

Appendix N.2: Tribal Consultation

Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project



July 2015



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION IV
Alabama, Florida, Georgia,
Kentucky, Mississippi,
North Carolina, Puerto
Rico, South Carolina,
Tennessee, Virgin Islands

230 Peachtree St.,
N.W., Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-865-5600

Catawba Indian Nation
Attn: Wenonah G. Haire, THPO
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

APR 20 2015

Re: Notification of Undertaking – Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Dear Ms. Haire:

The Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project (project), with the cooperation of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), is currently in the initiation phase of this proposed major transit investment in the Durham, NC area. The project meets the definition of a federal undertaking per 36 CFR Part 800 and FTA is the lead federal agency. FTA is requesting your consultation for the project per Executive Order 13084, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800.

There are several light rail alternatives being considered for this project. Attached please find a project description, including an alternatives description, and a project map.

We would be pleased to discuss project details with you, as well as any confidential concerns you may identify.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with the proposed project. Please contact Julia Carrie Walker at (404) 865-5645 or julia.walker@dot.gov, or Stan Mitchell at (404) 865-5643 or stanley.a.mitchell@dot.gov, of my staff should you have any questions or concerns. Your timely response will greatly help us incorporate your concerns into project development.

Sincerely,

Yvette G. Taylor, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

Encl: Project Description and Map

Cc: Meghan Makloid, Environmental Planner, Go Triangle



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Mr. Russell Townsend
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Qualla Boundary Reservation
88 Council House Loop
PO Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

APR 20 2015

Re: Notification of Undertaking – Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Dear Mr. Townsend:

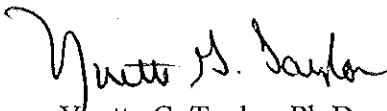
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Yvette G. Taylor, Ph.D.
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Project Description

Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project



April 2015



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Alternatives Considered	1
1.1.1 No-Build Alternative	1
1.1.2 Project Description	1

List of Figures

Figure 1: Project Overview	3
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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
AA	Alternatives Analysis
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
D-O	Durham-Orange
D-O LRT	Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit
DTCC	Durham Technical Community College
I-40	Interstate 40
LPA	Locally Preferred Alternative
LRT	light rail transit
NC	North Carolina
NCCU	North Carolina Central University
NCRR	North Carolina Railroad
NHC	New Hope Creek
ROMF	rail operations maintenance facility
UNC	University of North Carolina
US	United States
VA	Veterans Affairs

1. Introduction

Triangle Transit, in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to evaluate a potential high-capacity transit improvement in the Triangle region, within the Durham-Orange (D-O) Corridor, between Chapel Hill and Durham.

1.1 Description of the Study Corridor

The D-O Corridor is located within the Triangle region. It extends roughly 17 miles from southwest Chapel Hill to east Durham, and includes several educational, medical, and other key activity centers which generate a large number of trips each day. The land uses in the D-O Corridor are supported by a network of major highways including NC 54, I-40, US 15-501, Erwin Road, and NC 147.

1.2 Alternatives Considered

- No-Build Alternative
- Light Rail Alternatives

In addition to the Light Rail Alternatives, the DEIS will consider a No-Build Alternative comprised of the existing and programmed transportation network improvements without the planned rail improvements and associated bus network modifications.

1.2.1 No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative includes the existing and planned transportation programs and projects scheduled to be built and implemented before forecast year 2040 and contained in the 2040 MTP, excluding only the proposed Light Rail Alternatives, rail transit improvements and related bus transit modifications that would be associated with the proposed D-O LRT Project.

1.2.2 Project Description

Through the Alternatives Analysis and Scoping process, a majority of the proposed D-O LRT Project alignment was identified. However, there are a few areas where alternatives were retained for further evaluation. As a result, multiple alignments crossing Little Creek and New Hope Creek will be evaluated in the DEIS, Figure 1.

