



Moving Faster Together:

RTA SUMMARY OF REGIONAL PROJECTS

and

2026 RTA BUSINESS PLAN

letsgetmoving.org

Revised on Dec. 10, 2025



Completed Projects

- ▶ **NC 540 in Southern Wake County:** The western and southern sections of the 540 beltway are complete and open to traffic. Totaling 33 miles of 6-lane, 70 MPH posted freeway, the growing Triangle Expressway toll road system provides delay-free travel for tens of thousands of motorists across the Triangle every day.
- ▶ **I-85 Connector in Southern Durham:** The I-85 Durham East End Connector directly connects I-85 north of downtown Durham with the east-west Durham Freeway (NC 147) serving Downtown Durham. The I-85 freeway connector was completed in 2022 at a total inflation-adjusted cost of \$175 million. The connector relieves traffic on the Durham Freeway, redirects through traffic away from downtown Durham, and more easily connects points north and south of Durham.
- ▶ **I-40 Widening and Modernization in Southern Wake and Western Johnston Counties:** The I-40 improvement project widened and modernized a 9-mile segment of the freeway south and east of Raleigh, enhancing a highly traveled corridor into and out of Johnston County. At a cost of \$350 million, the project has greatly improved traffic flows on I-40 and simplified access to connecting roads and freeways.
- ▶ **I-40 Aviation Parkway Interchange:** The I-40 Aviation Parkway interchange project improved traffic flows to and from the airport at an inflation-adjusted cost of \$65 million. The project, completed in 2021, also increased efficiency and reduced delays in accessing Aviation Parkway from I-40.
- ▶ **I-40 Airport Boulevard Interchange:** NCDOT replaced the previous Airport Boulevard interchange design with a new crossover diamond interchange. Formally known as a “diverging diamond”, the modernized interchange has improved traffic flows and efficiency to and from I-40 and improved access to the airport.
- ▶ **Raleigh Union Station:** The Raleigh Union Station intercity train station project was completed in 2018 at an inflation-adjusted cost of \$150 million. The project improves access to existing and future Amtrak trains, and serves as a base for future investments in intercity rail and future higher-speed rail in the southern United States, including access to the “S-Line”.
- ▶ **Raleigh Union Station Bus Terminal “RUS BUS”:** The Raleigh Union Station Bus Terminal (RUS Bus) is adjacent to Raleigh Union Station. The project was completed in 2025 at an inflation-adjusted cost of \$55 million. The station will serve GoRaleigh and GoTriangle routes, including future BRT corridors.



540 Ribbon Cutting

Currently Under Construction

- ▶ **RDU Primary Runway 5L-23R Relocation and Expansion:** This \$1.1 billion active construction project will relocate the longest runway at RDU Airport 537.5 feet northwest, lengthen it from 10,000 feet to 10,639 feet, and convert the current runway into a parallel taxiway. The regional business community and the RDU Airport Authority both refer to the primary runway as “the most important two miles of pavement in the Triangle”; upon completion in 2029, the new 5L-23R primary runway will be the most important 2.01 miles of pavement in our region.
- ▶ **NC 540 in Eastern Wake County:** The final segment of 540 in eastern Wake County, which will complete 540 around Raleigh, will add 11 miles of tolled freeway to the regional network. When complete, the project will provide direct access to, through and around eastern Wake County. The project will be completed by fall 2028 at a cost of \$740 million.
- ▶ **I-40 Widening in Orange County:** The expansion of I-40 in Orange County, connecting US 15-501 at the Durham/Orange county line and the I-40/I-85 junction, will improve 12 miles of the freeway at a cost of \$315 million. The project is currently under construction and will be completed by 2026. The widening and modernization of I-40 will improve traffic flows through Orange County, improving access between Orange County and points west of the Triangle with Durham County, Research Triangle Park, and Wake County.
- ▶ **I-440 Improvements in West Raleigh:** The ongoing modernization of the I-440 freeway will improve on-ramps, off-ramps and through traffic flows on this high-profile, high-traffic roadway. With a cost of around \$350 million, the project is slated for completion by early 2026.
- ▶ **New Bern Avenue BRT Serving Downtown and East Raleigh:** This is the first of several enhanced rapid transit corridors to serve Raleigh and Wake County via BRT, which stands for “Bus Rapid Transit” or “Buses Resembling Trains”. The New Bern BRT project – the first dedicated BRT project in the Carolinas – will connect downtown Raleigh with the WakeMed Raleigh Campus and primary destinations in east Raleigh. When completed later this decade, the project will create reliable, frequent, enhanced transit service, including more than 3 miles of dedicated or priority lanes, for the corridor.

