



**Date:** October 21, 2021

**To:** Wendy Jacobs, Chair—DCHC Metropolitan Planning Organization

**From:** Evian Patterson, Transportation Planning Manager – City of Durham

**CC:** Sean Egan, Director, Transportation—City of Durham

**Subject:** City of Durham’s Request for MPO Letter of Support for FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Grant

The purpose of this memorandum is to request a letter of support from the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC) in support of the City of Durham’s (COD) grant application for the Federal Transit Agency’s (FTA) Buses and Bus Facilities Grant program.

The City of Durham (COD) intends to pursue Federal Funding to support the construction of improvements to Durham Station Transportation Center (Durham Station), in order to enhance passenger amenities, address safety concerns, and to alleviate space needs identified in planning stages. The improvements allows the COD to continue addressing goals for equitable access by providing the ability to increase in route frequency and service throughout the transit network. The improved transit service will enhance access and mobility within the service area for all GoDurham riders, but in particular for the 68% of GoDurham riders without access to a vehicles and rely on bus transit for their mobility. The site will provide bike racks and will include space for a scooter corral, along with continuing providing space for intercity buses, creating a mobility hub that allows riders to more easily connect to local and regional destinations. The project will also help advance Durham’s carbon neutrality and renewable energy goals, by providing spaces for electric bus charging and installing solar panels on the bus island canopies.

The City of Durham requests MPO Board support in its effort to improve overall access to Durham’s multimodal and transit system as these improvements will address 2050 MTP Goals and intend to improve connectivity within the MPO.

Enclosed herewith is an Executive Summary of the Durham Station, demonstrating the partnership with GoTriangle in the development of 100% design of Durham’s busiest transit station. The design document is referenced as guide in the FTA funding application. Also attached is a draft Letter of Support, which the COD will work with MPO staff to finalize for Board chair signature by application deadline, November 19, 2021. The COD intends to submit their application on November 16, 2021.