APPENDIX A: SCOPING PHASE NOTIFICATION

PART 1: FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR NEW STARTS FUNDING
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Durham-Orange Light Rail (LRT) Project, Durham and Orange Counties, North Carolina

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, dba “Triangle Transit,” intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study a proposed premium transit service corridor in Durham and Orange Counties, North Carolina. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA: 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) of 1969 and the regulations implementing NEPA set forth in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and 23 CFR Part 771, as well as provisions set forth in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The purpose of this Notice is to: 1) advise the public that FTA is serving as the lead Federal agency; 2) provide information on the proposed project, purpose and need for the project, and alternatives to be considered; and 3) invite public and agency participation in the EIS process.
DATES:  **Comment Due Date:** Written or electronic comments on the scope of the EIS, including the purpose and need for transportation action in the corridor, and alternatives and impacts to be considered should be sent to the project team (see ADDRESSES below) by Monday, June 18, 2012.

**Scoping Meetings Dates:** Scoping meetings will be held during the week of April 30, 2012 at the following times and locations. The scoping meeting locations are accessible by transit and to persons with disabilities. Confirmed times and locations will also be published in local notices and on the project website.

**Elected Officials and Partners Meeting:**
Tuesday, April 24, 2012
10:00-12:00 noon
Extraordinary Ventures Center 200 S. Elliott Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**Agency Meeting:**
Thursday, May 3, 2012
1:00 to 3:00PM
Durham Armory, 212 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701

**Public Scoping Meetings:**
Wednesday May 2, 2012
4:00 – 7:00 pm
ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of alternatives and impacts to be studied should be sent to the project team via one of the following methods: mail to Durham-Orange LRT Project, PO Box 580, Morrisville, North Carolina 27560; fax to Durham-Orange LRT Project at 919.461.1415; or e-mail to info@ourtransitfuture.com. Comments may also be offered at the public scoping meetings. The addresses for the public scoping meetings are included above. All meeting locations are accessible by transit and to persons with disabilities. The project team must be contacted by Wednesday, April 25, 2012 regarding special needs such as signing or translation service for languages other than Spanish. Spanish translation services will be provided at the public meetings. The times and locations for the public scoping meetings will also be provided through display advertisements in local newspapers; newsletters that will be mailed to persons on the project database that have expressed an interest in the project; e-mail notifications; media releases that will be distributed to all print and electronic media serving the corridor; and posting of information on the project Web site. The Scoping Information Booklet is available on the project website at http://www.ourtransitfuture.org/index.php/projects/durham-orange/. The booklet
is also available in hardcopy form by contacting the project team as indicated below.

Additional scoping information or other project information may be requested by calling the project hotline at 1-800-816-7817, visiting the Website at http://www.ourtransitfuture.org/index.php/projects/durham-orange/, or by mailing a request to Durham-Orange LRT Project, PO Box 580, Morrisville, North Carolina 27560.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Brian C. Smart, Environmental Protection Specialist, Federal Transit Administration, 230 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30303, telephone (404) 865-5607.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Scoping

In accordance with Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, FTA and Triangle Transit invite comment on the scope of the EIS, specifically on the proposed project’s purpose and need, the alternatives to be evaluated that may address the purpose and need, and the impacts of the alternatives considered. Specific suggestions related to additional alternatives are welcome and will be considered in the development of the scope of the EIS. Scoping comments may be made at the scoping meetings or in writing no later than Monday, June 18, 2012 (see DATES and ADDRESSES above).
Scoping materials will be available at the meeting or in advance of the meeting by contacting the project team as indicated above. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive further information as the project continues, contact the project team (see ADDRESSES above).

The relationships between concurrent projects such as the NC 54/I-40 Corridor Study and other projects will be considered in the EIS.

Subsequent to the completion of the Scoping Summary document and prior to initiation of the DEIS, a concluding stakeholders meeting will be held during which interested federal, state and local government agencies will collectively process all input and formally develop the final scope of the EIS.

II. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project

The purpose of the proposed premium high-capacity transit investment in the Durham-Orange Corridor is to provide a transit solution that addresses the following mobility and development needs:

- **Need to enhance mobility**: The Durham-Orange Corridor is forecast to absorb a significant share of the region’s population and employment growth, which will translate into increased travel demand. By 2035, the corridor is projected to add about 74,000 people and 81,000 jobs, which is expected to generate 255,000 additional daily trips, many of which will be made on local roadways. These trips will increase congestion during the highest AM and PM travel periods. Alternatives to the auto are needed to address the limited capacity of the roadway system to accommodate increased travel demand.
• **Need to expand transit options between Durham and Chapel Hill:** Most bus service in the Durham-Orange Corridor is concentrated in downtown Durham and downtown Chapel Hill. Transit connecting these urban centers and serving the residential areas and retail developments between them is limited to two Triangle Transit routes and the Duke University Robertson Scholars Express Bus. Currently, these buses operate in mixed traffic along increasingly congested roadways, have limited capacity, and are not competitive with the auto for most trips. Furthermore, the Study Area does not currently offer the type of high quality premium transit service that is an attractive alternative to driving, particularly under congested conditions.

• **Need to serve population with high propensity for transit use:** University students and employees, as well as transit-dependent populations, are a significant percentage of the population in the Durham-Orange Corridor. Expanding transit services and increasing access to each of the university campuses and medical centers, which offer pedestrian-friendly environments, limited parking, and free transit passes, will support increased mobility options for university students, employees and other patrons. Also, expanding reliable mobility options for lower income populations and transit users who may not be able to drive will enhance economic opportunities through improved access to major jobs centers along the corridor. Providing a transit option that supports the mobility of these groups satisfies an important need.

• **Need to foster compact development:** Local governments recognize the need to limit sprawl and manage growth within the Study Area. Durham
City/County, Chapel Hill, and Orange County have developed plans and implementation strategies that call for more compact, walkable, higher density, mixed-use development within the corridor. However, the existing transit infrastructure throughout the corridor is not fully supportive of these land use plans and implementation strategies and cannot facilitate long-term economic development. A proposed fixed guideway transit investment can channel future growth, provide a superior transit option appropriate for high density development, and help local communities realize their future goals and objectives.

III. Study Area Description

Located in both Durham and Orange counties, the Durham-Orange Corridor Study Area extends approximately 17 miles, beginning in southwest Chapel Hill and encompassing the UNC campus, downtown Chapel Hill, suburban areas along NC 54, US 15-501, NC 147 (Durham Freeway), I-40, Duke University, and downtown and east Durham.

IV. Alternatives Analysis and Results

alternative. The BRT and light rail routes included alignments on new location and within the right-of-way of existing roads, with a variety of station locations. All of the alternatives that were evaluated would run from the terminus at the UNC Hospitals eastwards to Fordham Boulevard, east along NC 54, north parallel to I-40 and then within the US 15-501 corridor to Erwin Road. The corridor follows Erwin Road past Duke University and Medical Center and turns east parallel to NC 147 through downtown Durham and terminates at Alston Avenue in east Durham. These alternatives were evaluated based upon their ability to meet the project’s purpose and need statement (stated above), and considering factors such as ridership and transportation operations, land use, expansion potential, economic development potential, public and agency support, environmental impacts, technical and financial feasibility and cost. Triangle Transit conducted the AA in coordination with the jurisdictions and agencies with interests in the corridor, including Durham and Orange counties, the Town of Chapel Hill, City of Durham, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The AA concluded by identifying the most promising alternatives for further analysis. It identified LRT as the only mode that most fully satisfies the Purpose and Need for premium transit service in the Durham-Orange Corridor related to enhancing mobility, expanding transit options between Durham and Chapel Hill, serving populations with high propensity for transit use, and fostering compact development and economic growth. While an exclusive-running BRT Alternative
has the potential to meet the project’s purpose and need and is competitive in meeting most project goals, it does not perform as well as LRT in relation to supporting local and regional economic development, planned growth management initiatives, travel time savings, and cost effectiveness of expanding ridership capacity. Local and regional stakeholders place a high level of importance on economic development potential and focusing growth within the proposed transit corridor through transit-oriented development. The LRT Alternative has a high-level of demonstrated public support and a proven record of producing local and regional economic development benefits by enhancing and focusing growth within LRT corridors. On February 8, 2012, the DCHC MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) (MPO's policy board) unanimously adopted the LRT Alternative as the preliminary locally preferred alternative (LPA). The Alternatives Analysis findings are available on the project Web site at http://www.ourtransitfuture.org/index.php/projects/durham-orange.