- ▶ **Raleigh-Wake Forest-Richmond, Va. Inter-City Higher Speed Rail Corridor:** Following the award of the largest USDOT grant to NCDOT in any mode of travel, the S-line corridor will create a new, high speed, fully grade separated rail linkage between downtown Raleigh and Wake Forest, with eventual connectivity to Richmond, Washington, DC, and the Northeast Corridor. The project, funded by a \$1 billion federal grant, would be a significant step in activating the broader southeast high-speed rail program that would connect urban centers with reliable inter-city rail service with maximum speeds of between 90 and 125 miles per hour.
- ▶ **RDU Park Economy 3 Expansion:** This \$164 million active construction project is adding 7,000 new long-term/economy parking spaces and a customer amenity building, along with EV chargers. When complete this will be largest surface parking lot in the state. Expected completion spring 2026.
- ▶ **RDU John Brantley Boulevard Airport Ring Road Expansion Project:** This \$175 million active construction project will extend and widen John Brantley Blvd. (JBB), which serves as the ring road between the terminals and the RDU campus extension of Airport Boulevard. The project will include multiple bridges to reduce weaving conflicts and delays, increases in overall laneage for JBB and other airport campus roadways, as well as a number of intersection improvements. The project will also create an interim ground transportation center near the terminals. The project has an expected completion of 2030.
- ▶ **RDU Terminal 2 Landside Expansion Project:** This \$775 million active construction project will expand and modernize several elements of the largest terminal facility at RDU International. The project will increase the size of the existing terminal 2 ticketing, security checkpoint and international arrivals areas. The project will also add a new baggage handling system for the terminal. This vital project, with an expected completion date of 2031, will not add any gate capacity to the terminal.



