



# Durham Transit Plan

MPO Board 04/14/2021 Item 14

# Durham Transit Plan DCHC MPO Board

April 14, 2020




# Presentation Topics

- Outreach
  - Phase I Summary
  - Phase II Design
- Scenarios
- Next Steps

# Outreach

# Durham Transit Plan – Phase I

**The Durham Transit Plan** Vol. 1 • No. 1  
September 2020

 **Durham Transit Plan**

**WHAT IS A TRANSIT PLAN?**

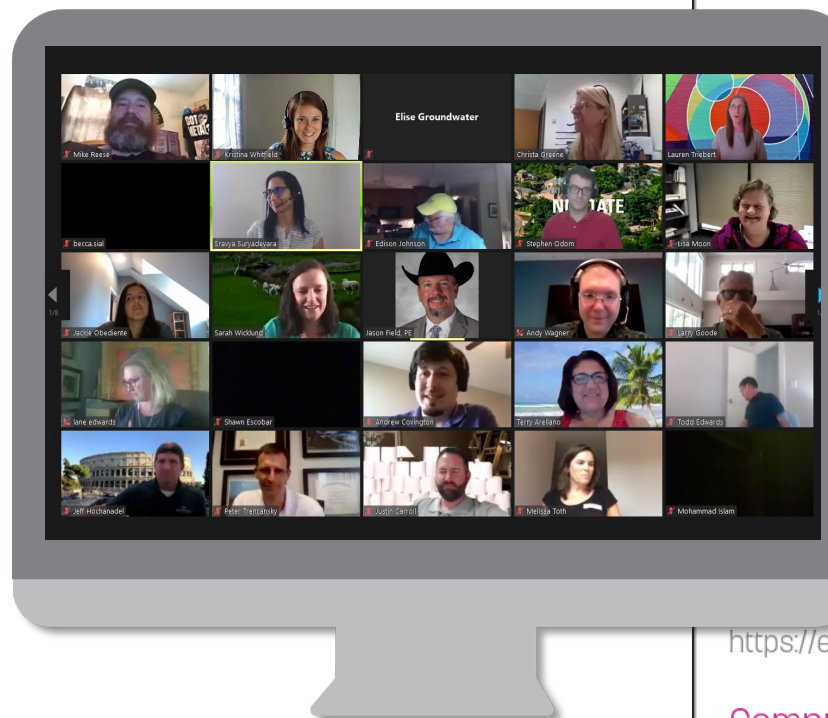
A Transit Plan determines how public transportation funds will be managed and spent. A good transit plan incorporates public input and feedback throughout the planning process.

**THE DURHAM TRANSIT PLAN**

The Durham Transit Plan will decide how we invest in, expand, and prioritize our public transportation network over the next 20 years. In 2011, Durham County voters approved a half-cent sales tax to fund transit improvements in Durham and the Triangle region. With the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light Rail project in 2019, a plan update is required to use funds that would have been spent on the light rail project. This update will take another look at the contents of the 2017 Transit Plan to identify local transit service improvements, potential high-capacity investments, and help prioritize funds for upcoming projects.

**Announcements**

- Learn more about the Durham Transit Plan at <https://engagedurham.com/durham-county-transit-plan/>
- Take the Transit Plan Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DurhamTransit>



## ham Transit Plan

ham Transit Plan is developing goals and objectives and your input!

**Take the survey!**  
**¡Toma la encuesta!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DurhamTransit>

the latest Durham Transit Plan updates:

<https://engagedurham.com/durham-county-transit-plan/>

### Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan includes topics on transportation and is therefore collaborating with the Transit Plan. Visit [ENGAGEDurham.com](https://engagedurham.com) to learn more, sign-up for updates, and get involved.



**ENGAGEDurham** | Comprehensive Plan



### Durham Transit Plan Phase I

#### How should your public transportation dollars be spent?

The Durham Transit Plan will decide what public transportation projects get money (like buses, door-to-door service, trains, etc.) from the transit sales tax and we need your help updating the plan!

#### Do you see your public transportation priorities in the questions below?

If you think we missed anything, please let us know in the comment boxes. Your answers will shape what public transportation improvements and projects will be included in the new Durham Transit Plan.

Which of the choices below is more important?

- ☐ Making it easier, more convenient, and safer to travel within Durham
- ☐ Making it easier, more convenient, and safer to travel between Durham and other places in the Triangle

