

**DURHAM COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN**  
**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**  
July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

# DURHAM COUNTY

## BACKGROUND

In November 2011, Durham County voters approved a transit-dedicated half-cent sales tax to expand and better connect the public transit network in Durham County and throughout the Triangle, one of the fastest-growing regions in the nation. In fiscal year 2018, this revenue stream added \$36,534,566 in funds to the Durham County Transit Plan. Additionally, \$17,139,881 in cash balance reserves were used to support FY18 expenditures.

In fiscal year 2018, transit plan funds were used to implement new GoDurham and GoTriangle services throughout the county as well as new demand-response and rural trips on Durham County ACCESS. New buses were purchased, and more were ordered and will be delivered throughout fiscal year 2019. Capital projects such as Durham and Orange counties' light-rail line and park-and-ride and bus stop improvements also are underway. In addition, staff from the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Durham County, GoTriangle and the municipalities are implementing procedures to help ensure that the transit funds are spent wisely. View the Durham County Transit Plan at [goforwardnc.org/county/durham-county/the-plan/](http://goforwardnc.org/county/durham-county/the-plan/).

## Long-range goals

- Connect more residents with jobs, 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.

# FISCAL YEAR 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## OPERATING

### Operating service improvements implemented

- Added half-hour service Monday to Saturday until 7 p.m. on GoTriangle Routes 700 (Durham Station-Regional Transit Center) and 800 (Regional Transit Center-The Streets at Southpoint-Chapel Hill).
- Added service on Route DRX (Durham-Raleigh Express) to improve reliability.
- Continued service improvements begun in prior years, including:
  - **GoTriangle**
    - More frequent service on GoTriangle Route 400 (Durham-Patterson Place-Chapel Hill), with half-hour service Monday to Saturday until 7 p.m.
    - Peak-hour service between The Streets at Southpoint and Chapel Hill on GoTriangle Route 800S.

- Sunday service and extended Saturday service on GoTriangle core Routes 400, 700 and 800.
- Additional peak-period trips on Route DRX (Durham-Raleigh Express).
- Peak-hour service from Carrboro to Durham on GoTriangle Route 405 (Durham-Chapel Hill/Carrboro).
- Peak-hour service from Mebane to Hillsborough and Durham on new GoTriangle Route ODX.
- **GoDurham**
  - Extended Sunday evening service for all routes by two hours to 9 p.m.
  - Added peak-hour service from southern Durham to Duke University Medical Center and Durham VA Medical Center on Route 20.
  - Extended service until 12:30 a.m. on New Year's Day (service previously ended at 7:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve).
  - Expanded "Frequent Service Network" with 15-minute all-day service on popular routes including Route 10B (Durham Station-South Square) and Route 5K (Durham Station-Fayetteville St/MLK Jr. Parkway).
  - Added all-day hourly service on Route 15 (Durham Station-Brier Creek) and new Sunday service.
- **Durham County ACCESS**
  - Durham County ACCESS continued to use transit plan revenues to expand demand-response and rural trips to people who lacked transportation and those traveling to mental health facilities. In addition, Durham County ACCESS used transit plan revenues to match a federal grant providing more than 2,000 new trips for elderly and disabled residents.

### **Planning projects initiated**

- Durham County Transit Plan funds were used to hire consultants for short-range planning efforts for GoDurham and GoTriangle. During fiscal year 2018, each agency prepared drafts of its short-range plans.

Note: Transit plan funds are also used to pay a portion of the increased cost of transit services provided by GoDurham that existed before the Durham County Transit Plan was implemented.

## **CAPITAL**

### **Vehicle acquisitions**

- Acquired six GoDurham buses in FY18 using transit plan funds.
- Acquired two GoTriangle buses in FY18 with a 10 percent contribution from transit plan funds.

### **Bus Infrastructure**

- Implemented park-and-ride study in Durham County

# FISCAL YEAR 2019 NEXT STEPS

## OPERATING

### Operating service improvements

- Add peak-period trips on Route DRX (Durham-Raleigh Express) to bring the frequency of Route DRX to once every 15 to 20 minutes during the highest-use portions of the day.
- Extend Sunday service on GoTriangle core Routes 700 and 800 until 9 p.m.
- Launch a holiday calendar with service on five additional holidays. With the change, GoTriangle will provide service on all holidays except Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day.

