



Durham Chapel-Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization

Member Organizations: Town of Carrboro, Town of Chapel Hill, Chatham County, City of Durham, Durham County, Town of Hillsborough, NC Department of Transportation, Orange County, GoTriangle

August 12, 2020

To: DCHC MPO Board
 From: Aaron Cain, Planning Manager, DCHC MPO
 Re: Update on Durham County Transit Plan

Executive Summary

Since the last time the DCHC MPO Board was updated on the progress of the Durham County Transit Plan in May several items have been accomplished, including:

- Full execution of a contract for consultant services with Kimley-Horn & Associates
- Reorganization of staff committees for the Durham Transit Team
- Work plan for the transit plan process
- Public engagement plan for the transit plan
- Kickoff for the Comprehensive Operational Analysis for GoDurham

The work plan, public engagement plan, and a summary of the Listening and Learning public engagement that was conducted in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020 for the Durham Comprehensive Plan and Durham County Transit Plan are attached for your review.

Public engagement for the next phase of the transit plan is expected to begin in mid-August. This phase of engagement will focus on receiving feedback on the Goals and Objectives being developed from the first round of public engagement in the winter of 2020.

Background

With the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project, a new Durham County Transit Plan is necessary to determine the priorities and projects that are most important and beneficial to Durham. Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA) was selected as the lead consultant to spearhead the effort of drafting a new Durham County Transit Plan.

A first round of public engagement was conducted from November 2019 to February 2020, in concert with engagement for a new Durham Comprehensive Plan. Over 1,200 comments were received regarding the transit needs and priorities of residents of Durham. These comments have been the primary source for development of a set of Goals and Objectives for the Durham County Transit Plan. These Goals and Objectives will be presented to the public in the next round of engagement.

As part of the development of the Durham County Transit Plan, a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) for GoDurham will be conducted. The COA will provide recommendations on GoDurham operational procedures, maintenance protocols, and administrative policies. The kickoff for the COA took place in late June and data gathering and analysis is underway. The next step is to conduct peer and document review.

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Issues and Analysis

The team of consultants and staff developing the Durham County Transit Plan have every intention of following the Equitable Engagement Blueprint as developed by the City of Durham. However, due to issues related to COVID-19, optimal methods of reaching out to certain populations is difficult. The Durham Transit Team is committed to reaching out to all communities within Durham as much as possible, and the public engagement plan reflects our commitment to continue those efforts.

Recommendation

No action is necessary on this item; it is for informational purposes only.

Attachments

Durham Transit Team Public Engagement Plan

Durham Transit Team Work Plan

Listening and Learning Engagement Summary, Winter 2020