 **Durham Transit Plan**

**¡Ayuda a determinar el futuro del transporte público en Durham!**

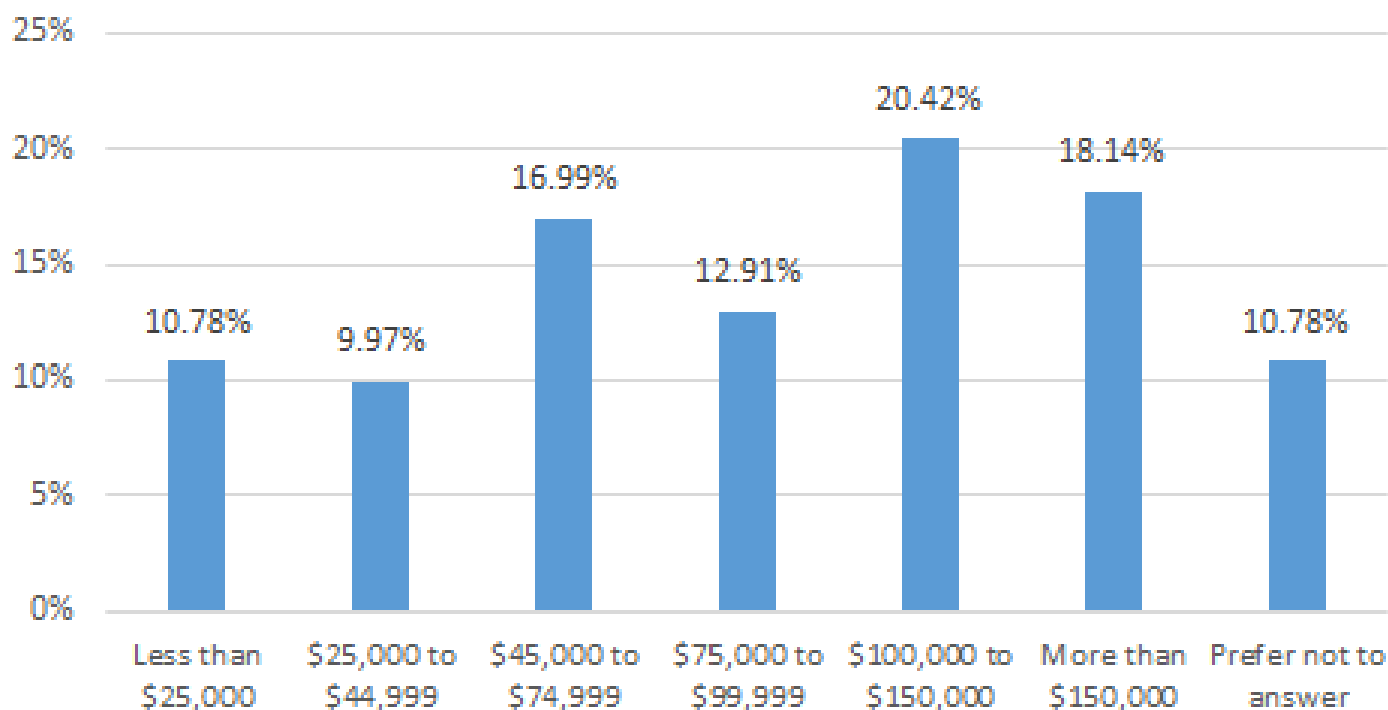
Para involucrarte, visita:  
<https://engagedurham.com/>

**ENGAGEDurham** | Comprehensive Plan

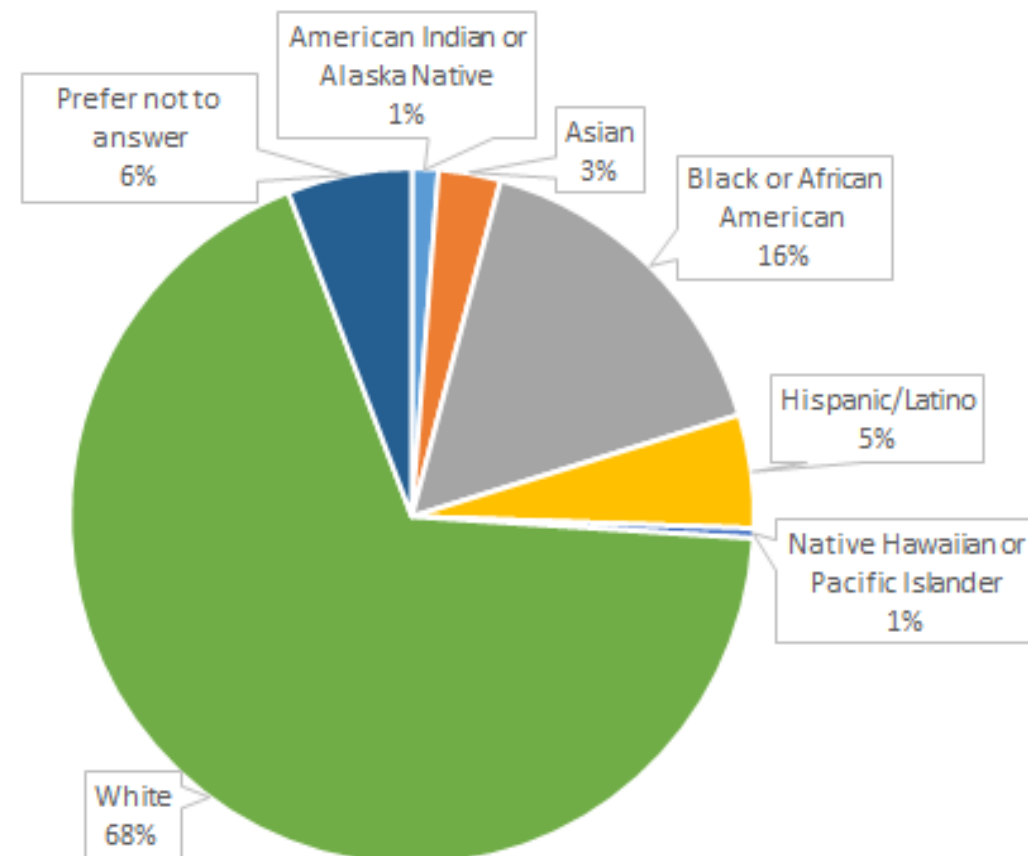
# Online Survey Summary

- 673 Respondents
- 50% are current public transit users

## What is your household income?



## What is your race and/or ethnicity?

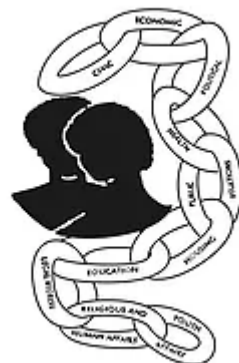


## Key Highlights

- Preference for commuter rail, local bus and BRT
- **Frequency, coverage, and more direct service** are most important for convenience
- Improving **bus stops** and adding more **sidewalks/crosswalks** are most important for access