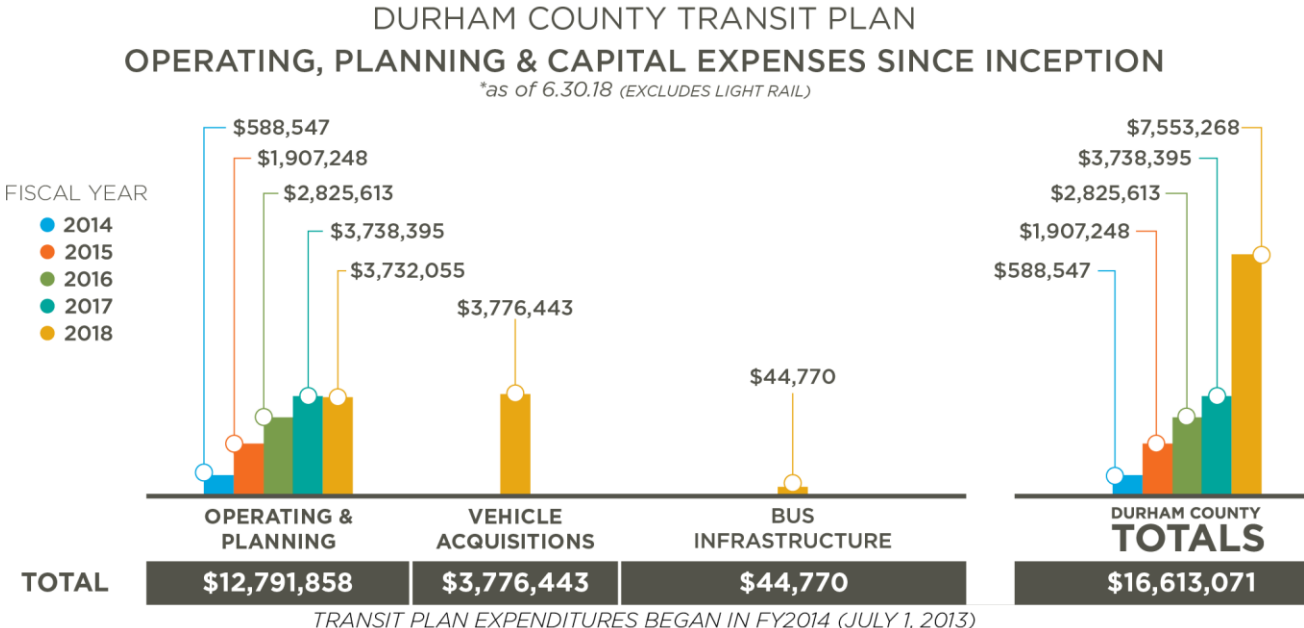
### Planning projects

- In fiscal year 2019, GoDurham and GoTriangle will present the drafts of the short-range transit plans to the public. After receiving public input, both agencies plan to finalize those plans. Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the agencies will start implementing the service modifications proposed in the plans.
- The DCHC MPO and Durham city and county staff are collaborating with GoTriangle and local and regional bodies in Wake county on a major investment study for the Commuter Rail Transit project connecting Wake and Durham counties.

