

August 3, 2020

To: Durham County Board of Commissioners  
From: Aaron Cain, Planning Manager, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO  
Re: Update on Progress of Durham County Transit Plan

**Summary.** Since the last time the Board of County Commissioners was updated on the progress of the Durham County Transit Plan in May several items have been accomplished, including:

- Full execution of a contract for consultant services with Kimley-Horn & Associates
- Reorganization of staff committees for the Durham Transit Team
- Work plan for the transit plan process
- Public engagement plan for the transit plan

The work plan, public engagement plan, and a summary of the Listening and Learning public engagement that was conducted in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020 for the Durham Comprehensive Plan and Durham County Transit Plan are attached for your review.

Public engagement for the next phase of the transit plan is expected to begin in mid-August. This phase of engagement will focus on receiving feedback on the Goals and Objectives being developed from the first round of public engagement in the winter of 2020.

**Background.** With the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project, a new Durham County Transit Plan is necessary to determine the priorities and projects that are most important and beneficial to Durham. Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA) was selected as the lead consultant to spearhead the effort of drafting a new Durham County Transit Plan.

A first round of public engagement was conducted from November 2019 to February 2020, in concert with engagement for a new Durham Comprehensive Plan. Over 1,200 comments were received regarding the transit needs and priorities of residents of Durham. These comments have been the primary source for development of a set of Goals and Objectives for the Durham County Transit Plan. These Goals and Objectives will be presented to the public in the next round of engagement.

**Issues.** The team of consultants and staff developing the Durham County Transit Plan have every intention of following the Equitable Engagement Blueprint as developed by the City of Durham. The Board of County Commissioners previously endorsed following the Blueprint for this effort. However, due to issues related to COVID-19, optimal methods of reaching out to certain populations is difficult. The Durham Transit Team is committed to reaching out to all communities within Durham as much as possible, and the public engagement plan reflects our commitment to continue those efforts.

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**Attachments.**

Durham Transit Team Public Engagement Plan  
Durham Transit Team Work Plan  
Listening and Learning Engagement Summary, Winter 2020