

August 20, 2021

Aaron Cain
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Aaron:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of the Regional Transportation Alliance, the voice of the regional business community on transportation, pertaining to the various scenarios of the Durham Transit plan, and the development of a potential preferred option.

- RTA supports the ongoing development of a new Durham County transit plan, in concert with those in Wake and Orange counties
- We applaud the focus on equity as a primary metric of success
- We recommend placing the majority of the focus on Durham City/County needs – but we also urge a significant regional connectivity and opportunity emphasis; we call this a 2/3 “me” (Durham), 1/3 “we” (regional) framework
- From a Durham standpoint, we support the continued implementation of Freeway And Street-based Transit (FAST) elements and treatments, including continued expansion of frequent service, along with “transit advantage” infrastructure along Durham streets and roadways
- We recommend consideration of the following regional elements as final scenarios are developed, in order to leverage and build on the more than 55 miles of bus rapid transit (BRT) being constructed across 4 counties by 2030:
 - Interconnected, scalable corridors and/or FAST elements along major roadways in Durham, including:
 - **Interstate 40**, in Durham and eastern Orange counties, via Transit Priority Shoulder (TPS) treatment near the median
 - **NC 147 / future I-885**, between downtown Durham and I-40 / Research Triangle Park, via TPS or a transit priority lane
 - **NC 54 and US 15-501**, between Durham and Chapel Hill, via BRT, FAST, TPS, and/or Bus On Shoulder System (BOSS) on the outside shoulder
 - **US 70 east**, between Durham and I-540/Raleigh, perhaps by incorporating TPS as the road is upgraded to a multimodal freeway
 - Initiate and ideally accelerate regional commuter rail between Durham and Wake/Johnston counties
 - **Vet several implementation scenarios and tradeoffs** to optimize the investment and equity

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joe Milazzo II, PE
Executive Director
Regional Transportation Alliance