

# DURHAM COUNTY PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019





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 2019, this revenue stream added \$34,936,061 to the Durham County Transit Plan. Additionally, \$18,066,413 in cash balance reserves were used to support FY19 expenditures.

From its inception through fiscal year 2019, the half-cent sales tax has paid for a slew of benefits to passengers. Specifically, 114,437 new service hours, 36,643 new ACCESS trips, 1,387 more paratransit hours and six new buses have been added to GoTriangle and GoDurham service. In fiscal year 2019, GoTriangle expanded service hours on three routes and increased the frequency of service on the popular Durham-Raleigh Express route. To improve infrastructure, GoTriangle bought bus shelters, benches and bike racks among other improvements.

View the Durham County Transit Plan at [goforwardnc.org/county/durham-county/the-plan](https://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.



## OPERATING

### OPERATING SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS IMPLEMENTED

- Extended Sunday service to 9 p.m. on GoTriangle Routes 400, 700 and 800.
- Added frequency on Route DRX (Durham-Raleigh Express).

### PLANNING PROJECTS INITIATED

- Completed short-range transit plans for GoDurham and GoTriangle.

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

## CAPITAL

### BUS INFRASTRUCTURE

- Completed designs and obtained site plan approvals and construction permits for 31 GoDurham bus stops.
- Hired a general contractor and started construction of eight GoDurham bus stops.
- Released procurement solicitations for bids to start and complete construction of 12 additional bus stops in fall 2019.
- Worked to identify 50 or more bus stop improvements that will be undertaken in FY20.
- Bought 12 bus shelters, five freestanding benches and 23 bike racks.
- Bought and installed 25 Simme-Seat benches at bus stops where ridership warranted a bench but space constraints prevented installation of a bench on adjacent property.
- Bought 15 temporary benches and installed 10 of them at bus stop locations that are either awaiting construction or warrant permanent benches due to ridership numbers.
- Completed planning, design, manufacturing and installation of about 1,000 GoDurham bus stop signs, replacing the former "DATA" signage.



## **| OPERATING**

### **OPERATING SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS**

- Add peak-period trips on Route DRX (Durham-Raleigh Express) to bring its frequency to every 15 minutes during the highest-use portions of the day.
- Improve travel times on Route 800 (Chapel Hill-RTC) by keeping it on Interstate 40 at all times of day.

### **PLANNING PROJECTS**

- Work with Durham County to update the Durham County Transit Plan.
- Continue work outlined in the Major Investment Study to explore the possibility of commuter rail linking Durham and Wake counties and expand partnerships to include Durham, Orange, Wake and Johnston counties, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, the NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the North Carolina Railroad Company and other local government and railroad partners. Together, partners will examine additional operating scenarios beyond those explored in the MIS and estimate potential ridership and capital costs.

## **| CAPITAL**

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

- Completed construction of eight GoDurham bus stops during the first quarter.
- Hire a general contractor to build six GoDurham bus stops by January 2020.
- Hire a general contractor to build six additional GoDurham bus stops by February 2020.
- Hire a general contractor to build a new bus stop, including a bus turnout lane, at the Glenview Station Walmart. This bus stop, approved by the City of Durham through agreement with Walmart, will be 400 feet closer to the store entrance and will provide a better and more convenient service experience for transit riders.
- Coordinate with the City of Durham to finish identifying 50 bus stops, then initiate and complete designs using city and GoTriangle on-call design firms. Build bus stops as they emerge from the design process.
- Continue to implement Tactical Transit to rapidly resolve acute transit system needs. Tactical Transit uses a deliberate approach to more quickly identify bus stops that need immediate repairs, improvements, access or amenities but do not require real estate acquisition, state approval or revised site plans.
- Plan, design and construct improvements at the Patterson Place bus stop.
- Buy bus shelters, Simme-Seats, freestanding benches, bus stop pole lights, trash receptacles, bike racks and other amenities for installation at bus stops.



**\$29,477,060** ■  
HALF-CENT SALES TAX

**\$18,066,413** ■  
ALLOCATION FROM DURHAM  
TRANSIT TAX RESERVES

**\$1,783,463** ■  
\*OTHER REVENUE

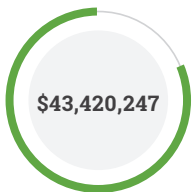
**\$1,630,433** ■  
\$7 VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX

**\$1,346,369** ■  
VEHICLE RENTAL TAX

**\$698,736** ■  
\$3 VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX

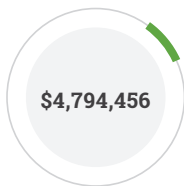
**\$53,002,474** ■  
\*\*TOTAL REVENUE

*\*OTHER REVENUE INCLUDES INVESTMENT INCOME  
\*\*REVENUE DOES NOT INCLUDE FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS*



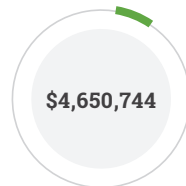
**\$43,420,247**

LIGHT-RAIL  
DEVELOPMENT



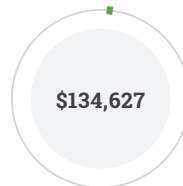
**\$4,794,456**

\*\*TRANSIT SERVICES



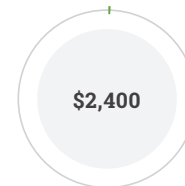
**\$4,650,744**

\*D-O ADMINISTRATION



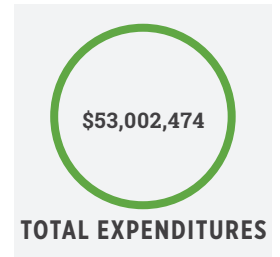
**\$134,627**

CAPITAL PLANNING



**\$2,400**

BUS INFRASTRUCTURE



**\$53,002,474**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**

*\*INCLUDES GOTRIANGLE STAFF AND SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE  
\*\*INCLUDES DURHAM ORANGE STAFF WORKING GROUP AND AUDITOR PRIOR YEAR RESTATEMENT OF TRANSIT SERVICES*