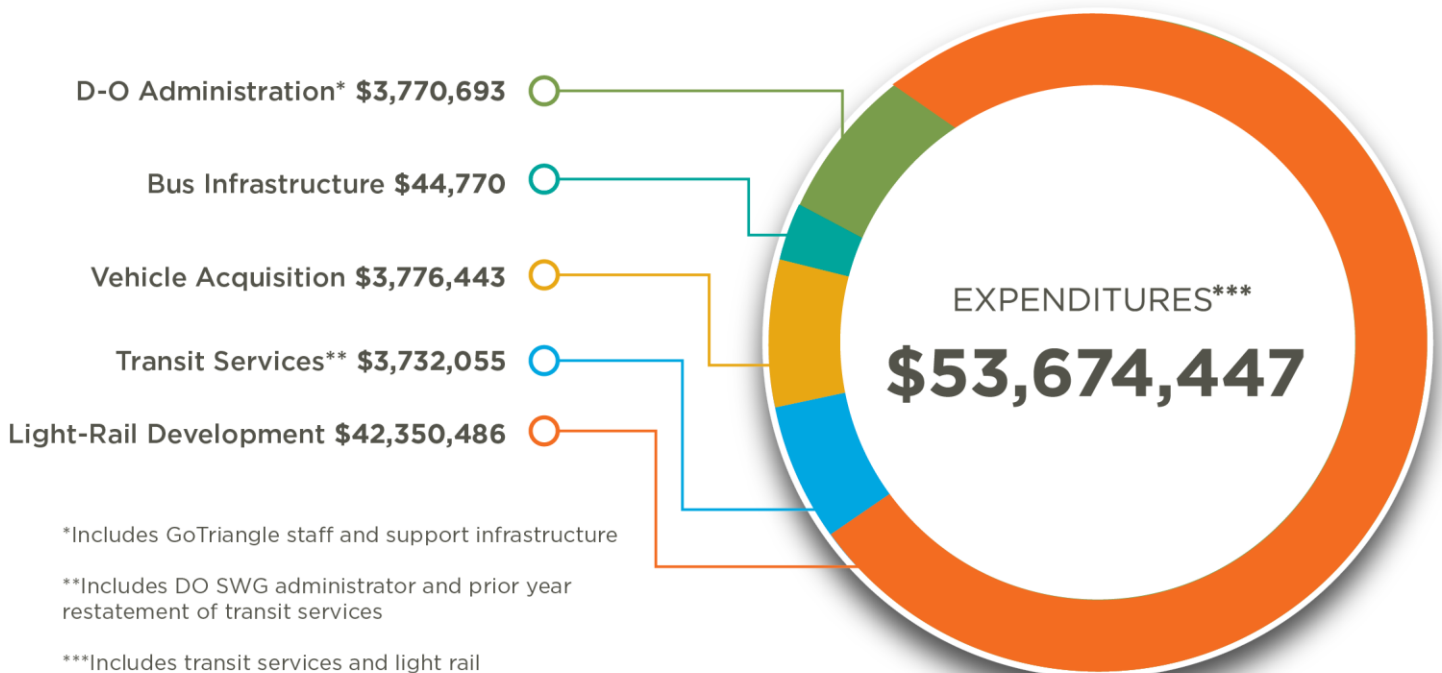
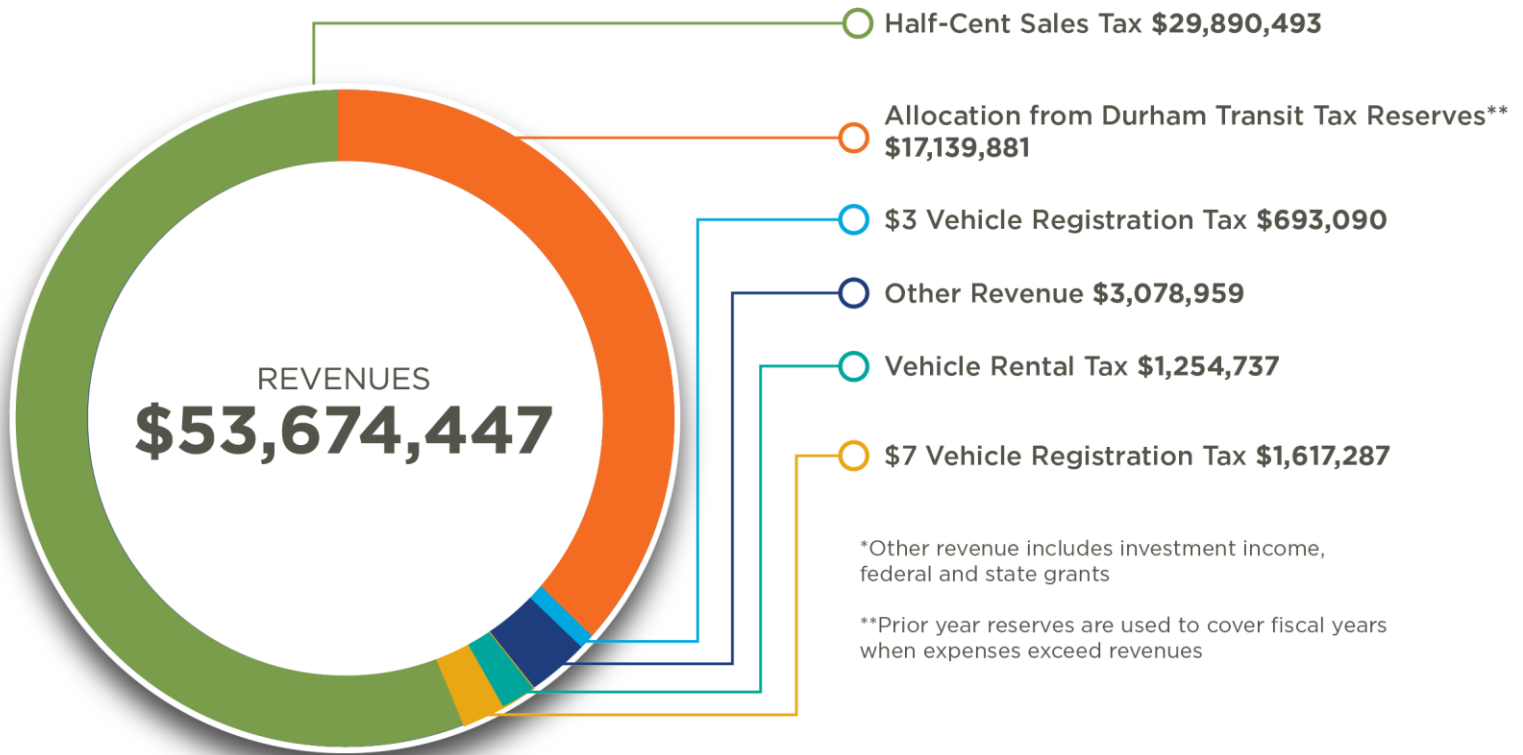
## CAPITAL

