



Transportation

Date: February 2, 2026
To: Durham Staff Working Group
From: Brandi Minor, Staff Working Group Administrator, Durham County
Subject: FY26 Q3 Durham Transit Work Program Amendment

Background and Purpose

The Durham Staff Working Group (SWG) recommended releasing the following amendments to the FY 2026 Durham Transit Work Program (Work Program) for public comment at the meeting held on December 15, 2025. A summary of the amendments is as follows:

1. **Staffing Study** – Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization (Triangle West TPO) will lead the Staffing Study on behalf of the Durham and Orange Transit Plans. Both counties desire a standardized approach to administrative practices for charging staff time, which will allow for consistent and transparent reporting across agencies and help ensure that Durham and Orange Transit funds are used in accordance with statutory requirements. The staffing analysis will consist of three parts: (1) an analysis of existing positions funded (wholly or partially) with Durham Transit funds among all agencies; (2) an analysis of future staffing needs; and (3) a recommendation for Performance Metrics that can be used to evaluate new staffing requests and ongoing staffing levels. The cost of the study will be split equally between Durham and Orange counties. If Orange County cannot participate, the scope of work will be adjusted to focus solely on Durham County, and reimbursable expenses will be limited to Durham-specific activities.
2. **Staffing Study Personnel** – This amendment provides the necessary funding to support Triangle West TPO's staff time dedicated to the study. Funding for this project will only be provided in FY26 and FY27. At the conclusion of the study, this project will be closed, and any unused funding will return to fund balance.
3. **Route 800 Improvements** - GoTriangle requested funding for five additional revenue hours to provide sufficient cycle time, inclusive of run-time, schedule recovery, and layover time to account for increasingly variable and congested travel times. This request will provide additional resources to maintain on-time performance on Route 800 while still delivering frequency and span consistent with the Durham Transit Plan.

Public Engagement

The public comment period (December 16, 2025 - January 6, 2026) was advertised on Durham County's Staff Working Group website and social media outlets. No comments were received during the engagement period. As these amendments are technical in nature, the SWG-Admin did not anticipate receiving many comments during the engagement period.

Issues and Analysis

Due to slower revenue growth, limited funding for new projects, and numerous new funding requests for the upcoming FY27 Work Program, Durham County staff opposed the Route 800 Improvements amendment. While the initial request appears relatively modest, its cumulative impact from FY26 through FY40 totals approximately \$3.7 million. Durham County staff recommended deferring the request and reviewing it alongside other FY27 funding priorities, emphasizing that approving it now would create an unfair advantage.

Ultimately, the Route 800 Improvements proposal did not receive sufficient support to advance for governing board approval.

SWG Recommendation

On January 21, 2026, the SWG voted 3-1 to recommend approval of the Staffing Study and Staffing Study Personnel amendments. These amendments are scheduled for consideration by the Durham Board of County Commissioners on February 2, 2026. GoTriangle's Audit and Finance Committee will review them on February 4, 2026, followed by final review and approval by the GoTriangle Board of Trustees on February 25, 2026.

Financial Impact

The proposed amendments, if approved by the BOCC and GoTriangle Board of Trustees, will increase the FY 2026 Durham Transit Work Program by \$200,758. The Work Program consists of Transit Plan funds that are incorporated into the GoTriangle budget and are separate from the Durham County budget. No County funds are needed for these amendments, and all funding will be reimbursed by GoTriangle via the Durham Transit Plan.

Agency	Project Title	FY26 Original Funding	FY26 Requested Funding	FY26 Funding Impact
Triangle West TPO	Staffing Study Personnel	\$ -	\$ 17,188	\$ 17,188
Triangle West TPO	Staffing Study	\$ -	\$ 183,570	\$ 183,570
				\$ 200,758

Action Requested

The SWG requests the Durham County Board of County Commissioners to approve the FY26 Q3 Durham Transit Work Program Amendment.