# Stakeholder Meetings



*Durham Committee on the  
Affairs of Black People*

Durham Congregations  
In Action

GREATER  
**DurhamChamber**  
OF COMMERCE

*Downtown*

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**DURHAM**

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★ *Find Your Cool* ★

# Stakeholder Interview Summary

- Invest in full access to the system
- Focus on access to jobs, commercial areas, schools, grocery stores
- Paratransit - on time performance and wait times
- Prioritize BIPOC communities
- More frequent service and longer service hours
- More regional connections
- Direct & crosstown routes to major destinations outside of downtown
- Safety at stops and on the bus
- Improvement of service & customer information and application
- Better on-bus logistics - strollers and bicycles, e.g.



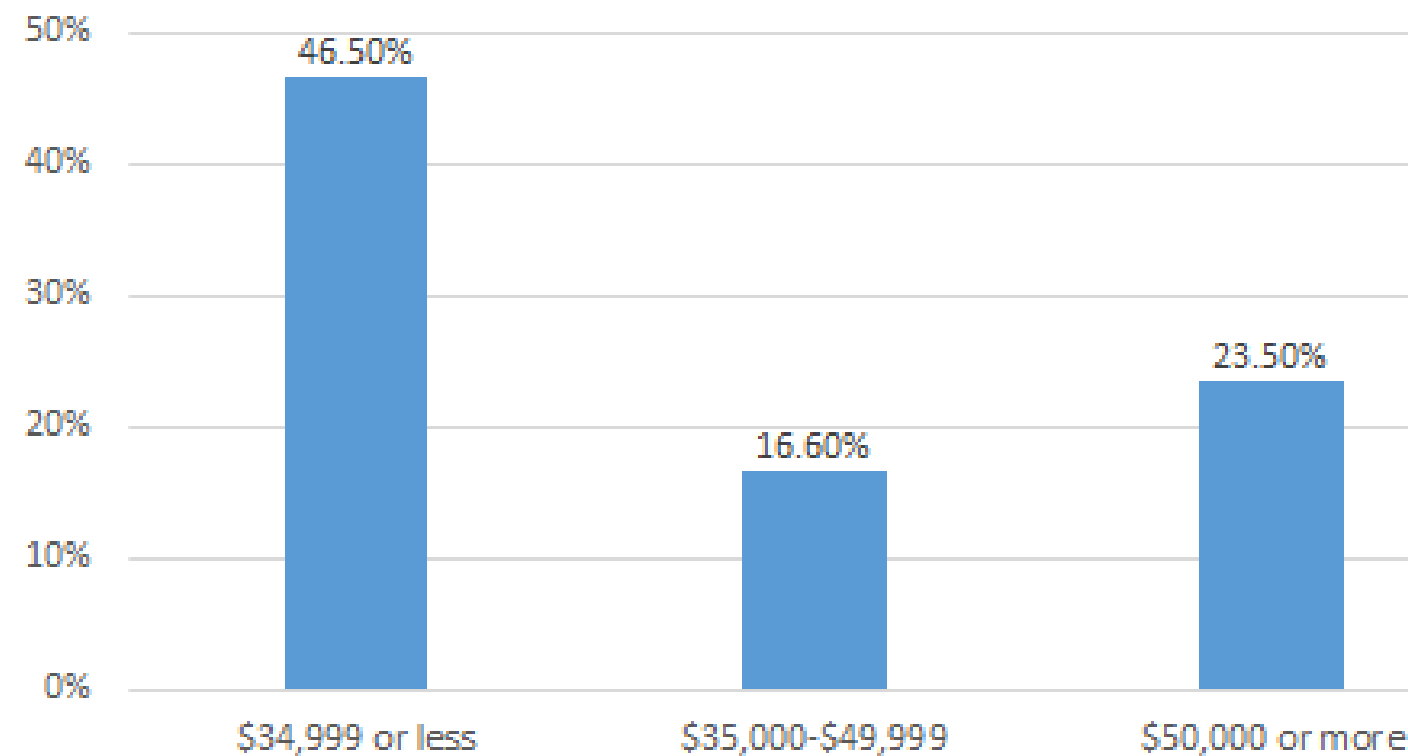
# Engagement Ambassadors

- Direct engagement with under-represented communities
  - Communities of color
  - Spanish-speakers
  - Youth
  - Lower-income
  - Unincorporated areas
- Compensated ambassadors
- More than half of comments expected to come from ambassadors

