The Triangle is one of the fastest-growing regions in the nation.

More than 2 million people are already part of the equation, and the region grows by more than 80 people a day.

Growth brings new jobs and new opportunities but also more traffic on already congested roadways.

A strong regional transit system means better access and opportunities for everyone.
In 2011 and 2012, voters in Durham and Orange counties approved a half-cent sales tax to invest in enhanced transit service in both counties.

*Other funding includes vehicle registration fees and a portion of vehicle rental taxes.*
In 2016, voters in Wake County also approved a half-cent sales tax investment to better connect the region through transit.

*Other funding includes vehicle registration fees and a portion of vehicle rental taxes.
DURHAM AND ORANGE COUNTIES’ TRANSIT PLANS

- Provide more and better bus service
- Improve stops and shelters
- Build light-rail project
- Build commuter-rail project

*Included in Durham and Wake County plans*
MUCH-NEEDED LIGHT RAIL CONNECTION

- 17.7-mile line
- 18 stations (19th proposed)
WHAT TO EXPECT FROM LIGHT-RAIL VEHICLES

- **ADA accessible**
- **On-board seating and standing access**
- **Bike access and bike racks**

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- **Power**
  - Electric and quiet

- **Capacity**
  - 150 - 170 passengers per car

- **Speed**
  - Maximum of 55 MPH

- **Schedule**
  - 10 - 20 minute intervals
NOTE:
This map highlights major regional transit investments, including light rail, bus rapid transit, commuter rail and key regional bus connections. Not shown are substantial increases in bus coverage and route frequency within Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Cary.
ACCESS TO JOBS

• Three of NC’s 10 largest employers-Duke Medical Center, UNC Hospitals and UNC – located on the light-rail line.

• Other major employers nearby include Blue Cross and county and city government offices.

• Projected to create more than 30,000 new jobs.
In partnership with GoTriangle, Durham’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development is leading the planning to create a pipeline for light-rail and station-area jobs, working together with Durham Public Schools, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Orange County Schools and Durham Technical Community College.
ECONOMIC IMPACT

• $600 million in new yearly GDP for the state and $175 million in new state and local tax revenue projected each year

• Development around light-rail stations could generate $1.4 billion to $1.9 billion in additional new property tax revenue by 2057

• The light-rail project will also support thousands of existing jobs across the state: suppliers, designers and manufacturers of rail transportation technology
SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

• 70 percent of existing permanent affordable housing in Durham is within a mile of a proposed light-rail station

• Durham County commissioners voted to include 277 affordable housing units when developing two county-owned lots near planned light-rail stop

• Plans are being developed to promote additional affordable housing near stations and stops
SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

• Durham has drafted an Affordable Housing Density Bonus targeting light-rail stations that could be approved and enacted in 2019 and has spent more than two years developing station-area land-use plans to maximize affordable housing opportunities.

• More than 50 percent of Durham residents are considered cost-burdened because they spend more than 40 percent of their incomes on housing and transportation costs (light-rail fare will be similar to bus fare).
UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS

* Additional bus connector
SERVICE TO MAJOR HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES
ENVIROMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH

• Light rail will reduce carbon emissions and promote walking and walkable neighborhoods around each station to support better health for people and healthier air quality.

• Light rail is consistent with climate change resolutions and goals adopted by Durham city and county and Duke University.

• Light rail supports the goals to address social determinants of health stated in the Duke University Health System Healthy Durham 20/20 plan and the 2017 Durham county Community Health Assessment.
ADDITIONAL DOWNTOWN DURHAM CHANGES

• New solution became necessary when Norfolk Southern expressed concerns about railroad operations and stakeholders expressed concern over closing a section of Blackwell Street to vehicle traffic.

• New proposal includes a tunnel to take a portion of the light-rail line through downtown Durham underground, keeping Blackwell street open and eliminating interaction among the railroads, car traffic and the light rail at Street crossings.

• Strategies to improve circulation of downtown streets are under study, including two-way traffic on Pettigrew Street. A two-way traffic plan on Ramseur Street is already included in the plan.
DOWNTOWN DURHAM

• Projected light-rail ridership to and from:
  o Durham Station: 1,710 boardings per day
  o Blackwell/ Mangum station: 1,300 boardings per day
  o Dillard Street station: 440 boardings per day
  o Alston Avenue station: 1,050 boardings per day

• The cost to add more parking spaces in downtown Durham is significant. As an example, the city is building a 660-space parking deck at a cost of $23 million, nearly $35,000 per space.
LIGHT-RAIL PROJECT INVESTMENT

- Federal funding approximately $1.25 billion
- State funding up to $190 million
- Remainder from local and other sources including transit-dedicated half-cent sales tax revenue and property donations
FINANCIAL CHANGES

• Necessary downtown design changes including the tunnel estimated to cost approximately $80 million to $100 million.

• Full property donation and fundraising goal of $102 million still in progress.

• Additional adjustments to the project budget may be required as FTA completes its project risk assessment.
FINANCIAL CHANGES

• To cover potential cost overruns or revenue shortfalls during construction for all major rail projects nationwide, the Federal Transit Administration now requires a reasonable plan for access to additional funding up to 10 percent of the project cost.
ADDITIONAL STEPS REQUIRED FOR FINANCIAL PLAN

• GoTriangle is working with Durham city and county staff and elected officials to study funding scenarios, as they have requested, so that Durham can make an informed decision about its future.

• Nonprofit fundraising and property donation process will also continue.
POTENTIAL IMPACT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

• FTA employees who review, process and approve light-rail project documents and plans are currently not working.

• Prolonged shutdown could impact the ability to meet state-imposed project funding deadlines.
EXPECTED PROJECT NEXT STEPS

• Target to submit application for federal Full Funding Grant Agreement in spring 2019 to meet two deadlines dictated by state law to remain eligible for state funding:
  
  o All nonfederal funds must be secured by April 30, 2019.
  
  o All federal funds must be secured by Nov. 30, 2019.
QUESTIONS?