

# DURHAM COUNTY TRANSIT PROGRESS REPORT



JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



## DURHAM COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

In FY2023, the governing boards of Durham County, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization and GoTriangle adopted a new Durham County Transit Plan that identifies priorities for transit plan investments through the year 2040. The plan was developed in coordination with GoTriangle, the City of Durham, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Triangle J Council of Governments and included extensive stakeholder coordination and public engagement.



**ACCESSIBILITY**



**CONNECTIVITY**



**CONVENIENCE**



**SUSTAINABILITY**

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

In FY2023, GoTriangle and GoDurham continued to use funding from the Durham County Transit Plan to provide bus and demand-response transit trips to employment, education, health care and recreational destinations for residents and visitors to the county.

In FY2023, the City of Durham with support from GoTriangle continued work on transit emphasis corridors, bus speed and reliability projects, access to transit improvements and the development of the Village Transit Center. The design for improvements to Durham Station to enhance the passenger experience advanced.

GoTriangle continued to manage the improvement of all bus stops in Durham County with the goal of all stops meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements and featuring amenities when warranted. To support this effort,

GoTriangle initiated a Bus Stop Optimization Study to assess the placement of all unimproved bus stops to ensure a balance among access to bus stops, proximity to destinations and safe street crossings, constructability and efficient bus stop spacing to support reliable bus travel times.



## LONG-RANGE GOALS

- Connect more residents with jobs and post-secondary or vocational educational opportunities.
- Expand bus capacity on corridors with high bus ridership.
- Provide better regional connections to other cities and the Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Funding from the Durham County Transit Plan in FY2023 continued to provide for previously implemented service improvements throughout the GoTriangle and GoDurham systems.

#### GOTRIANGLE

- For GoTriangle, FY2023 funding helped sustain weekday and weekend span and frequency improvements to Routes 400, 700 and 800. Funding supported the provision of the ODX service connecting Orange and Durham counties and supported additional service on Routes 405 and DRX. Due to local operator shortages, some of these services were reduced during the course of FY2023, but as the operator capacity is increased, services will be restored.

#### GODURHAM

- The GoDurham system as a whole increased Sunday and New Year's Eve spans of service. Funding was provided to sustain recently created Routes 5 and 12/12B and expanded evening and weekend service on Routes 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11/11B. Due to local operator shortages, some of these services were reduced during the course of FY2023.
- New alternative transportation services also were expanded with FY2023 funding. The GoDurham Senior Shuttle was doubled in service to provide food access for five more senior living complexes in Durham. The Senior Shuttle added additional stops and served over 3,400 trips to seniors in low-income housing communities to shopping destinations. The program saw a 20% increase in trips compared with trips in FY2022.
- FY2023 funding provided an expansion of the Durham Connect Pilot, which provides on-demand transportation for the residents of North Durham and East Durham communities.

### PLANNING PROJECTS

- Received approval by governing bodies of the Durham County Transit Plan.
- Continued work on the Regional Fleet and Facilities Study.
- Continued development of the GoTriangle Short-Range Transit Plan.
- Completed the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Feasibility Study.

**Note:** Transit plan funds also are used to continue earlier improvements and to pay a portion of the increased cost of transit services provided by GoDurham that existed before the Durham County Transit Plan was implemented.

### BUS INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Bus Stop Improvement Program**  
GoTriangle continued to improve bus stops in Durham with the goal of all stops meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements and featuring amenities when warranted. As of June 2023, improvements at 11 bus stops were completed and two-seat benches were installed at an additional 10 locations in FY2023, with 14 additional bus stop improvements under construction and an additional 13 ready for bid. There were 78 stops in the design-, permitting- or right-of-way-acquisition phase. And 106 stops have been prioritized for design to begin in FY2024. Following completion of the Durham County Bus Stop Optimization Study, additional stops will be entered into the improvement pipeline at a rate of 50 or more a year. The Bus Stop Optimization Study is assessing the placement of all unimproved bus stops to ensure a balance among access to bus stops, proximity to destinations and safe street crossings, constructability and efficient bus stop spacing to support reliable bus travel times.
- **Regional Transit Center Relocation Study**  
Relocation of the Regional Transit Center will better serve the needs of transit riders and address the on-site and off-site limitations of the current facility. The relocated Regional Transit Center will improve transit speed and reliability, address passenger amenity and operational needs, and provide new multimodal connections. As a result, the new facility will increase equitable and sustainable access to destinations within Research Triangle Park and across the region as whole. Specifically, the new facility will include additional covered boarding bays with electric bus-charging infrastructure, covered drop-off spaces for paratransit, microtransit and rideshare vehicles, and a signalized bus-only driveway, ensuring

comfortable and reliable transfers for riders taking regional trips or making last-mile connections. After completing the Regional Transit Center Relocation study to identify the preferred location at NC 54 and Miami Boulevard adjacent to the rail line, GoTriangle prepared initial environmental documentation, continued coordination with regional partners and submitted applications to secure federal funding to match committed local funds. Next steps in FY2024 include completing environmental review, continuing to submit applications to relevant federal grant programs, acquiring land, and undertaking design and permitting. Construction is expected to follow in subsequent years.

