



**Date:** August 23, 2019

**To:** Durham County Board of Commissioners  
**Through:** Jay Gibson, General Manager  
**From:** Patrick O. Young, AICP, Planning Director  
**Subject:** Durham County Transit Plan

### **Executive Summary**

Due to the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project, a new Durham County Transit Plan is under development as an updated version to the 2017 Durham County Transit Plan. Representatives from the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO), GoTriangle, Durham County, City of Durham, and Triangle J Council of Governments have formed a team to complete the new Durham County Transit Plan beginning this summer, 2019. The plan's approach is to communicate relentlessly, engage the community, involve stakeholders, and align with the Durham Comprehensive Plan. Currently, the transit team is developing the scope for the project, identifying action items, deliverables and tasks that will be assigned in future meetings. City-County Planning Staff will provide a monthly update to the Board of County Commissioners.

### **Recommendation**

This report is provided for information only. Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners receive an update of the Durham County Transit Plan, and provide any comments and questions regarding the project. No further action is required.

### **Background**

During the summer of 2019, representatives from the DCHC MPO, GoTriangle, Durham County, City of Durham, and Triangle J Council of Governments have formed a team to complete the new Durham County Transit Plan. This group has agreed to ensure the Board of Commissioners receive a monthly Transit Plan update. The Durham County Transit Plan team met last Friday, August 16, 2019, to determine the plan's scope. During this time, the team devised a rough outline of the plan components along with several deliverables and action items. The major activity categories discussed in the meeting were: data gathering/creation, community education, financial planning, weighing trade-offs, project generation, project prioritization, and community engagement through the ENGAGEDurham process.

### **Issues and Analysis**

The transit team will continue its bi-weekly meetings to refine the scope of the plan, assign tasks to group members, and proceed with the planning process. Thus far, the tasks to be assigned include:

- Record and analyze "pipeline" projects that may impact the new plan such as Commuter Rail Transit, NC 54, US 15/501, and NC 147

- Revise the first amendment of the interlocal government agreement for the transit plan's implementation
- Define the plan's goals, objectives and policies
- Compile existing data and evidence to inform and support proposed recommendations and policies
- Coordinate with ENGAGEDurham and the 2050 Durham Comprehensive Plan to organize and establish public outreach components
- Generate a set of future policy and project recommendations
- Create a financial planning framework for recommendations
- Determine a prioritization scheme that weighs trade-offs for highly valued projects in the community

### **Alternatives**

The Board of Commissioners could choose not to provide input on the Durham County Transit Plan.

### **Staff Contact**

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### **Attachments**

**Attachment 1:** [Durham Transit Team Agenda for August 27<sup>th</sup>](#)