Regional Transportation Alliance – 2026-27 RTA Business Plan

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

RTA 2027 focus: Pushing for accelerated, scalable results and timely delivery.

Summary of current landscape:

- The growth of the market continues to increase, including outwardly, providing economic opportunity but also advocacy urgency to create reliable, cross-regional connectivity
- Cost inflation and time delays are rendering several projects effectively unbuildable or unviable, and all projects are taking too long to complete, except for toll roads
- Applying business focus on a few vital needs and solution pathways (e.g., the RDU exchange station, US 1 Capital freeway toll options) continues to bear fruit with our transportation and elected partners
- Our region must embrace faster, concurrent studies, streamlined engagement, and a managed risk implementation approach
- The regional business community will advocate for accelerated, tactical and scalable results, and consensus for same

2027 top project priorities:

- US 1 freeway – We will continue to push for acceleration of all or part of this vital Capital Blvd. upgrade
- US 70 – We will seek consensus on a junior freeway alternative between Durham and Raleigh
- I-40 – We will advance rapid relief solutions and pursue regional "through chute" lanes for I-40
- Regional BRT – We will push for accelerated delivery of BRT corridors and I-40/RDU exchange station
- RDU Airport – We will promote airport infrastructure and funding, and elevate P3 solution opportunities
- Intercity Rail – We will support Raleigh-Wake Forest phase 1 linkage to Richmond, and new RTP station

2027 top policy and funding priorities:

- Federal policy – We will support reauthorization, including policies that streamline approvals
- State policy – We will push transparency/accountability legislation to highlight, reduce project delays
- State funding – We will advance gas tax reindexing, consideration of expanded state revenue options
- Regional policy – We will ensure that business voices are represented on vital transportation boards
- Local funding – We will push for county local option roads legislation to complement transit taxes
- Project funding – We will elevate toll solutions for expanded or new freeways, including I-40, I-540

2027 ongoing focuses:

- Congestion relief – We will pursue intersection delay funding by leveraging dynamic left turn pilots
- Transit experience – We will elevate the importance of safe, attractive transit for future BRT success
- Multimodal streets – We will seek scalable delivery of I-40 bikeway and complete street approaches

2027 organizational priorities:

- We will continue our successful growth of the membership of the RTA Regional Leadership Team
- RTA will increase executive director and chair(s) outreach to current Leadership Team members
- RTA will maintain stable RTA Leadership Team pricing ($5k, $7.5k, $10k) for 25th consecutive year

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 sustained 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 chair leadership

- Sarah Gaskill, FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies – *RTA chair*
- John Boylan, The Spectrum Companies – *RTA chair-elect*
- Jay Irby, First Citizens Bank – *RTA immediate past chair*
- Harold Hicks, RTI International – *RTA prior past chair*

RTA focus area chairs

- Alex Culpepper, The Sunrock Group – *commerce and logistics chair*
- Frederico Egli, IBM – *emerging technology chair*
- Avi Halpert, United Therapeutics -- *partnerships and outreach chair*
- Lilyn Hester, Google – *innovation chair*
- John Kane, Kane Realty – *real estate and mobility chair*
- Dana Martinez, Amgen – *sustainability and environment chair*
- Nicole Niwa, Novo – *air service and infrastructure chair*
- Derrick Remer, Duke Energy - *Risk Management/Resilience*
- Stelfanie Williams, Duke University – *regional transit chair*

RTA team

- Joe Milazzo II, PE, RTA executive director
  - joe@letsgetmoving.org
  - w 919.664.7065
  - m 919.389.9285
- Jacob Rigg, RTA membership operations coordinator
  - jacob@letsgetmoving.org
  - w 919.664.7062
- Michael Hogan, RTI International, RTA research and policy coordinator
- KJ Stancil, Eagle Eye Consulting, RTA lobbyist
- Jackson Stancil, Jones Street Consulting, RTA lobbyist