

Commuter Rail discussion – RTA 21st Annual Meeting, part 2, January 31, 2023

“How should our region go about deciding what/when to build a regional commuter rail – and what should we consider?”

Initial single thoughts

- Location
- Money
- Accessibility
- Equity
- Environmental Justice
- Cost
- Ridership
- Efficiency
- Private Partnership
- Look at the growing number of residents in the towns that neighbor Raleigh
- Providing frequent and reliable connection between Raleigh and Durham
- How to incrementally add trips of Amtrak service
- Acquisition cost
- Workforce mobility
- Organizational capacity
- Late-night service
- Land use
- Federal funding
- Weekend service
- Marketing
- Traffic implications

Group thoughts

Attendees looked at the funding as a problem along with surrounding land use, frequency of service and location, ridership, and opportunity costs.

- Consistent funding
- Cost of getting from start to end point, cost share between municipalities and targeting federal funding opportunities (no state funding)
- NC Gen assembly funding support
- Affordability
- Cost (What else could the 3B be used for?)
- How to leverage federal \$?
- Future growth in the triangle
- Key location
- Resiliency in networks and our transportation system
- Consider impacts to local communities in development and building
- Density around transit corridors?
- Parking First/Last mile solutions
- Technology
- Public sentiment
- Grassroots advocates and local champions
- Improved PR
- Which corridor can be implemented first? We need to get something in place as proof of concept
- Ridership
- Ridership (has Covid changed things?)
- What is the cost of NOT doing commuter rail