

FAST

Freeway, Arterial, Street, and Tactical transit study for the Research Triangle metropolitan area

Project Impetus and Overview

- NCDOT is spearheading a follow-up study to the 2020-21 FAST study ([documents¹](#)), with an overall objective of prioritizing transit.
- This follow-up effort, “FAST 2.0” transit study – Freeway, Arterial, Street, and Tactical transit ([overview²](#), [documents³](#))– is being managed by NCDOT; the consultant is WSP.
- The study is focusing on ways to advance the implementation of transit priority infrastructure; i.e., to make our freeways and streets “transit ready”. This includes accelerating BRT linkages to RTP and RDU from downtown Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, and Cary. It also includes the advancement of “SMART” freeways (Simplified Methods to Accelerate Relief for Traffic) to create better operations for transit and all vehicles at lower costs and impacts.
- The study formally began in February 2024 and will conclude by Summer 2025.

Geography

The FAST transit study will incorporate a review of potential dynamic transit priority shoulders, key linkages with proposed BRT corridors and extensions, and other transit priority measures for several of the freeways and primary arterials in the core metropolitan Triangle area, including Wake, Durham, Orange, Johnston, and Chatham counties.

There may also be an examination of potential connections in counties in the extended metropolitan area and environs, including Franklin, Nash, Wilson, Granville, Lee, Harnett, Alamance, Person, Wayne, and Moore.

Deliverables

The FAST study will create specific project recommendations, including express designs, that will advance transit priority infrastructure solutions. These could include:



Express designs or feasibility studies of potential freeway platform exchange stations along I-40 near RDU Airport and Research Triangle Park



Direct freeway/BRT ramp linkages at key locations



An implementation framework for activating dynamic transit priority shoulders and accelerating SMART infrastructure along specific freeway segments

The FAST study may also identify vital policy and funding changes that will advance transit in the Triangle market and across North Carolina.

Outreach and Funding Partners

- There will be ongoing outreach with stakeholders on concepts, ideas, and express designs of proposed transit priority elements. This outreach will take the form of curated focus groups, presentations, and other engagement mechanisms.
- NCDOT will activate a streamlined project webpage to provide effective study outreach.
- The Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) will highlight the results of the study at the “RTA Transportation Brunch 2025: Moving Towards a FAST Transit Future” event on August 8.
- There are 16 funding partners: cities of Raleigh and Durham; towns of Cary and Chapel Hill; counties of Wake, Durham, Orange, Chatham, Johnston; Triangle West TPO, CAMPO; GoTriangle; Research Triangle Foundation; Central Pines Regional Council, NCDOT, and RTA.

1 <https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/integrated-mobility/multimodal-planning/Pages/fast-study-documents.aspx>
2 <https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/integrated-mobility/multimodal-planning/Pages/fast-study.aspx>
3 <https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrants/Pages/Fast-2-0.aspx>