

ORANGE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Bonnie B. Hammersley, County Manager

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June 2, 2015

GoTriangle
David King, General Manager
901 Slater Road
Durham, NC 27703



Dear Mr. King:

On April 14, 2015, Patrick McDonough with GoTriangle presented information related to the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (DO LRT) Project to the Board of Orange County Commissioners (BOCC) at a regular work session.

The information was presented to illustrate the "D-O LRT Project – Five Key Decisions". The five (5) areas where input was sought are along the 17.2 mile route, with only one area in Orange County. The five decisions were:

- #1. Build – No Build
- #2. Duke/VA Medical Station Locations
- #3. New Hope Creek Alignment
- #4. Little Creek Alignment
- #5. Rail Operations Maintenance Facility (ROMF) Location

The BOCC chose to comment primarily on Key Decision #4 regarding the Little Creek Alignment partially within Orange County and within the Chapel Hill area. There was consensus from the BOCC that the best alignment is the "C2A Alternative" for the following reasons. These are not in order of importance and were facilitated in part by the comparison matrix in the PowerPoint.

1. C2A will parallel the Hwy 54 roadway and be a more visible alternative to those on the roadway in vehicles.
2. C2A would not bisect the large parking at the Friday Center permitting more flexibility in the redevelopment of the site in the future.
3. C2A is the shortest travel time.
4. C2A would be projected to have the highest ridership due to the shortest travel time.
5. C2A has a marginally higher capital cost of \$7.6 million above the C2 alternative.
6. C2A has one of the lowest operating costs and therefore lower energy consumption after the C1 alternative was eliminated by the Army Corp of Engineers.

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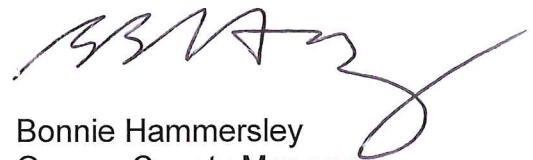
7. C2A has the least impact to public parklands.
8. C2A has relatively low environmental impacts to natural and water resources and protected species as do the majority of viable alternatives in this Little Creek area.
9. C2A has the fewest vibration impacts as well as low noise impacts.
10. C2A would have 'moderate' impacts to visual and aesthetic effects which is equal to or lower than other alternatives.
11. C2A is equal to providing access to employment centers as do others.

General Comments

- What is planned for the location or future location of workforce or affordable housing,
- What is the plan for parking spaces and/or for park and ride opportunities in the general area,
- Paralleling roadways in areas of stream crossings and impacts to decrease 'overland' encroachment (as may be the case in decision area #3 New Hope Creek near US15-501) and to provide adequate wildlife underpasses,
- The Duke/VA station location (Decision #2) should take into consideration the future year expansion plans, so the eastern Trent/Flowers location may be better but that is a decision for Duke and Durham,
- Please keep the Orange County BOCC apprised of the changes in alignment in the City of Durham within the rail right-of-way and Pettigrew Street and how the changes may impact the overall D-O LRT plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Hammersley
Orange County Manager

Cc: Orange County Board of Commissioners
John Roberts, Orange County Attorney
Craig Benedict, Orange County Planning & Inspections Director