



### **Agenda Action Form Overview**

The Board is asked to receive a presentation on the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan from the project consultant, Destination by Design, and provide feedback on the preliminary findings. No formal action is required at this time.

### **Background**

The Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan explores the 18-mile inactive rail corridor extending from Downtown Durham to the northern county line. This project aims to transform the rail corridor into a multi-purpose trail, connecting communities, enhancing local mobility, and providing opportunities for recreation. The project formally began in October 2024, and since then, the first round of public engagement, research, and analysis has been completed.

The initial community engagement process included three public workshops with over 180 participants and an online community survey that garnered over 2,800 responses. All outreach and engagement materials have been made available in both English and Spanish to ensure language accessibility. The results of this first phase of engagement, as well as preliminary findings related to key connections, potential complementary project opportunities, and other important elements, have been compiled.

### **Policy Impact**

The plan will further the County's Strategic Plan goal for Environmental Stewardship and Community Prosperity by increasing the use of environmentally preferred transportation options. Furthermore, the plan will also support the 2023 Durham Comprehensive Plan goal for safe, affordable, dignified, sustainable, connected, and physically accessible transportation to move around Durham. This study is consistent with recommendations made in the 2011 Durham Trails and Greenways Master Plan and 1991 Little River Corridor Open Space Plan.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan is funded through the Triangle West Transportation Organization's FY2025 work plan (also known as the Unified Planning Work Program) with a total cost of \$500,000. The plan is 80% funded by Surface Transportation Block Grant - Direct Allocation (STBG-DA) federal funds, which total \$400,000, and 20% funded by a local match of \$100,000. The local match is split evenly between Durham County, the City of Durham, and the East Coast Greenway Alliance, with each entity contributing \$33,333 (City of Durham and East Coast Greenway Alliance) and \$33,334 (Durham County). These funds are currently being used to support the planning and study phases of the project.

The Durham County Capital Improvement Program has included funding for development of this trail since at least 2006. The specific funding requirements for the corridor acquisition and construction of the rail trail, including design, implementation, and related infrastructure, will be assessed as part of this study. These future funding needs for the acquisition and construction phase will be evaluated and shared with the Board as the project progresses.



**Durham County Government**  
**Agenda Action Form Supplemental Document**  
**Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan: Preliminary Findings Update**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommend that the Board receive the presentation on the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Plan from Destination by Design, and provide feedback on the preliminary findings.