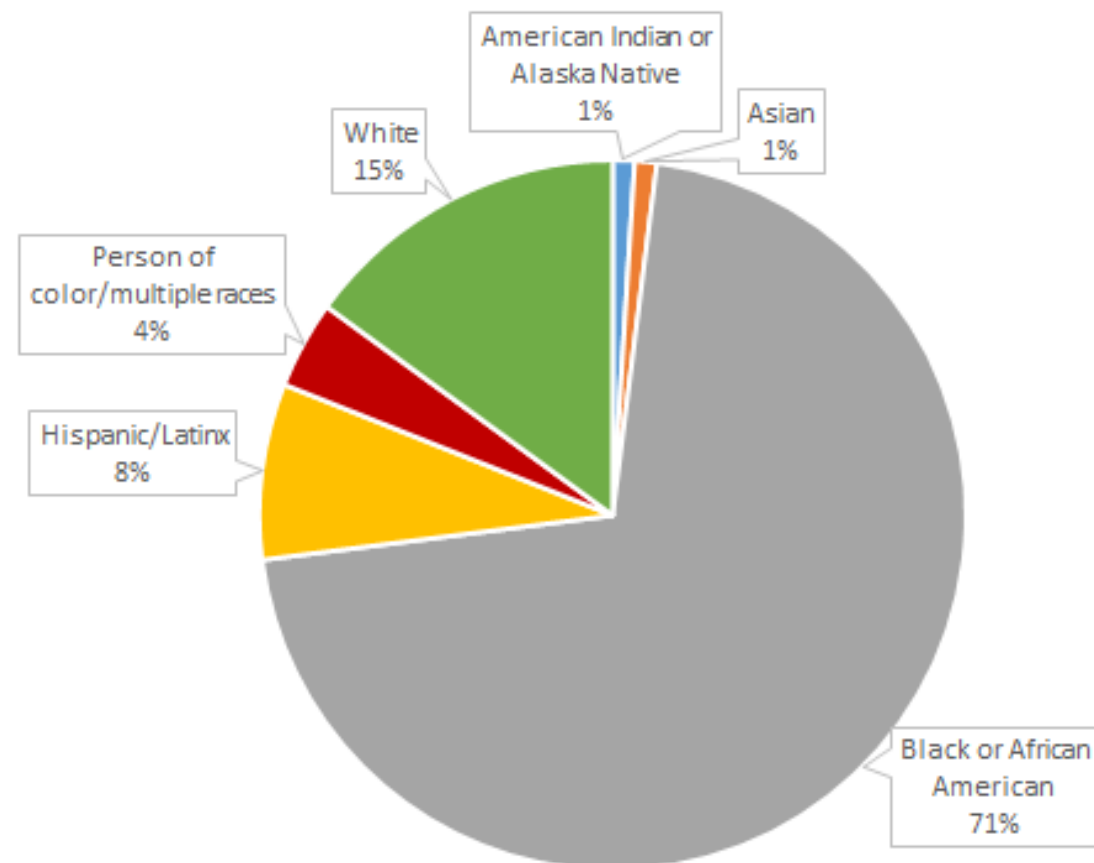
# Engagement Ambassador Summary

- 174 total responses
- 70% are current public transit users

## What is your household income?



## What is your race and/or ethnicity?



## Key Highlights

- **Paratransit** is the top choice for transportation projects along with commuter rail and local bus service
- More **sidewalks/crosswalks** near bus stops, more **comfortable bus stops** with benches, shelters, etc., and better **stroller and wheelchair access** were top transit improvement priorities



# Outreach Key Highlights

- Across all methods of outreach, there was universal interest in the following transit improvements:
  - More 15-minute service
  - Improved bus stops
  - Increased sidewalk access
  - Crosstown service
  - More transit access to jobs
- Engagement Ambassador Session responses that differed from online survey responses:
  - Investments in paratransit service prioritized over commuter rail
  - Street maintenance/road quality was mentioned as a high-priority for investment
  - Wheelchair and stroller access at bus stops and onto buses prioritized more heavily
  - Service running later at night was cited as a higher priority during Engagement Ambassador sessions than in the online survey

Answers to open-response questions and general comments related to “how to improve transit the transit experience in Durham County” summarized into themes		Outreach Methods <div>MPO Board 04/14/2021 Item 14</div>		
		Online Survey	Engagement Ambassadors	Stakeholders
Themes	More Frequency	X	X	X
	More Hours		X	X
	More Stops	X	X	
	More Routes (Local and Regional)	X	X	X
	Crosstown Service	X		X
	High-Capacity/Direct Regional Connections	X		X
	Street Maintenance		X	
	Sidewalks	X	X	X
	Cleanliness	X	X	
	Safety	X	X	X
	Improved Stops	X	X	X
	Affordability	X	X	

## Phase II Outreach

- Tentative Release – May 17
- Same four methods as Phase I
  - Engagement Ambassadors
  - Stakeholder Interviews
  - Online Survey
  - In-person tabling at major transit sites
- Outreach will conclude mid-to-late June

# Scenarios

Note: Transit Terms and Icons subject to review and change before being released to public

# Transit Terms



**Crosstown Service**



**Regional Service**



**Bus Transit Corridors – *Formally “Transit Emphasis Corridor (TECs)”***



**Transit Signal Priority Corridors – *Formally “Bus Priority Corridors”***



Note: Transit Terms and Icons subject to review  
and change before being released to public

# Transit Terms



**Bus Rapid Transit**



**Commuter Rail**



**On-Demand Zones**



**Transfer Center**



**Park and Ride**

# Outreach Key Highlights



Addressed at the same level in every scenario



Addressed at varying levels in each scenario



More frequent service (expanded 30-minute)



Improve bus stops



Service later at night



More routes going more places



More transit access to jobs



More sidewalk access to bus stops



Faster, more reliable service



Commuter Rail



Paratransit Service Improvements

# Committed Projects – Operating

GoDurham	GoTriangle
Route 1 Improvements	Route 400 Improvements
Route 2 Improvements	Route 405 Improvements
Route 4 Improvements	Route 700 Improvements
Route 5 Improvements	Route 800 Improvements
Route 8 Improvements	Route ODX
Route 10 Improvements	Route DRX (additional trips)
Route 12 Improvements	Paratransit expansion
Route 20 Improvements	Customer Surveys (GoTriangle and GoDurham)
Expanded Sunday Service (to 9pm)	Tax District Staff
Expanded NYE Service	Transit Plan Staff
Youth GoPass	Youth GoPass
Food Access for Seniors	

