



CITY OF DURHAM

Office of the Mayor

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October 6, 2015

Jeff Mann
General Manager
GoTriangle
P.O. Box 13787
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Mr. Mann:

At its meeting on October 5, 2015, the Durham City Council endorsed the recommended NEPA Preferred Alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project. The Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project is strongly supported by the City of Durham and is an essential element of our long-range transportation and land use plans. The project is critical for our region's continued economic development, environmental sustainability, and the future mobility needs of Durham.

The City Council's recommendation includes the endorsement of the following options:

- The C2A alignment over Little Creek
- The NHC2 alignment over New Hope Creek
- The Trent/Flowers station location near the Duke and VA Hospitals
- The Farrington Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility
- The Build option

While the City endorses the project, the City Council acknowledges that there will be impacts with any transportation project of this scale and requests that GoTriangle continue to work with City staff and the Council on refining the project's design as the project proceeds into project engineering. The City's request includes the following:

- GoTriangle is expected to continue to work cooperatively with the Durham City Council and staff on the design of the project as it continues into project engineering.

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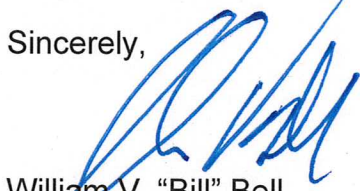
- GoTriangle will be expected to comply with all City plans and policies in the development and construction of the alignment and station areas.
- GoTriangle should continue to pursue strategies to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to the community, natural, and cultural resources that are caused by the recommended NEPA Preferred Alternative in the DEIS.
- GoTriangle should be sensitive to impacts on all communities, especially low income communities along the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit alignment. Ensuring the continued availability of existing and future development of additional affordable housing near station areas is essential to ensure that all residents of Durham have access to and benefit from the light rail transit investment.
- The City is aware of the concerns of those who would like to see the Alston Avenue transit station located to the east of Alston Avenue. Given the economic and technical engineering constraints, it appears that it is not feasible to relocate the station beyond its proposed location. In the event there is an analysis by GoTriangle and the FTA that these constraints can be overcome, the City supports such a move.
- Safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian access to the light rail stations as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the alignment should be included in the project to the maximum extent practicable.
- The City expects that traffic impacts caused by the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit will be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable with consideration for traffic flow and congestion, safety, bicyclists, pedestrians, bus transit, and travel demand management.
- The City requests that during the project engineering phase GoTriangle carefully evaluate the feasibility of modifications to the locations of the Buchanan Station and the Durham Multi-modal Transit Station as well as the inclusion of a City Center Station, as recommended by Durham Area Designers.
- The City requests that, in light of reasonable concerns by Durham residents of potential stormwater impacts at the proposed Rail Operations Maintenance Facility, GoTriangle investigate and implement stormwater controls at a level necessary to ensure water quality.
- Should problems arise from the recommended Rail Operations Maintenance Facility location, the City expects that GoTriangle will carefully evaluate the feasibility of a revised site for the ROMF at Cornwallis Road.
- The City request that, in light of reasonable concerns by Durham residents related to access to and egress from the Downing Creek neighborhood, GoTriangle work with the neighborhood and other parties

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to ensure that Downing Creek residents have safe and convenient access to NC 54.

We greatly appreciate the leadership and cooperation that GoTriangle has exhibited throughout the planning and environmental study of this project. We acknowledge the many opportunities that GoTriangle has made for public and neighborhood meetings, meetings with City staff, and presentations to City Council throughout the project development process. Continued cooperation and openness is essential to ensuring that this project is designed and constructed in a manner to benefit all of Durham. We look forward to continuing to work together on implementing this project.

Sincerely,



William V. "Bill" Bell
Mayor

cc: Durham City Council
Tom Bonfield, City Manager
Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
Mark Ahrendsen, Transportation Director