### Capital projects

- Complete and obtain approvals for 31 bus stop designs and construction permits by January 2019 and hire general contractors to start construction of bus stop improvements.
- Select 50 additional locations for GoDurham bus stop improvements.
- Install 15 benches at bus stop locations where site plans for improvements are being designed but ridership numbers warrant immediate installation of temporary seating.



# FY18 DURHAM COUNTY REVENUES & EXPENDITURES



## **Durham and Orange counties' light-rail project to connect Triangle**

Durham and Orange counties' 17.7-mile light-rail project – anticipated to begin revenue operations in 2028 – will offer a congestion-free alternative for riders commuting to jobs, education and health care in Durham and Chapel Hill.

Part of the Durham and Orange County Transit Plans, the light-rail line will be the spine for a network of expanded bus service throughout both counties and ultimately will connect with Wake County's planned 37-mile commuter rail project that will run from Durham through Raleigh to Garner. In addition, the network will link with the future bus rapid transit project in Chapel Hill, which will feature dedicated bus lanes on local roads to keep traffic rolling. The light-rail line is projected to provide more than 26,000 trips a day and to promote walkable communities where residents can live, work and play.

In fiscal year 2018, the light-rail project continued its progress toward a federal investment of over \$1.2 billion in our region. That investment is anticipated to come from a grant agreement with the Federal Transit Administration made possible by the Capital Investment Grants program. During fiscal year 2018, GoTriangle continued working closely with the FTA to prepare for the project's upcoming grant application. GoTriangle anticipates that it will execute a grant agreement with the FTA in September 2019.

The light-rail project is currently in the grant program's New Starts Engineering phase, during which GoTriangle has been ironing out the details of the light-rail's design. As part of this work in fiscal year 2018, GoTriangle has progressed the project's design beyond the important 50 percent design milestone. Over the next year, GoTriangle will continue advancing toward the 90 percent design milestone.