# Committed Projects – Capital

GoDurham	GoTriangle
Holloway Street Bus Transit Corridor	Patterson Place Improvements
Fayetteville Street Bus Transit Corridor	Bus Stop Improvements (Durham County)
Village Transit Center	Tactical Transit Amenities
Bus Stop Improvements	Southpoint Transit Center
Renewal Bus Purchases	Renewal Bus Purchases

# Asserted Projects

GoDurham	GoTriangle
GoDurham Bus Maintenance Facility	Regional Transit Center Relocation
Microtransit/On-Demand Service	GoTriangle Bus Maintenance Facility
Durham Station Passenger Facility Improvements	



## Crosstown Routes

Danube/Hebron to Downtown  
Durham

North Durham to Duke/VA  
Hospital

East Durham to NCCU

Hebron/Danube to Walmart/Glen  
View Station

South Durham to South Square

East Durham to RTP

South Durham to Duke/VA  
Hospital

## Park & Rides/ Transfer Centers

Patterson Place

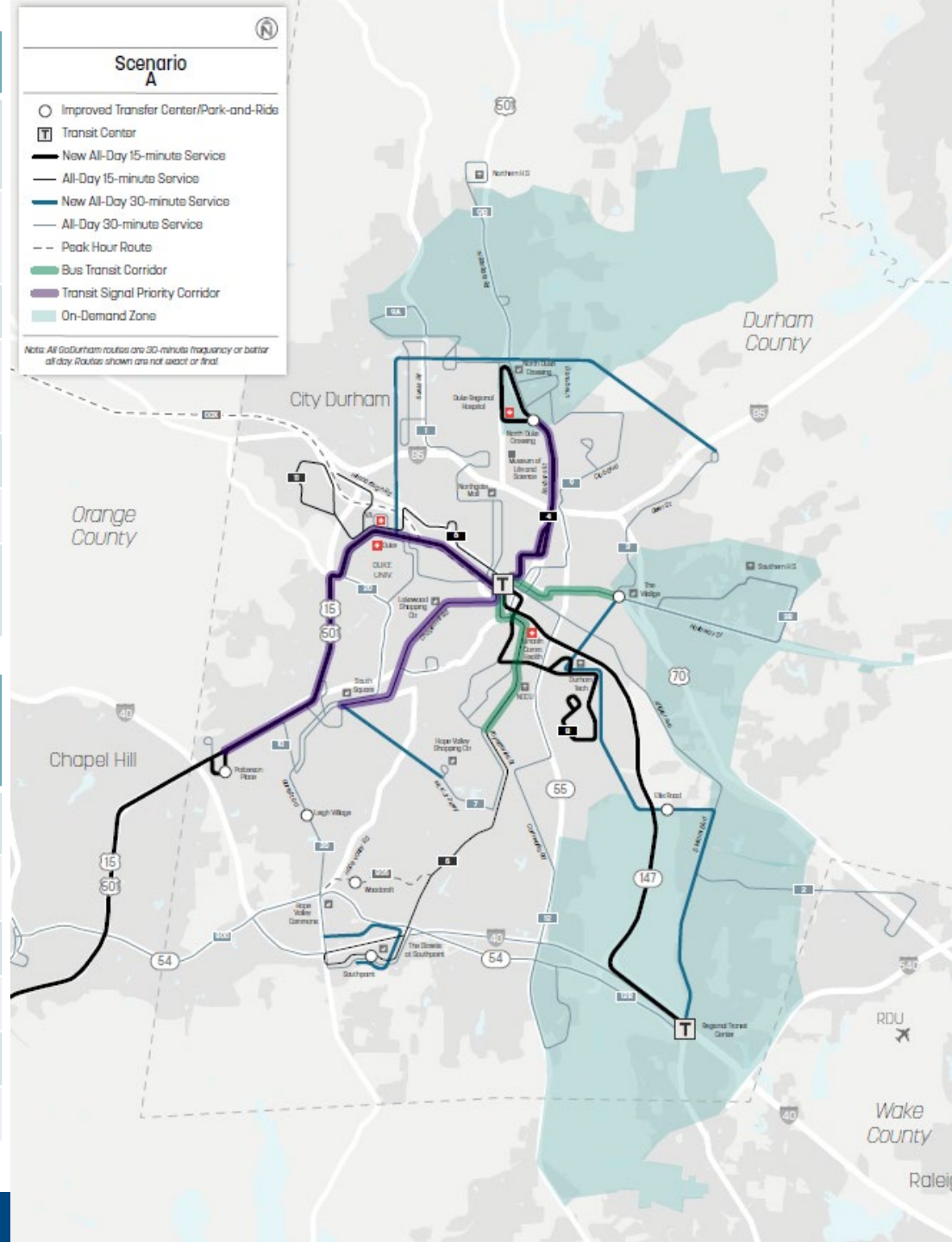
North Duke Crossing

Woodcroft

Ellis Road

Leigh Village

Southpoint



## Frequency Improvements

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Midday and evening service on Route 405  
(includes CHT Route D Extension)

Midday Service on DRX

15-minute Frequency (all day) Route 700

15-minute frequency on Routes 4 & 8

Extend Sunday service to 11pm on Routes  
400 & 700

Extend 30-minute service to 12:30am on  
GoDurham

Extend Sunday service to midnight on  
GoDurham

Add peak frequency on existing 15-minute  
GoDurham routes

## Transit Signal Priority Corridors

Chapel Hill Rd

West Main/Hillsborough/Fulton

East Main Street

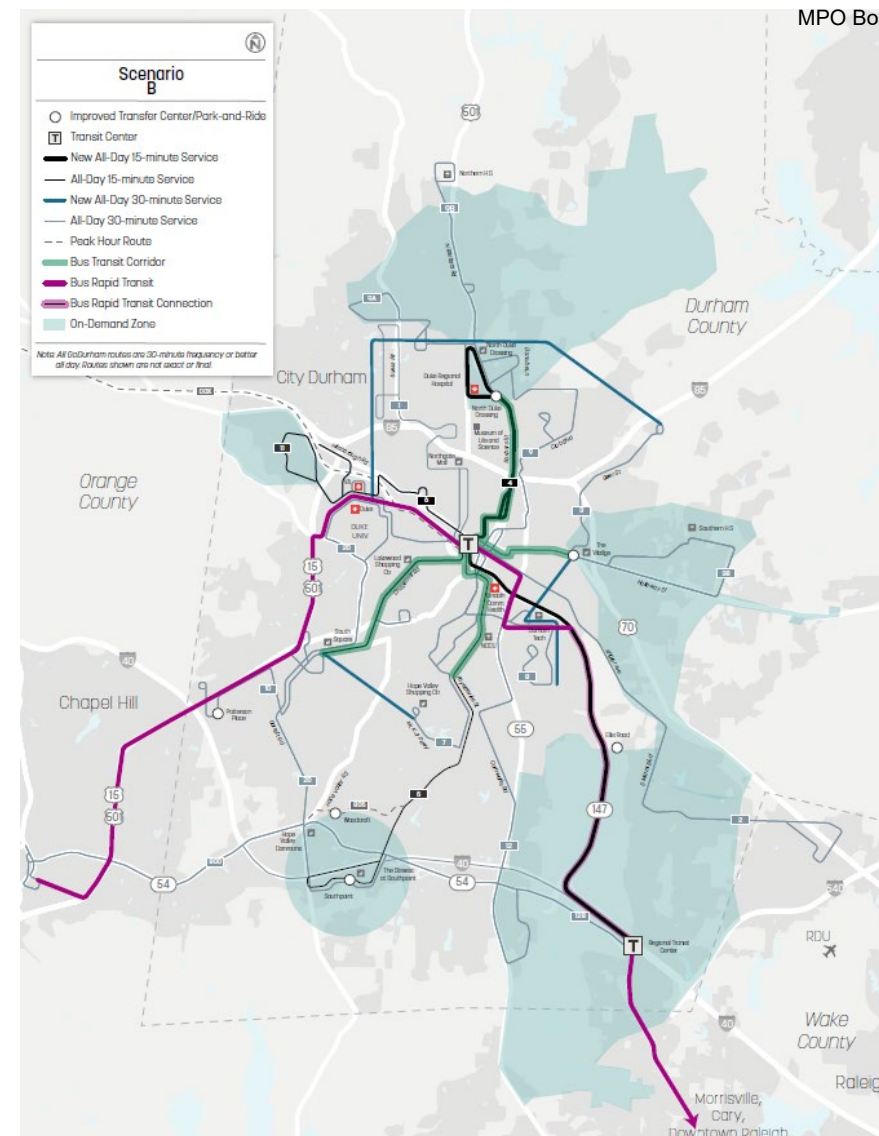
US 15/501

Roxboro Rd



# Scenario B

- Focus on bus capital improvements
- Bus Rapid Transit
  - Faster and more efficient service
  - Dedicated lanes
  - Improved regional connections
- Fewer operational improvements and later implementation for improvements than in Scenario A





## Crosstown Routes

Danube/Hebron to Downtown Durham

North Durham to Duke/VA Hospital

East Durham to NCCU

Hebron/Danube to Walmart/Glen View Station

South Durham to South Square

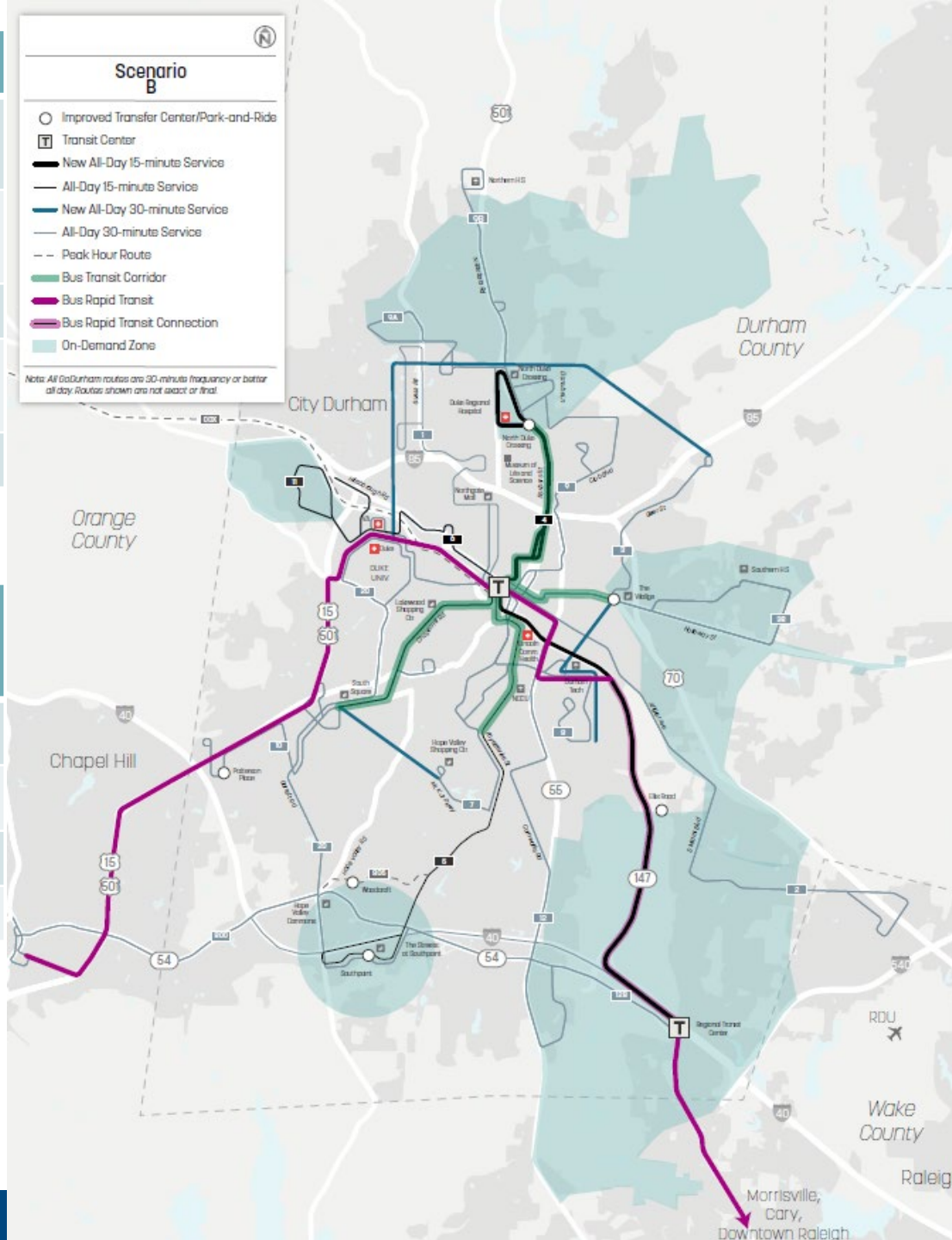
## Park & Rides/ Transfer Centers

Patterson Place

North Duke Crossing

Woodcroft

Ellis Road



## Frequency Improvements

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Midday service on Route 405

Midday Service on DRX

15-minute frequency on Route 4

Extend 30-minute service to 12:30am on GoDurham

Extend Sunday service to midnight on GoDurham

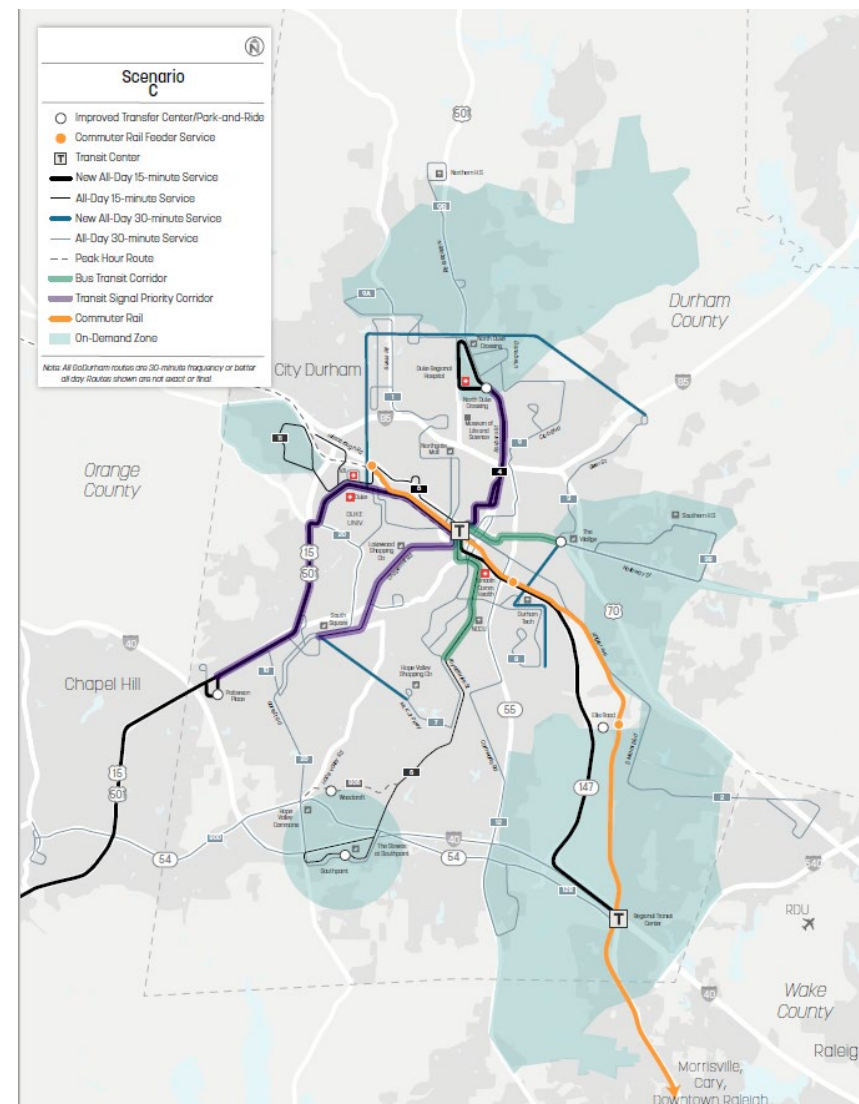
Add peak frequency on existing 15-minute GoDurham routes