- **Regional Fleet and Facilities Study**

In FY2023, the Federal Transit Administration awarded GoTriangle a \$1,672,000 grant through the Low or No Emission Grant Program to support the installation of charging infrastructure at its Nelson Road Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility in Morrisville, and the under-construction Raleigh Union Station Bus facility in downtown Raleigh. These projects were identified as early action items through the Regional Fleet and Facilities Study.

- In FY2023, GoTriangle continued to advance the multifaceted study to identify fleet maintenance facility needs, establish low- or no-emissions fleet composition goals – including charging or fueling infrastructure – and evaluate opportunities for regional cooperation. The study has produced designs and cost estimates for expanding and renovating the GoTriangle Nelson Road Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility and GoDurham Fay Street Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility. The study will produce an inventory of capital projects and cost estimates that will be programmed into the transit plan’s future year budgets to ensure that adequate facilities are in place to support the existing and planned service expansions funded by the transit plan.

**WITH DURHAM COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN FUNDING, THE CITY OF DURHAM LED THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS IN FY2023:**

- GoDurham completed the installation and went live with a new computer-aided dispatch/automated vehicle location system, including a new passenger information system available online and through IOS and Android app (Avail MyStop).
- Consultants submitted final planning recommendations and draft conceptual designs for the Fayetteville Street and Holloway Street Transit Emphasis Corridors.
- Completed a draft Request for Proposals for design for the Fayetteville Street and Holloway Street Transit Emphasis Corridors. The city plans to issue the RFP and select a consultant by early FY2024.
- Advanced the Raynor Street Sidewalk Project – which will improve access to the Village Transit Center – into the right-of-way acquisition phase. Transit plan funds are providing the local match for this federally funded project.
- Included an Alternatives Analysis report for three locations for the Village Transit Center in the final Better Bus Project Report; additional analysis and public engagement for a location are needed.
- Completed a Traffic Signal Priority study with recommendations, building on the Bus Speed and Reliability study, which conceptualized locations that could be built quickly to speed up buses throughout the transit system. Consultants provided potential scenarios to address bus speeds around Durham Station, including downtown locations for transit-priority lanes.
- Finalized the Access to Transit Plan with recommendations on locations to make streets and sidewalks safer for transit throughout the GoDurham system. Consultants are drafting designs for portions of the Horton Road Sidewalk project. Junction Road sidewalk will be included for design work concurrently with the Holloway Transit Emphasis Corridor design effort.



## NEXT STEPS

### SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

#### GOTRIANGLE

- Continue support for span and frequency improvements to Routes 400, 700 and 800 and for additional frequency on Routes 405, DRX and ODX.
- Restore service that was suspended in earlier years due to the operator shortage.

#### GODURHAM

- Expand fixed-route service with a new North Durham Crosstown route from Duke/VA hospitals to Duke Regional Hospital via Hillandale Road, new 30-minute evening and Sunday service to Bragtown (Dearborn Drive and Old Oxford Road) on Routes 9A and 9B, and more frequency on Route 3 to the Village, as operator staffing levels allow.
- Continue support for span and frequency improvements on GoDurham routes, Durham Connect in eastern and northern Durham and GoDurham Senior Shuttle.
- Restore service that was suspended in earlier years due to the operator shortage.

