

## RTA - Regional Transportation Alliance

RTA is the voice of the regional business community on transportation.

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

### 2023 – 24 RTA Action Plan

1. Identify sustainable funding for RDU Airport
2. Advance enhanced regional transit system
3. Promote rapid relief freeway improvements
4. Modernize revenues for highways and streets
5. Support mobility innovations and pilots

#### RTA Areas of Advocacy Focus

1. Identify sustainable funding for RDU Airport
  - Lobby for federal funding for RDU primary runway
  - Explore, vet, and secure additional airport-controlled capital funding sources
  - Increase municipal owner contributions to RDU
2. Advance enhanced regional transit system
  - Support implementation, expansion of BRT in Raleigh and across region
  - Spearhead Freeway, Arterial, Street, Tactical (FAST) transit, including BRT to RDU
  - Examine transit safety to optimize ridership, user experience
  - Implement, examine, and optimize zero fare (or ZF weekends) in multiple agencies
3. Promote rapid relief freeway improvements
  - Accelerate US 1-Capital Blvd freeway and multimodal gateway north/south of I-540
  - Identify consensus solution for US 70 between I-885 and I-540 in Durham
  - Elevate transit priority shoulders for I-540 and SMART freeway corridors regionwide
  - Advance scalable improvements for I-40, I-87, I-540, I-885; US 64, US 15-501; NC 54
4. Modernize revenues for highways and streets
  - Advance access user fee approach in concert with NC Chamber and other partners
5. Support mobility innovations and pilots
  - Expand dynamic left turn intersection (DTLi) approaches across region
  - Support pilot installations of enhanced, automated, and electric mobility options
  - Push modular, mini-roundabouts to simplify and expand implementation
  - Accelerate Triangle Bikeway along I-40 and advance protected bike lanes regionwide

### **RTA Opportunities for Growth and Increased Engagement**

- Grow RTA membership with targeted outreach in concert with volunteer leadership
- Increase frequency of connects with RTA focus area chairs and RTA Leadership Team
- Continue RTA weekly briefings, blogs, quarterly leadership briefings
- Execute successful RTA 22<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting, annual RTA breakfast, other events
- Fund and promote RTA-spearheaded research including FAST transit study
- Activate RTA task forces if/as needed; e.g., regional transit, priority acceleration

### **Successes on RTA FY 2023 Priorities**

- Exceeded 90% membership renewal rate while growing RTA Leadership Team
- Led regional campaign for increased federal funding at RDU; sustained support helped environmental approval for runway and \$100m in federal funding
- Spearheaded regional transit conversations with public sector partners, leading to clarity on funding opportunities and limitations for passenger rail and regional BRT
- Launched FAST study with 10+ funding partners, including \$100k investment from RTA reserves; NCDOT managing \$800k+ study
- Elevated engagement through successful RTA annual meeting and breakfast events and multiple Leadership, Steering, and online/in-person RTA membership meetings
- Supported planning and execution of Durham Chamber's first intercity visit, including sessions and tours on BRT and roundabouts
- Advanced access user fee in legislature with NC Chamber; FY 2024 NC state budget includes increases in partial access fee for EVs and new partial access fee for hybrids
- NCDOT activated 6<sup>th</sup> daily train per direction between Raleigh and Cary every day, with some trains to Charlotte below 3 hours to support business travel
- NCDOT and Turnpike Authority nearing completion on 540 in southern Wake – a recent RTA top overall priority – and advancing 540 in eastern Wake to construction

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