

MEMORANDUM *Connecting all points of the Triangle*

TO: Durham Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO
FROM: GoTriangle
DATE: September 21, 2016
SUBJECT: Request to Amend DCHC-MPO 2040 MTP and D-O LRT LPA

Action Requested

Request that the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO) take the following actions:

- Amend the definition of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project to include a station adjacent to North Carolina Central University (NCCU Station).
- Amend the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to include the amended LPA for the D-O LRT project.

Background and Purpose

In February 2016, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) signed the combined Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision, completing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act for the D-O LRT project.

During the environmental review of the project, members of the public, project stakeholders, and elected officials identified a number of potential refinements to the design of the project. GoTriangle committed to evaluate these proposals during project Engineering. GoTriangle also committed to examine the feasibility of a NCCU Station as part of the DCHC-MPO's 2045 MTP process.

In the spring and summer of 2016, GoTriangle completed preliminary engineering and ridership forecasts for the NCCU Station in order to be prepared for work on the 2045 MTP that the DCHC-MPO would be conducting in the summer and fall of 2016. These analyses indicate that the NCCU Station is technically feasible and would generate very high ridership.

Based on recent direction from the FTA, the D-O LRT project must enter the New Starts Engineering phase by February 2017. In order for the NCCU Station to advance into Engineering with the rest of the D-O LRT Project and qualify for the 50% Federal match for this project, two things must happen by December 2016: the LPA must be amended to include the NCCU Station and the amended LPA must be included in the 2040 MTP.

Attachments

- Map of the recommended LPA, which includes the NCCU Station

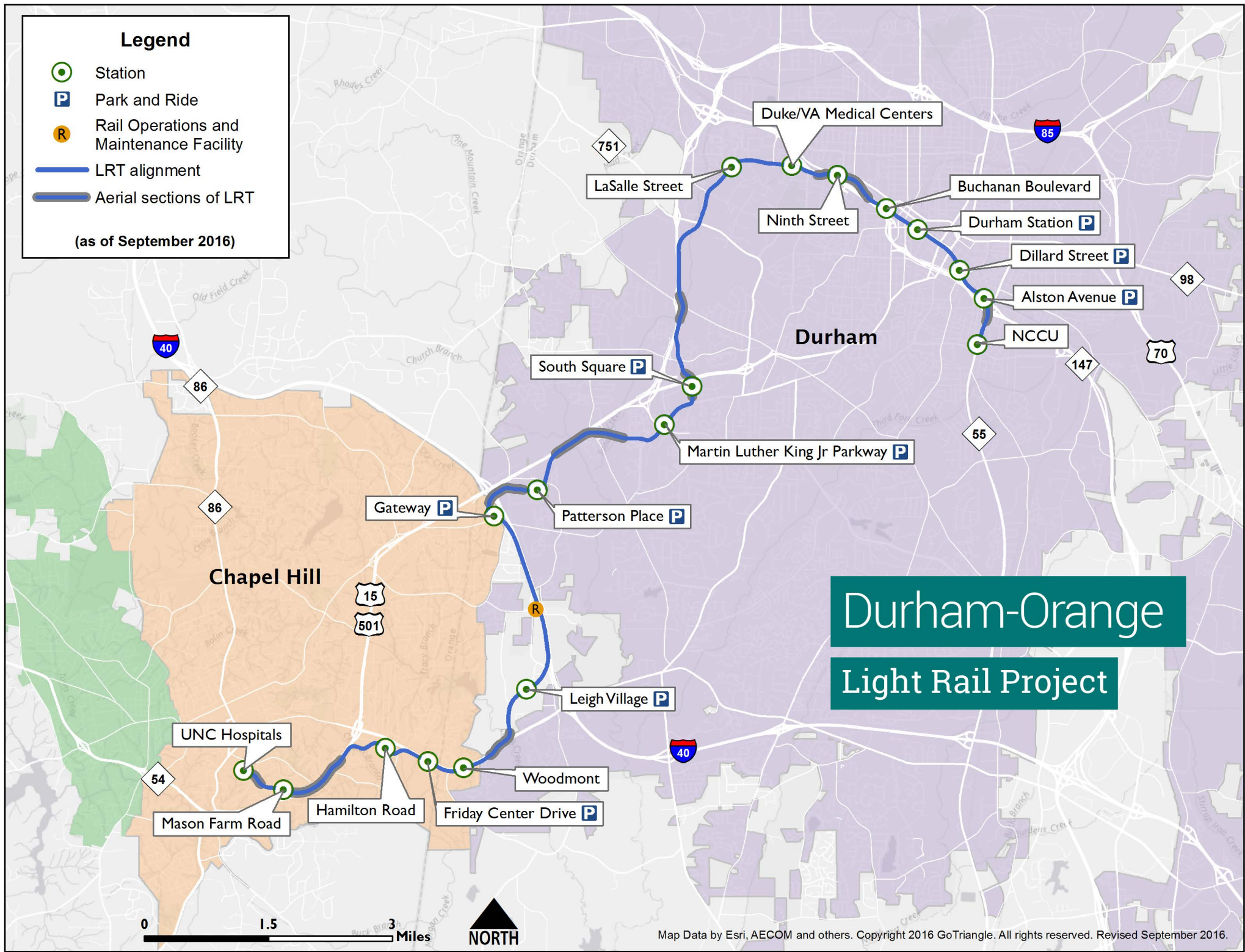
Staff Contact(s)

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Legend

- Station
- Ⓟ Park and Ride
- Ⓡ Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility
- LRT alignment
- Aerial sections of LRT

(as of September 2016)



Durham-Orange Light Rail Project