

Durham County Transit Plan

Progress Report Fiscal Year 2017

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Services and Projects Implemented by GoDurham,
Durham County ACCESS, and GoTriangle

BACKGROUND

Anticipating greater demand for transit, voters in 2011 approved a half-cent sales tax to support funding for the Durham County Bus and Rail Investment Plan (now called the Durham County Transit Plan), and the first tax levy began in April 2013. In fiscal 2017, that local sales tax provided \$27,147,291 in funds.

Here's a look at the transit plan's long-term goals as well as a snapshot of its accomplishments, projects and finances during fiscal year 2017. In addition to making progress on implementing the plan, this past winter and spring, GoTriangle worked closely with staff and elected officials from Durham County, the City of Durham and the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) to update the transit plan's projects, services and financial assumptions. In April 2017, Durham County, GoTriangle and the DCHC MPO adopted the updated plan, which will guide how the countywide transit tax revenue will be spent. View the Durham County Transit Plan at ourtransitfuture.com/plans/durham/.

Long-Range Goals:

- Connect more residents with jobs.
- Connect more residents with post-secondary and vocational educational opportunities.
- Expand bus capacity on corridors with high current bus ridership.
- Provide better regional connections to other cities and the Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

Durham County's population is predicted to grow from **306,212** in 2016 to **399,000** in 2037.

FISCAL YEAR 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Service Improvements Implemented:

- Extended Sunday evening service for all GoDurham routes by two hours, to 9 p.m.
- Added more frequent service on GoTriangle Route 400 (Durham–Patterson Place–Chapel Hill). It operates every half hour from the beginning of service to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- Added new peak-hour service from Carrboro to Durham on GoTriangle Route 405 (Durham–Chapel Hill/Carrboro).
- Added new peak-hour service from southern Durham to the Duke University Medical Center and Durham VA Medical Center on GoDurham Route 20 (Woodcroft–South Square–Duke/VA Limited).
- Extended GoDurham service until 12:30 a.m. on New Year’s Day. Previously, service ended at 7:30 p.m. on New Year’s Eve.

Capital Projects Implemented:

- Installed new benches at 18 bus stop locations.
- Installed new shelters at four bus stop locations: South Roxboro at MLK Parkway, Meriwether Drive at Old Oxford Road, TW Alexander at Miami Boulevard/US 70 and at the intersection of Miami Boulevard at Fayetteville Road.
- Installed art-glass in shelters at two bus stop locations: Angier at Main Street and the Five Points intersection.
- Ordered 25 pole-mounted bus stop seats that feature an innovative two-seat design. The seats require minimal installation space on existing sidewalks and do not block pedestrian passage or accessibility. Delivery is expected by the end of December 2017, with installation expected by March 2018.
- Released a Request-for-Interest (RFI) to Durham’s On-Call professional services firms for design of 31 area bus stops. The procurement schedule forecasts execution of contract(s) by March 2018.

Access to Transit Improvements Made:

Continued to develop and refine the Better Bus Stops program, which will prioritize bus stop improvements.

Durham County's ACCESS Demand Response Service Expanded:

Provided more than 17,180 new and expanded trips to people with disabilities through a Purchase of Service (POS) agreement. This agreement allowed Durham County ACCESS to work with the Center for Senior Life and the Durham Department of Health and Human Services to offer new and expanded medical trips. Durham residents used the service to go for dialysis treatment, improve their nutrition, head to work and meet short-term needs.

RESEARCH TRIANGLE REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY Durham County Transit Plan Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Results



● Half-Cent sales tax	\$27,147,291
● \$7 vehicle registration tax	\$1,611,750
● 5 percent vehicle rental tax	\$1,221,855
● \$3 vehicle registration tax	\$690,741

*Includes investment income



● Light-Rail Development	\$6,493,381
● Transit Service	\$4,100,238
● Administrative Services & Personnel**	\$2,943,995

**Includes GoTriangle staff and support infrastructure

NEXT STEPS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Service Improvements

- Implement more frequent service on GoTriangle Route 700 (Durham–RTC) and Route 800 (Chapel Hill–Southpoint–Regional Transit Center). All of GoTriangle’s “core routes” (100, 300, 400, 700, 800) will operate every half hour from the beginning of service to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- Continue to identify service and capital improvements through the GoDurham and GoTriangle Short-Range Plans.

Capital Projects

- Execute contracts to fabricate and install 1,500 GoDurham bus stop signs to replace the DATA signage.
- Design 31 GoDurham bus stop improvements.
- Begin to build those bus stop improvements as the design process is completed.
- Develop GoDurham Bus Stop Guidelines.
- Select 40 additional locations for GoDurham bus stop improvements.

Durham-Orange Light-Rail Transit Project

Advance the final construction design for the Durham-Orange Light-Rail Transit Project to 50 percent complete, from 30 percent in fiscal year 2017.

DURHAM-ORANGE LIGHT-RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT TO CONNECT TRIANGLE

The Durham-Orange Light-Rail Transit Project — part of the Durham and Orange County Transit Plans — will offer a congestion-free alternative for riders commuting to jobs, education and health care in Durham and Chapel Hill. The 17.7-mile light-rail system will connect three major universities, three major medical facilities and three of the top 10 employers in the state (Duke University, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and UNC Health Care). The line is projected to provide over 26,000 trips a day when complete in 2028 and will encourage walkable communities where residents can live, work and play.

Learn more at ourtransitfuture.com/projects/lrt/.



Seamless Travel in the Triangle

As part of a cohesive transit plan, the light-rail project will connect to current and planned transit services. These include GoTriangle's current bus systems, Wake County's future 37-mile commuter rail line and the future bus rapid transit network in Chapel Hill, which will feature dedicated bus lanes on local roads to keep traffic rolling. The light rail will provide:

- 10-minute frequency during peak times, 20-minute frequency during off-peak times.
- Public transportation in a dedicated guideway, separate from traffic.
- 18 stations, nine park-and-ride locations and connections to other transit services.
- Relief to several bus routes that currently serve portions of the corridor, allowing them to be rerouted to serve other areas of the community.

FISCAL YEAR 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In fiscal year 2017, the Durham-Orange Light-Rail Transit Project moved forward with a series of major accomplishments. These included preliminary engineering and environmental clearance for the addition of a station at North Carolina Central University, which enrolls 8,000 students, and the hiring of new engineering and management consultants for the final design phase.

In July 2017, GoTriangle received approval from the Federal Transit Administration to proceed from initial "Project Development" to "New Starts Engineering," which means GoTriangle will work closely with FTA over the next few years to finalize the project design. Entry into the engineering phase means our region will be on track to receive over \$1 billion in federal investment, which accounts for 50 percent of the total project funding. The project's remaining funding sources are an expected 10 percent from the state and 40 percent from local sources, including revenues generated from a half-cent sales tax already passed in both Durham and Orange counties.