.


Vice-Chair Dr. Mike Lee stated that this matter would be further discussed at a future meeting when all the Commissioners were in attendance.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine, to adjourn the Work Session meeting at 1:35 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Georgina Nicole Moreno  
Administrative Assistant