



April 1, 2021

**To:** Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board  
**From:** Caroline Dwyer, AICP, Project Manager, Renaissance Planning  
**Re:** Update on Orange County Transit Plan

**Background**

With the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project, a new Orange County Transit Plan is necessary to determine the priorities and projects that are most important and beneficial to Orange County and its constituent municipalities. In early 2020, Renaissance Planning was selected as the lead consultant to spearhead the effort of drafting a new Orange County Transit Plan. The project is organized into two main phases. Phase 1 introduces key transit planning concepts and frames choices in terms of easy-to-understand values to generate alternative conceptual transit scenarios. Phase 2 identifies proposed projects, prioritization criteria, and available revenues to produce implementation recommendations through 2040. The project team is currently transitioning from Phase 1 tasks to Phase 2 tasks (see image).

| Tasks by Phase |    |   |
|----------------|----|---|
| Phase 1        | T1 | PSC Coordination                          |
|                | T2 | Transit Choices Brochure                  |
|                | T2 | Regional Connections Opportunities Report |
|                | T3 | Engagement Preparations                   |
|                | T3 | Engagement Wave 1                         |
|                | T4 | Conceptual Scenario Development           |
| Phase 2        | T5 | Identify projects                         |
|                | T5 | Prioritization process development        |
|                | T5 | Preferred Scenario                        |
|                | T6 | Engagement wave 2 prep                    |
|                | T6 | Engagement Wave 2                         |
|                | T7 | Revenue forecasting                       |
|                | T7 | Implementation Plan                       |
|                | T8 | Final Report                              |

**Progress Summary**

Several key project milestones have been met, including:

- Seven (7) meetings with the Policy Steering Committee
- Project website launched: [www.octransit2020.com](http://www.octransit2020.com)
- [Public Engagement Plan](#) (PIP) completed
- [Transit Choices Brochure](#) was completed
- A final draft of the Regional Connections Opportunities was completed.
- A first round of public engagement was conducted from September 2020 to October 2020:



- A print and online [public survey](#) received 215 responses
- Approximately 60 individuals participated in a virtual [Transit Summit](#) on October 1, 2020.

Public engagement for the next phase of the transit plan is expected to begin mid-2021. This phase of engagement will focus on receiving feedback on the conceptual transit service scenarios being developed from the first round of public engagement in the fall of 2020.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### Policy Steering Committee:

- Identifying transit goals and priorities
- Meet with Durham Commissioners (TBD) to discuss transit priorities

### Task 4:

- Develop conceptual transit scenarios

### Task 5:

- Identify/confirm and prioritize projects for inclusion in Transit Plan update

### Task 6:

- Prepare for and facilitate second Transit Summit (TBD)