### PLANNING PROJECTS

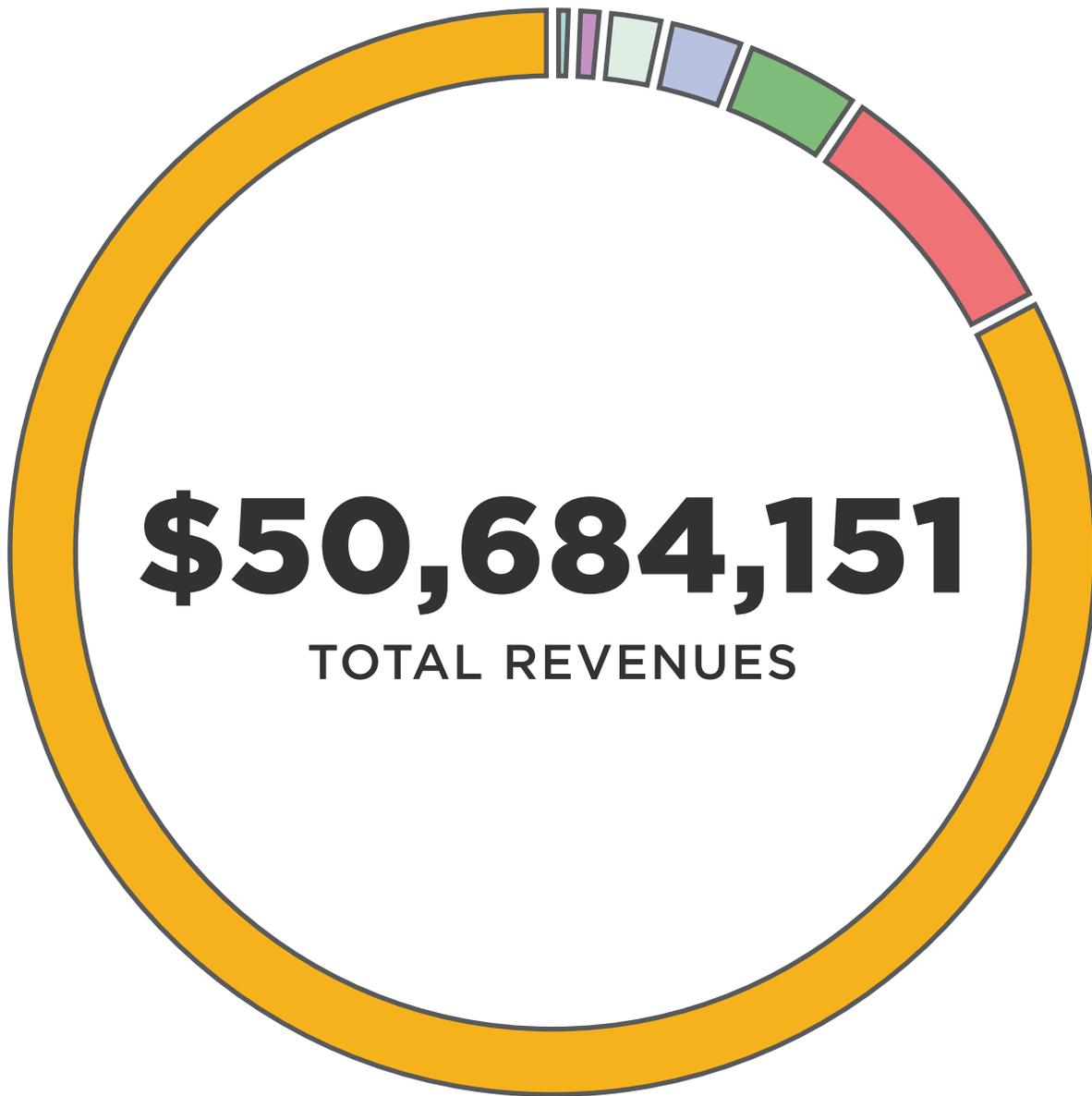
- Finalize work on the Regional Fleet and Facilities Study. The study will produce an inventory of capital projects and cost estimates that will be programmed into the transit plan's future year budgets to ensure that adequate facilities are in place to support the existing and planned service expansions funded by all three county transit plans.
- Continue work on the Durham Bus Plan following approval of the Durham County Transit Plan. This work includes the Short-Range Transit Plan for GoDurham.
- Complete the GoTriangle Short-Range Transit Plan.
- Continue planning and design work on the Holloway Street and Fayetteville Street transit emphasis corridors, improvements to The Village Transfer Center, improvements to bus speed and reliability and improvements to access as a part of the GoDurham Better Bus Stop Project.

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### GOTRIANGLE

- Next steps in FY2024 for the new Regional Transit Center include completing environmental review, continuing to submit applications to relevant federal grant programs, acquiring land and undertaking design and permitting. Construction is expected to follow in subsequent years.
- Finalize the Bus Stop Optimization Study and continue designing and constructing bus stop improvements in Durham County.
- Continue design and construction for priority transit safety and access improvements in Durham County.





