

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
ACT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE DURHAM-ORANGE LIGHT RAIL
TRANSIT PROJECT**

November 11, 2015

A motion was made by Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) Board Member _____ and seconded by DCHC MPO Board Member _____ for the adoption of the following resolution and upon being put to a vote, was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) recommendations in May 2008 included rail transit extending from Raleigh to Durham to Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, the Durham-Chapel-Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) incorporated the STAC rail transit into the adopted 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan in April 2009; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly approved the Congestion Relief/Intermodal Transport bill in August 2009 that enables local areas to fund public transportation through an increase in sales tax, car registration fees and special district property taxes; and

WHEREAS, GoTriangle implemented the Triangle Regional Transit Program in 2010 to study the financial, ridership, environmental and public input aspects of regional bus and rail transit, and subsequently conducted a visioning process and Transitional Analysis Report to study rail corridors in Durham, Orange, and Wake counties; and

WHEREAS, GoTriangle completed an Alternatives Analysis on the three highest-performing corridors that included the Durham-Orange corridor in July 2011 and issued an Addendum to the “Detailed Definition of Alternatives Technical Report” in August 2011 which clarified that reasonable alternatives to the proposed alignments crossing the Little Creek and New Hope Creek areas will be studied; and

WHEREAS, in February, 2012 the DCHC MPO Board approved the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) corridor as presented in the 2011 Transitional Analysis Report; and

WHEREAS, in May, 2013 the DCHC MPO Board adopted the 2040 DCHC MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the DCHC MPO Urbanized Area, which includes the D-O LRT project; and

WHEREAS, GoTriangle has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the D-O LRT corridor; and

WHEREAS, the DEIS evaluated alternative alignments for the D-O LRT corridor between Durham and Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, in the summer and fall, 2015 the member jurisdictions of the DCHC MPO Urbanized Area in which the D-O LRT is located endorsed the NEPA Preferred Alternative for the D-O LRT corridor; and

WHEREAS, the DCHC MPO Board received a presentation on the DEIS for the D-O LRT project from GoTriangle and solicited input from members of the public on the DEIS for the D-O LRT project in September, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the DCHC MPO Board has reviewed the findings of the DEIS for the D-O LRT project; and

WHEREAS, the DCHC MPO Board finds that the NEPA Preferred Alternative for the D-O LRT project minimizes environmental impacts while promoting increased regional transit use and supportive land use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the DCHC MPO Board that the Board endorses the National Environmental Policy Act Preferred Alternative for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project, on this, the 11th day of November, 2015.

Mark Kleinschmidt, DCHC MPO Board Chair

Durham County, North Carolina

I certify that Mark Kleinschmidt personally appeared before me this day acknowledging to me that he signed the forgoing document.

Date: November 11, 2015

Frederick Brian Rhodes, Notary Public
My commission expires: May 10, 2020