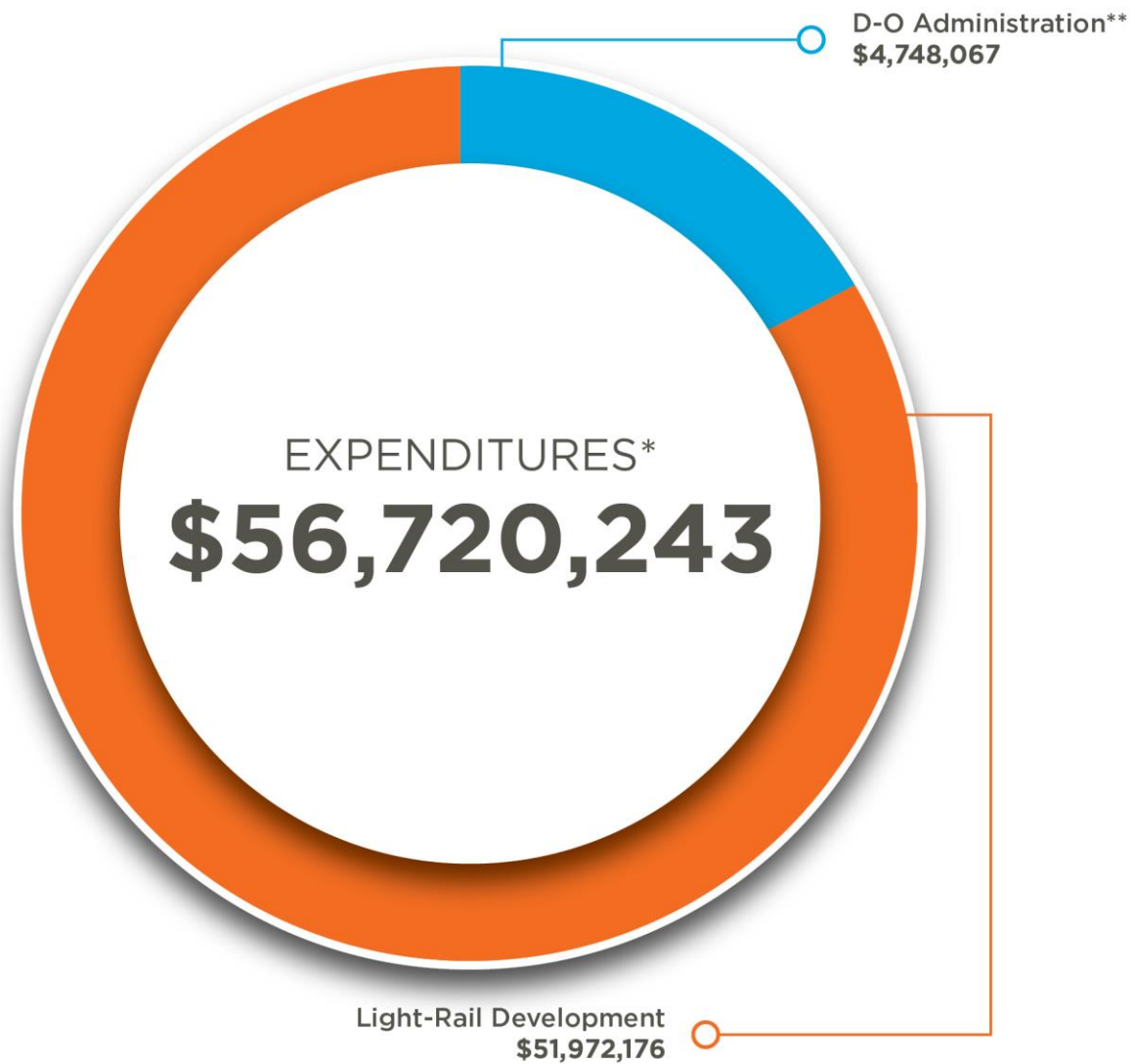
Deciding the details of the light rail's design has brought with it many important accomplishments. GoTriangle worked with its partners in fiscal year 2018 to propose several refinements to the project, including adding a 19<sup>th</sup> station between Blackwell and Mangum streets in downtown Durham. The Blackwell/Mangum station will provide immediate access to Durham's city center, which includes such important destinations as the Durham Performing Arts Center, Durham Bulls Athletic Park and American Tobacco Campus. Another proposed project refinement would move the Gateway Station closer to Orange County, increasing opportunities for economic development in the area.

In addition to other accomplishments in fiscal year 2018, GoTriangle added a construction management consultant, Gannett Fleming/WSP Joint Venture, to its consultant team. Gannett Fleming/WSP will advise and assist the project team as GoTriangle prepares the light-rail project for construction.

GoTriangle also continued the project's robust program of public involvement, which included public meetings, targeted outreach to key stakeholder groups, regular third-party coordination meetings and timely response to inquiries from property owners, residents and community members. Public meetings and online public input in February and April helped shape the look and feel of the light-rail stations so that their design is anticipated to reflect the Triangle's strengths in cultural diversity, science and innovation and natural resources.

# FY18 TOTAL

## DURHAM & ORANGE LIGHT-RAIL EXPENDITURES



\*Includes combined Durham and Orange expenditure contributions to the light-rail project

\*\*Includes GoTriangle staff and support infrastructure