

From: [Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro MPO - CMS](#)
To: [Colleen McGue](#)
Subject: Email contact from Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro MPO, NC
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Message submitted from the <Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro MPO, NC> website.

Site Visitor Name: Dr. Ryan Johnson
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Hello Ms. McGue,

I am a professor at Elon University. For years I have commuted on the train with my bike from Durham to Burlington Station, biking the remaining 4 miles to Elon's campus. It was been a joy to ride.

But this summer NCDOT cut the Burlington, High Point, and Salisbury stops on commuter routes. All of these places are the lowest income counties served by the train. It is surely coincidence that cutting stops and forcing these residents to drive more corresponds closely to recent studies that show "Traffic pollution overly impacts marginalized communities." It seems the Rail Division is committed to making sure that lower income communities are cut off from public transportation, which does not look good given the complicated history of public transportation in the South.

The main reason is to save four minutes. How, I wonder, can cutting off many hundreds of riders (including two universities), and ruining commuting possibilities for dozens of people (in cities full of businesses), justify saving four minutes? Isn't public transportation supposed to serve everyone, not just the big cities?

I spoke with the Burlington Mayor and City Council, the Salisbury Mayor and Councilors, leaders of local Transit, Country commissioners, the manager of the Town of Elon, and representatives at Elon University. None of them were even told. I had to tell them, and they are concerned that this may negatively affect hiring and staffing of Burlington businesses, Elon, Alamance County, etc.

As is clear from the growing number of articles being published (Greensboro News and Record, News & Observer, Alamance News, Elon News Network, etc.), people are badly harmed by this decision.

So, if you feel up for it, any support in this would be greatly appreciated. Happy to talk more!

Cheers,
Ryan