**\$20,836**  
FTA GRANTS

**\$338,949**  
UNREALIZED GAIN/(LOSS)  
INVESTMENTS

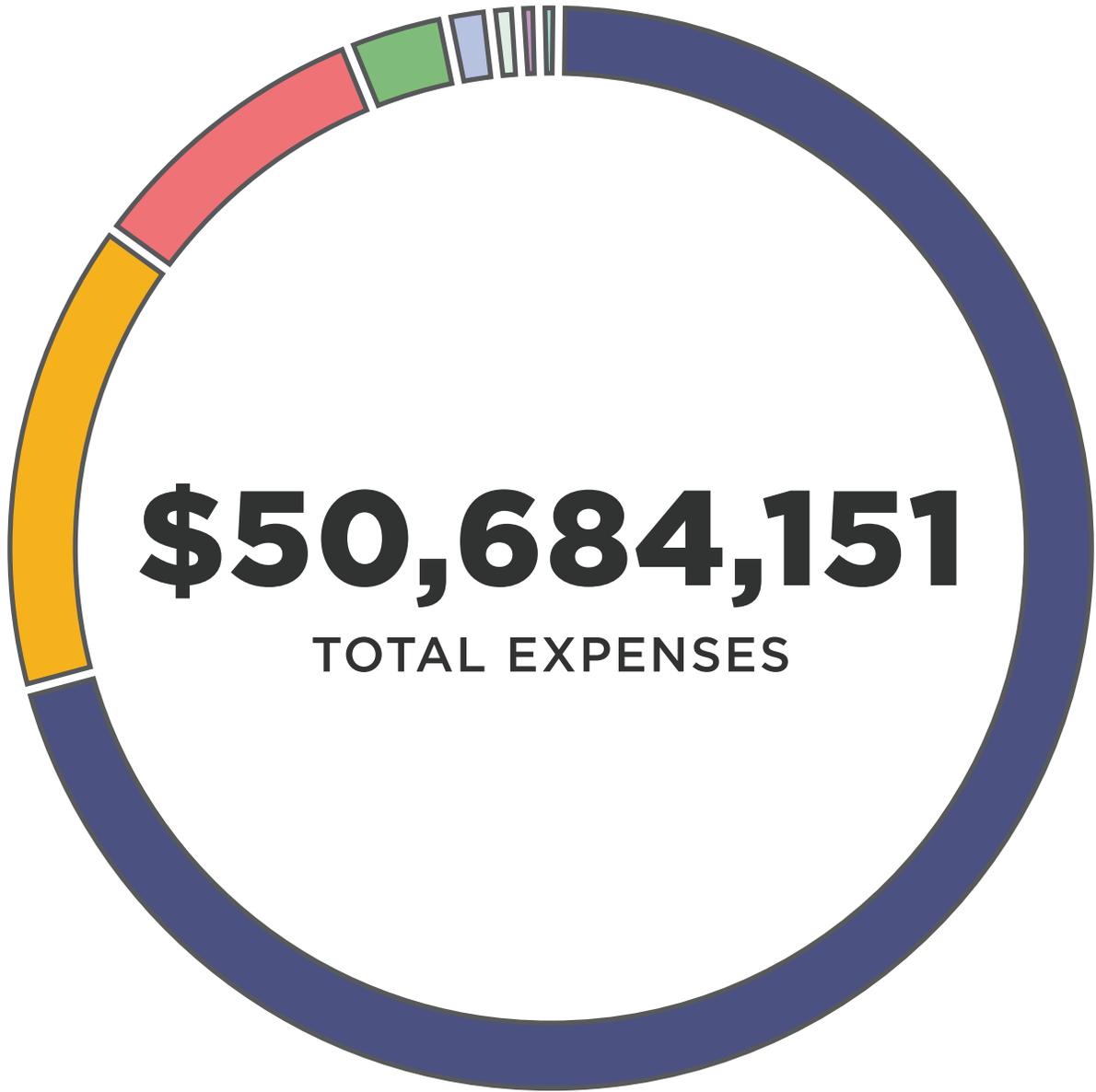
**\$739,041**  
VEHICLE REGISTRATION  
TAX \$3

**\$1,598,602**  
VEHICLE RENTAL TAX

**\$1,724,430**  
VEHICLE REGISTRATION  
TAX \$7

**\$4,000,559**  
INVESTMENT INCOME

**\$42,261,734**  
HALF-CENT SALES TAX



**\$15,012**  
VEHICLE ACQUISITION

**\$230,295**  
COMMUTER  
RAIL TRANSIT

**\$283,036**  
TAX DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATION

**\$734,206**  
CAPITAL PLANNING

**\$1,285,373**  
TRANSIT PLAN  
ADMINISTRATION

**\$4,670,808**  
BUS INFRASTRUCTURE

**\$7,198,071**  
TRANSIT SERVICES

**\$36,267,350**  
ALLOCATION TO  
FUND BALANCE