## Bus Transit Corridors

Corridor	Improvement
Chapel Hill Road	TSP, queue jumps, sidewalks, bus stops
Roxboro Road	TSP, queue jumps, sidewalks, bus stops
East Main/ Alston/Lawson	BRT Corridor
West Main/ Erwin	BRT Corridor
US 15-501	BRT Corridor

# Scenario C

- Inclusion of Commuter Rail
  - Rapid, dependable service to Wake (and possibly Johnston) County
  - Serves major Durham destinations
- Fewer bus operational and capital improvements and later implementation for improvements than in Scenarios A & B



## Crosstown Routes

North Durham to Duke/VA Hospital

East Durham to NCCU

Danube to Walmart

South Durham to South Square

## Park & Rides/ Transfer Centers

Patterson Place

North Duke Crossing

Woodcroft

Ellis Road

## Transit Signal Priority Corridors

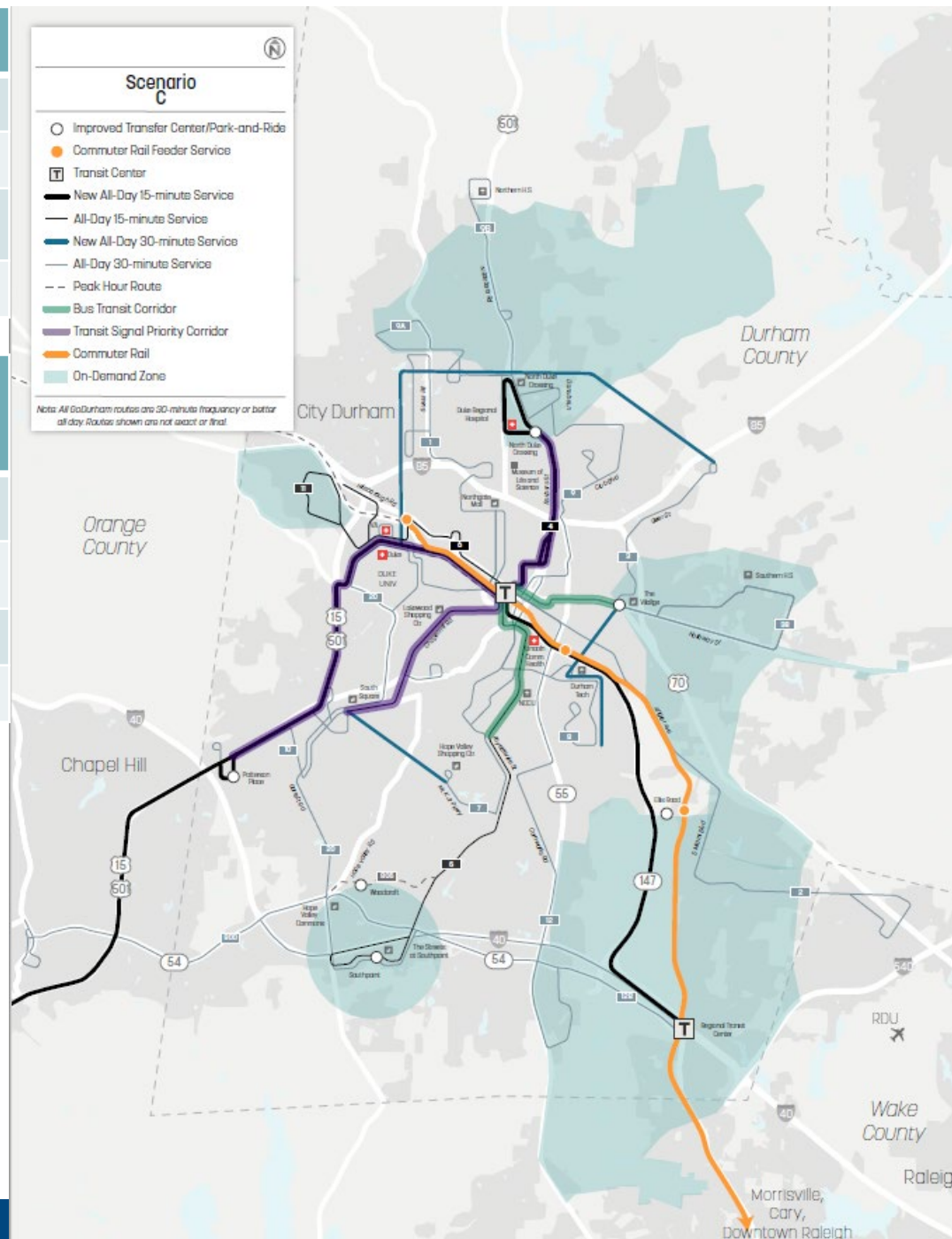
Chapel Hill Rd

West Main/Hillsborough/Fulton

East Main Street

US 15/501

Roxboro Rd



## Frequency Improvements

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Midday and evening service on Route 405 (includes CHT Route D extension)

15-minute frequency on Route 4

15-minute frequency on Route 700

Extend 30-minute service to 12:30am on GoDurham

Extend Sunday service to midnight on GoDurham

Add peak frequency on existing 15-minute GoDurham routes

## Commuter Rail

West Durham to Garner or Clayton

8-2-8-2 service

# Next Steps

# Durham Transit Plan – Project Timeline





# Durham Transit Plan Next Steps

- Phase II Outreach – Mid-May to Late June
- Construction of Preferred Scenario – July
- Update Elected Boards – August
- Begin Phase III Outreach – Late August or Early September