Upcoming and Proposed Projects

- ▶ **US-1/Capital Boulevard Upgrade to Freeway in Northern Wake County:** The US 1 / Capital Boulevard upgrade project will improve traffic congestion by upgrading a 10-mile stretch of US 1 in northern Wake County to a freeway. To support this \$1.3 billion project, NCDOT has currently begun advance right-of-way acquisition for this project, which is currently slated to begin construction in the early 2030s. This project is RTA's top regional freeway priority.
- ▶ **RDU Transit Shuttle Priority Roadway:** This proposed project will add a new roadway between Park Economy 3 (PE3) and the terminal complex which would provide streamlined travel between PE3 and the John Brantley Boulevard airport ring road. The project also includes a new interchange with Aviation Parkway, and will also make improvements to National Guard Drive. The project is currently in the environmental and design phase.
- ▶ **US-70 Glenwood Avenue Improvements:** Proposed improvements to US 70 in west Raleigh include a nearly \$400 million combination of projects to address congestion and connections on a stretch of Glenwood Avenue west of I-540 near Brier Creek. The improvements, proposed to start in 2030, will improve traffic flows, safety, and intersections on a highly trafficked section of US 70, including multiple new interchanges along the corridor. Additional improvements are under consideration in Durham County between the Durham/Wake county line and I-885.
- ▶ **US-64 Improvements in Western Wake County:** The US-64 improvement project will update a 3-mile stretch of US 64 between Apex and Cary. The project, currently in planning and development, will enhance traffic flow in a fast-growth area, improving commuter traffic and safety. With an estimated cost of \$330 million, the project is projected to start construction in 2030.
- ▶ **Southern BRT Serving Downtown Raleigh, South Raleigh, and Garner:** The Southern BRT will add an additional 5 miles of dedicated BRT corridor, primarily along South Wilmington St., connecting downtown Raleigh and Garner, with frequent, reliable transit service. At an estimated cost of \$220 million, it is currently in the final design phase, and construction is slated for later this decade.
- ▶ **Western BRT Serving Downtown Raleigh, NC State University, and Downtown Cary:** The 9 mile Western BRT corridor will be one of the longest BRT corridors in the Triangle. The project would add frequent, fast, reliable BRT service along the Western Boulevard and Cary Towne Boulevard corridors, connecting Raleigh and Cary. The project is in the design phase with an estimated cost of \$395 million. The project is slated to start construction later this decade.
- ▶ **Northern BRT Corridors Serving Downtown, Midtown, and North Raleigh:** The proposed Northern Wake BRT corridors are in a major investment study as of fall 2025. The corridors would connect downtown Raleigh with the Midtown and Triangle Town Center areas with fast, reliable BRT service. The project is currently exploring local alternatives and does not yet have a construction budget or timeline.
- ▶ **Cary/Morrisville/RTP BRT Extension in Western Wake and Eastern Durham Counties and Garner/Clayton BRT Extension in Southern Wake and Western Johnston Counties:** There is an active study of two proposed BRT corridors. One is a proposed 11.5-mile BRT extension that would connect Cary, Morrisville, and Research Triangle Park (RTP), and extend BRT service west beyond the initial Western BRT corridor currently under development in Cary and Raleigh. The project is examining potential station locations and service patterns for the corridor. A second corridor would connect Garner with Clayton.
- ▶ **Chapel Hill North-South BRT:** The 8.2-mile North-South BRT corridor would connect the entire length of Chapel Hill with dedicated bus lanes, stations, and frequent service. The project has an estimated cost of \$180 million, and construction is expected to begin in 2027.
- ▶ **Central Durham BRT:** The proposed Central Durham BRT project would connect East Durham near I-885, Downtown Durham, and Duke University with frequent, reliable BRT service. The five mile long corridor will primarily use queue jumps and transit technology to ensure transit priority and reliability, although about 20% of the corridor is envisioned to be in dedicated lanes.
- ▶ **RTP Regional Transit Center:** Located along NC-54 just west of Miami Boulevard in RTP, the RTP Regional Transit Center, also known as the "Triangle Mobility Hub," will be an expanded transit hub for existing and future GoTriangle services, while also linking to future intercity rail and BRT service. The \$50 million project will also serve as a platform for future transit-oriented-development in RTP.

2025-2026 RTA Business Plan

RTA Mission: *Deliver business leadership to get our region moving faster.*

Strategic Advocacy Priorities

- ▶ **Identify sustainable business model for RDU infrastructure** – Support RDU expansion by advancing new revenue tools and innovative project delivery methods, as well as faster environmental approvals
- ▶ **Lobby for solutions to modernize and strengthen state highway revenue** – Build upon existing state fee framework for electric, hybrid vehicles by exploring access fee, sales tax, gas tax options
- ▶ **Promote innovative, scalable funding and project delivery** – Identify new funding methods, project development, and public engagement options to reduce inflation risk and speed results

Rapid Implementation Initiatives

- ▶ **Accelerate US-1/Capital Boulevard Freeway** – Ensure faster upgrade of US 1 to multimodal freeway and parallel access road system north of I-540, via innovative funding, financing, and/or project delivery
- ▶ **Advance construction on BRT, I-40/RDU Airport exchange station, RTP transit center** – Support Raleigh New Bern BRT construction; accelerate regionwide BRT network, stations, and FAST infrastructure
- ▶ **Drive consensus and implementation of I-40 mobility and safety improvements** – Work with NCDOT and partners on rapid relief, SMART freeway treatments; explore pathways for a broader I-40 solution
- ▶ **Implement multiple intersection innovations** – Work with NCDOT and municipalities to install dynamic left turns and other low-cost intersection improvements to reduce delay and emissions

