

## **Get plan rolling**

**By: Michael S. Cole Sr.**

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Talk to most Triangle business leaders, commuters stuck in traffic or people who don't drive a car, and they will likely say they need better transit service in our fast-growing area.

Bruce Siceloff's Oct. 15 news story "Critique is another blow for transit plan" leads the reader to falsely believe that supporters of the Wake County Transit Plan are jumping ship. Not true. Most Wake County mayors and many civic organizations have long encouraged action on the proposed plan to no avail.

Why support a bus and rail plan? Because transit has innumerable benefits for our community - from guiding growth and enhancing economic development to improving public health. The Regional Transportation Alliance now suggests bus rapid transit be considered as part of the proposed transit plan of doubled bus service and passenger rail. BRT certainly should be considered as part of the existing plan already developed by local governments and many stakeholders.

However, a major 21st century metropolitan area must also have passenger rail, which can already be accomplished in the existing corridor. In fact, commuter rail is the most inexpensive aspect of the transit plan.

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