

2035 LRTP Introduction

What is the 2035 LRTP?

The 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the guide for major transportation investments in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO) area. The DCHC-MPO area covers the entire Durham County and the urbanized portions of Orange and Chatham Counties. The 2035 LRTP recommends major transportation projects, policies and strategies designed to maintain existing transportation systems and serve the region's future travel needs. The 2035 LRTP is also designed to support land use and air quality goals for the urban area, and must be prepared in accordance with Federal transportation and environmental requirements. Projects must be in the 2035 LRTP in order to receive state and federal transportation funding through the North Carolina Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

What is the Next Step in the 2035 LRTP Process?

The next major step in the 2035 LRTP development process will be the review and approval of the draft 2035 LRTP at the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on December 10, 2008. The TAC is the policy board of the DCHC MPO and is composed mostly of elected officials from the counties and jurisdictions within the MPO's planning boundary. After approval, the 2035 LRTP will go through an evaluation and public input process to ensure that the Plan meets air quality conformity regulations. The table below lists the remaining steps in this process.

Remaining Steps/Actions in LRTP Process

Action	Date
Public Comment period ends	12/09/08
TAC approve 2035 LRTP	12/10/08
TAC release 2035 LRTP Air Quality Conformity Report	2/11/09
TAC hold public hearing for Conformity Report	3/11/09
TAC approve 2035 LRTP Air Quality Conformity Report	4/8/09
Federal approval of 2035 LRTP	Before 6/15/09

How Can Citizens Participate?

There have been dozens of public workshops, public hearings and local government reviews at the major steps in the 2035 LRTP development process such as the Socioeconomic Data, Alternatives Analysis, and Transportation Options. Citizens can speak to the TAC at the public

hearing for the Conformity Report (currently scheduled for March 11, 2009) or during the public comment period of any TAC meeting, which are held on the second Wednesday of each month. In addition, citizens can contact Andy Henry, (919) 560-4366, andrew.henry@durhamnc.gov, with any comments, concerns or requests for information, and they may refer to the DCHC MPO Web site for updated meeting information – www.dchcmopo.org.

Summary Description of Projects

The following paragraphs provide a summary of the projects and services included in the draft 2035 LRTP. This document has separate sections that provide detailed lists and maps of highway projects, transit services, bicycle facilities and sidewalk projects.

Highway Project Summary

- High Occupancy Vehicle/Toll (HOT) lanes on I-40 from Wake County to NC 54. These are lanes that can only be used by vehicles that pay a toll or have at least a specified number of passengers
- Triangle Expressway (i.e., extension south of Durham Freeway)
- US 15-501 freeway
- Highway Trust Fund “Loop” projects. These are highway projects designated in state legislation to receive special funding. These projects include:
 - East End Connector;
 - US 70 widening and freeway upgrade between Wake County and East End Connector;
 - I-85 widening in Durham County;
 - all three section of the Northern Durham Parkway; and,
 - North Roxboro Road widening.
- I-40 widening in Orange County, from US 15-501 to I-85
- I-85 widening in Orange County, from Durham County line to I-40.

Rail Transit Summary

- Light Rail service starts in 2023, and runs from UNC-Chapel Hill to the Durham Multimodal Center (in downtown Durham).
- Light Rail service starts in 2025, and runs from the Durham Multimodal Center to the Triangle Metro Center, and on to Wake County and Raleigh destinations.
- Passengers do not have to transfer – this is a seamless rail transit system from Chapel Hill, through Durham, and into Wake County.

Bus Transit Summary

- Local bus feeder service connects to the Light Rail Transit stations.
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service in Chapel Hill. BRT provides very frequent service and often operate on a separate guideway or on a separate travel lane in the regular roadway.
- There is service expansion in local, express and regional bus routes.

- There are improved headways (e.g., bus frequency). Headway is the amount of time between the arrival of buses.
- There is circulator service in employment centers such as downtown Durham and Chapel Hill, and the Regional Triangle Park and RDU airport.

Other Transportation Projects

- Five hundred bicycle facility projects that total 796 miles in length.
- Almost four hundred sidewalk projects that total 247 miles in length.

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