Organizational Priorities

- ▶ **Grow RTA Leadership Team investments** – Support RTA major investors in their efforts to expand the RTA Regional Leadership Team, encourage upgrades, and promote additional member investments
- ▶ **Expand overall RTA membership** – Promote awareness and expansion of RTA organization by leveraging introductory pricing for small businesses that are already members of an RTA member chamber
- ▶ **Maintain RTA Leadership Team pricing for 24th consecutive year** – Retain Leadership rates (\$5,000 Silver; \$7,500 Gold; \$10,000 Sustaining Gold) to simplify member budgeting and promote value

RTA Overview

The voice of the regional business community on transportation since 2002, RTA is a metropolitan, private-public partnership that drives consensus and action. RTA represents more than 100 leading companies and 25 member chambers of commerce across 13 counties. RTA is a regional program of the Greater Raleigh Chamber.

RTA Purpose

RTA believes that advancing mobility infrastructure is essential for prosperity, economic mobility, and quality of place and life for our members and our region, and that applying business focus will accelerate solutions.

RTA Advocacy Approach

RTA works with our elected and transportation partners to advance key priorities, elevate opportunities, and accelerate results. We create essential focus through purposeful and sustained advocacy, support, regional collaboration, events, tours, research, synthesizing information, reframing issues, and targeted outreach.

Transportation projects will always take “forever.” RTA works with our partners to make them take “less forever” ... which means less risk, more certainty, and faster, better solutions for our members and the region.

RTA Regional Leadership Team

Rev. Dec. 10, 2025

*Asterisk signifies company is an Omnia Gold Investor.

RTA Sustaining Gold Members

Amgen*	Greater Raleigh Chamber	The Spectrum Company
Duke Energy	IBM Corporation	The Sunrock Group
First Citizens Bank	Kane Realty	Wake County Economic Development
Google	Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority	
Greater Durham Chamber	Research Triangle Foundation*	

RTA Gold Members

Dewberry	Martin Marietta	VHB
FUJIFILM Biotechnologies	McAdams	Wetherill Engineering
HDR	Pinnacle Financial Partners	WSP
HH Architecture	Smith Anderson	
Kimley-Horn	United Therapeutics	

RTA Silver Members

Bolton & Menk	Forge Nano	SAS Institute
Capitol Broadcasting Co	GFT	STV Inc
Chatham Park	GoTriangle	TA Loving Company
Coastal Credit Union	Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitor Bureau	TowneBank
CSL Seqirus	Helix Ventures	Truist
DRMP	KCI Associates	The Umstead Hotel and Spa
Duke University	KDC	UBS
Eagle Eye Consulting	Lenovo	UNC Chapel Hill
Enbridge Gas NC	Novo Nordisk Pharmaceutical Industries	UNC Health
Fidelity Investments	North Carolina State University	Wake Tech Community College
First National Bank		Westin RDU Airport Hotel
Fox Rothschild LLP		York Properties

RTA Member Chambers of Commerce

Angier	Garner	Sanford
Apex	Hillsborough / Orange County	Triangle East
Benson	Holly Springs	Wake Forest
Cary	Knightdale	Wayne County
Chapel Hill	Moore County	Wendell
Chatham	Morrisville	Wilson
Clayton	Rocky Mount	Zebulon
Franklin	Rolesville	
Fuquay-Varina	Roxboro	

RTA Senior Regional Partners

Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Org.	GoRaleigh / City of Raleigh	Town of Morrisville
Central Pines Regional Council	GoTriangle	Town of Holly Springs
Chapel Hill Transit / Town of Chapel Hill	Orange County Transportation	Town of Knightdale
City of Durham	Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority	Town of Wake Forest
	Town of Apex	Triangle West TPO
	Town of Cary	

For full membership list, including Bronze and Basic, visit letsgetmoving.org/membership.