



### **Agenda Action Form Overview**

The Board is requested to approve receipt of \$571,000 from Army National Guard as pass-through funding for Triangle Land Conservancy's (TLC's) acquisition and protection of 50 acres at 5017 Dunwoody Road (a portion of REID 192123).

### **Background/Justification**

Since the early 1990s, Durham County's Open Space Program has worked to protect habitats, water resources, farms, and forests, while providing land for nature-based recreation. To date, the County has permanently protected 4,192 acres—including 1,450 acres owned in fee simple and 2,742 acres under conservation easements.

Durham County has a long-standing partnership with the Army National Guard (ARNG) and Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) to protect a buffer around Camp Butner from dense residential development. In 2021, the County entered into a Cooperative Agreement with ARNG through [the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration](#) (REPI) Program, which provides federal funding to conserve land critical to military training operations. This agreement enables Durham County to receive and administer funds for land protection within a one-mile buffer of Camp Butner.

Through this partnership:

- In 2023, Durham County and TLC protected 177 acres within the buffer using REPI funds.
- In December 2025, Durham County purchased a conservation easement from Wesley Poole to protect 25 acres of farmland using ARNG funding.
- Durham County has also secured funding to protect an additional 40 acres with a conservation easement.

Durham County and TLC have a proven track record of collaboration, including joint efforts at Little River Regional Park, Hollow Rock Nature Park, and recent conservation projects near Camp Butner and along the Little River. This partnership is highly effective around Camp Butner because TLC is positioned to acquire land in fee for permanent conservation, while Durham County leverages funds to protect farmland and habitat through conservation easements.

Acting as fiscal agent for pass-through funds to TLC for the purchase of 50 acres within the Camp Butner buffer is consistent with the County's role under the 2021 Cooperative Agreement. It ensures that federal funds are documented and tracked appropriately, supports water quality protection and biodiversity, maximizes conservation without requiring the County to hold title, and preserves open space and critical natural resources.

### **Policy Impact**

The acquisition and protection of land for permanent open space aligns with Strategic Plan Goal 4: Environment – Protect natural resources and support and promote community and economic viability for all residents of Durham County, through the Natural Resource Stewardship and Protection Objective to protect and steward natural resources.

Durham's adopted Comprehensive Plan includes policies to conserve significant natural areas, ecosystems, habitats, and wildlife corridors (Policies 78, 79, 83, 98) and safeguard drinking water sources for Durham and nearby communities (Policy 86). The Comprehensive Plan also includes policies that support the use and management of County-owned open space lands, including County



parks and preserves, to improve their function and quality as “green infrastructure” (Policies 100 and 108).

Additionally, this land protection contributes to the Comprehensive Plan’s goal to place 30% of Durham County’s land area in permanent conservation by the year 2050 (Policy 78).

**Fiscal Impact**

The total project cost is \$589,000, of which \$571,000—approximately 96%—will be funded by the Army National Guard through the REPI program. These funds will be sent to Durham County, encumbered in a funds reservation, and then wired to Triangle Land Conservancy’s closing attorney for the purchase of the property. No County funds are involved in this project and Durham County will not be in the chain of title.

**County Manager’s Recommendation:**

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve receipt of \$571,000 from Army National Guard as pass-through funding for Triangle Land Conservancy’s (TLC’s) acquisition and protection of 50 acres at 5017 Dunwoody Road (a portion of REID 192123).