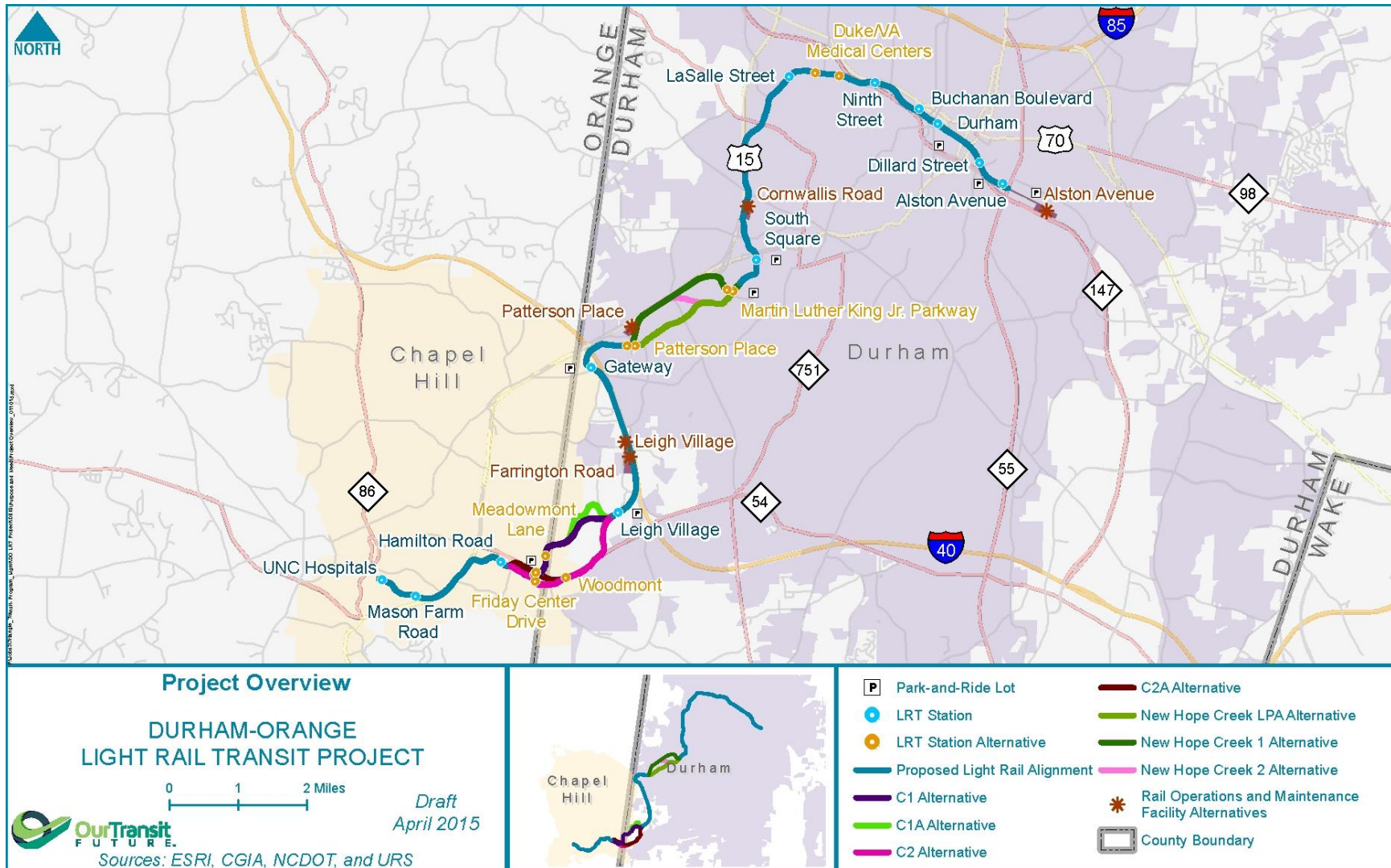
- Four potential crossings of Little Creek between Hamilton Road and the proposed Leigh Village Station (Alternatives C1, C1A, C2, and C2A)
- Three potential crossings of New Hope Creek and Sandy Creek between Patterson Place and South Square (Alternatives NHC LPA, NHC 1, and NHC 2)
- Station alternatives at Duke/VA Medical Centers (i.e., Duke Eye Center and Trent/Flowers Drive)
- Five proposed locations for the ROMF (i.e., Leigh Village ROMF, Farrington Road ROMF, Patterson Place ROMF, Cornwallis Road ROMF, and Alston Avenue ROMF)

The Light Rail Alternatives would generally follow North Carolina (NC) Highway 54 (NC 54), Interstate 40 (I-40), United States (US) 15-501, and the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) Corridor in downtown Durham and east Durham. The alignment would begin in Chapel Hill at UNC Hospitals, parallel Fordham Boulevard, proceed eastward adjacent to NC 54, travel north along I-40, parallel US 15-501 before it would turn east toward Duke University and run within Erwin Road, and then follow the NCRR Corridor

that parallels NC Highway 147 (NC 147) through downtown Durham, before reaching its eastern terminus in Durham near Alston Avenue. The alignment would consist of at-grade alignment, fill and cut sections, and elevated structures. A total of 17 stations are planned, and up to 5,100 parking spaces would be provided along the Light Rail Alternatives. In addition, a Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility (ROMF) would be constructed to accommodate the D-O LRT fleet (initially 17 vehicles, with the ability to accommodate up to 26 vehicles without needing expansion).

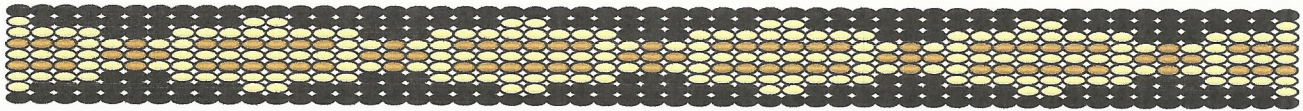
Bus routes would be modified to feed into the D-O LRT stations, and headways would be adjusted to provide more frequent bus service and minimize transfer waiting times. These services would also connect light rail passengers with other area transportation hubs, including park-and-ride lots and transfer centers.

Figure 1: Project Overview



Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Office 803-328-2427
Fax 803-328-5791



May 11, 2015

Attention: Meghan Makoid
GoTriangle
P.O. Box 13787
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Re. THPO #	TCNS #	Project Description
2015-844-1		Notification of Undertaking - Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit

Ms. Makoid,

The Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. **However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and / or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project.**

If you have questions please contact Caitlin Totherow at 803-328-2427 ext. 226, or e-mail caitlinh@ccppcrafts.com.

Sincerely,

Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer