

FY27 Annual Transit Work Program Budget Priorities

SUMMARY

The draft FY27 Work Program is the annual budget for the Durham County Transit Plan. It reflects the most recent revenue projections from the Tax District Administration and includes both the Multi-Year Operating Program (MYOP) and Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which outline planned operating and capital investments through FY40. A financial model, also maintained by the Tax District Administration, ensures the plan follows adopted financial policies, including reserving at least \$10 million in available funds.

Because projected revenues have decreased for the plan's largest funding source, the Article 43 half-cent sales tax, the Work Program largely represents a baseline or "status quo" budget. The lowest point in the financial model occurs in FY35, leaving only about \$5 million available for any new or expanded projects.

Even with these revenue challenges, project sponsors have identified important projects they would like the governing boards to consider funding in FY27.

PROJECTS



City of Durham, GoDurham Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility (BOMF) - Fay Street, Total Project Cost: \$60,739,010; Transit Plan Funding: \$17,500,000; Unfunded Cost: \$39,500,000

The GoDurham Fay Street BOMF project will expand and modernize the bus operations and maintenance facility to support a larger fleet, longer service hours, and the transition to electric buses. By relieving space constraints and improving parking, maintenance, and staff work areas, this project will strengthen service reliability and prepare the system for future growth. Funding is needed to advance these upgrades and keep Durham's transit network moving forward. The City has contributed roughly \$3.7 million to this project. In FY27, the approved Transit Plan funding will cover the full cost of Design; however, construction costs remain unfunded in FY28 and beyond.

City of Durham, Bus Operations Maintenance Paratransit Facility – Junction Road, Total Project Cost: \$39,092,272; Transit Plan Funding: \$10,492,272; Unfunded Cost: \$28,600,000

The Paratransit Junction Road BOMF project will expand our maintenance capacity so we can support a growing fleet and deliver more reliable service. By building a separate facility from Fay Street, this project reduces crowding, improves efficiency, and strengthens our transit system for future needs. With the Junction Road property already secured, funding is needed to move the project into construction and keep our paratransit services running strong. In FY27, the approved Transit Plan funding will cover the full cost of Design; however, construction costs remain unfunded in FY28 and beyond.

Durham County, Annual Work Program Improvements, **Total Project Cost - \$50,000**

Durham County is requesting funds to hire a consultant to develop a more efficient system for submitting Project Budget Sheets used in the development of the Annual Work Program. The current process is time-consuming and cumbersome for Durham County staff and partners. A streamlined, user-friendly system will reduce administrative burden and free up staff time to focus on delivering transit services more effectively. This is a one-time capital request that would be paid 100% from the Transit Plan.



GoTriangle, Route DRX Improvements, FY27 Request - \$639,027 **FY27 – FY40 Budget Impact: +\$4,386,750**

GoTriangle is requesting an additional \$265,559 in FY27, for a total of \$639,027, to fund half year, 30 minute weekday midday service on Route DRX. This improvement will provide faster, more reliable travel between Durham and Raleigh, reduce transfers, and build on the success of DRX improvements that boosted ridership by 25% in 2024. The request includes a 50% funding match from the Wake Transit Plan and continues previous investments that strengthened peak and off peak service on this key regional route. This is an ongoing operating project with an assumed 2.5% annual growth rate in the financial model. The cumulative increase for FY27-FY40 is \$4,386,750.

GoTriangle, Route 800 Improvements, FY27 Request - \$874,959 **FY27 – FY40 Budget Impact: +\$3,582,585**

GoTriangle is requesting an additional \$216,877 in FY27, for a total of \$874,959, to fund a full year of service improvements to keep Route 800 running on time while maintaining the frequency and span promised in the Durham Transit Plan. Route 800 is a key regional connection that continues to see strong growth and demand. As traffic along NC-54 and I-40 becomes more congested, additional operating hours are needed to ensure reliable travel between UNC Hospitals, Southpoint, RTP, and the Regional Transit Center. Continuing this funding, shared equally by Durham and Orange counties, is essential to keeping Route 800 dependable for riders traveling throughout this busy corridor. This is an ongoing operating project with an assumed 2.5% annual growth rate in the financial model. The cumulative increase for FY27-FY40 is \$3,582,585.

GoTriangle, Service Planning Staff, \$1,057,057, FY27 Request - \$75,426 **FY27 – FY40 Budget Impact: +\$1,056,057**

GoTriangle is requesting \$75,426 in FY27 to fund a new Service Planning Team. The team will be focused on developing and preparing new transit services funded by the Durham Transit Plan. This work includes coordinating with partners, riders, and the public; designing service changes; and completing required analysis and materials for governing board review. The team plans route alignments, stop changes, schedule updates, and expansion services, then monitors performance to keep service efficient and reliable. Service planning also includes data analysis, budgeting, and reporting to ensure transit improvements are delivered effectively and meet community needs. This is an ongoing operating project with an assumed 2.5% annual growth rate in the financial model. The cumulative increase for FY27-FY40 is \$1,056,057.



Triangle West TPO, SWG Participation, FY27 Request - \$70,823 **FY27 – FY40 Budget Impact: +\$461,812**

Triangle West TPO is requesting an additional \$27,956 in FY27, for a total of \$70,823, to fund the MPO's participation in the Staff Working Group, including meeting preparation, attendance, and follow-up by both the Planning Manager and Executive Director. MPO staff will also conduct the research, analysis, and reporting needed to fully support and engage in all SWG activities. This is an ongoing operating project with an assumed 2.5% annual growth rate in the financial model. The cumulative increase for FY27-FY40 is \$461,812.