IV. Potential EIS Alternatives

The results of the AA have led FTA and Triangle Transit to consider for inclusion in the EIS the following range of alternatives, on which FTA and Triangle Transit request public and agency comments. The EIS will evaluate the following alternatives between the University of North Carolina (UNC) Hospitals and east Durham: a No-Build alternative; a Transportation System Management (TSM) alternative consisting of an enhanced bus network that provides a level of transit service and capacity roughly equivalent to that of a fixed-guideway transit service; and a Light Rail Transit (LRT) alternative consisting of a new fixed-
guideway rail alignment and support facilities. Scoping will be accomplished through correspondence with interested persons, organizations, and federal, state, and local agencies, and through public and agency meetings. The FTA and Triangle Transit invite interested individuals, organizations, and federal, state and local agencies to participate in defining the alternatives to be evaluated and identifying any significant social, economic, and/or environmental issues related to the alternatives.

1. No-Build

The No-Build alternative includes all highway and transit facilities identified in

the fiscally constrained joint Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Capital Area MPO 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), with the exception of the comprehensive system-wide rail transit network, part of which is the subject of this EIS. The
No-Build alternative is used as a starting point to provide a comparison of all Build alternatives in terms of costs, benefits, and impacts.

2. Transportation System Management

The TSM alternative is required for inclusion in the EIS by the FTA when federal funds are sought for capital improvements. The primary purpose of the TSM alternative is to develop an enhanced and robust bus network in the Durham-Orange Corridor that provides a level of transit service and capacity roughly equivalent to that of a fixed-guideway improvement. The intention is to compare the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of a significant bus network in the corridor with fixed-guideway improvements to determine the impact on transit ridership, travel time, and other measures. The backbone of the TSM alternative would be a new bus route operating between UNC Hospitals and east Durham, covering a distance of approximately 19 miles from Chapel Hill to Durham. Buses would operate at 10-minute headways in the peak periods and 20-minute headways in the off-peak periods. Travel time between the UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill and Alston Avenue in east Durham is estimated to be 57 minutes. The high-frequency bus route would closely follow that of the LRT alternative, as described below.

3. Light Rail Transit
The LRT alternative would operate light rail transit vehicles between UNC Hospitals and east Durham, covering a distance of approximately 17.1 miles. The LRT would operate at 10-minute frequencies during peak hours and 20-minute frequencies during off-peak hours. LRT travel time is estimated to be 35 minutes between the UNC Hospitals Station in Chapel Hill and the Alston Avenue Station in east Durham. The alignment would be double-tracked throughout, with one track for each direction of travel. The alignment would primarily run at-grade in a dedicated right-of-way parallel to existing roadways, with elevated sections throughout to mitigate potential traffic impacts and/or impacts to environmental resources.

V. Probable Effects

The EIS evaluation will analyze the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the alternatives. Major issues to be evaluated include air quality, noise and vibration, aesthetics, community cohesion impacts, potential natural resource impacts, and possible disruption of neighborhoods, businesses and commercial activities. The impact areas and level of detail addressed in the EIS will be consistent with the requirements of SAFETEA-LU Section 6002 and the FTA/Federal Highway Administration environmental regulation (Environmental Impact and Related Procedures, 23 CFR 771 and 40 CFR 1500-1508) and other environmental and related regulations. Among other factors, the EIS will evaluate the following:

- Transportation service including future corridor capacity
• Transit ridership and costs

• Traffic movements and changes, and associated impacts to local facilities

• Community impacts such as land use, displacements, noise and vibration, neighborhood compatibility and aesthetics

• Resource impacts including impacts to historic and archeological resources, parklands, cultural resource impacts, environmental justice, and natural resource impacts including air quality, wetlands, water quality, wildlife, and vegetation

The proposed impact assessment and evaluation will take into account both positive and negative impacts, direct and indirect impacts, short-term (during the construction period) and long-term impacts, and site-specific as well as corridor-wide and cumulative impacts. Mitigation measures will be considered for any significant environmental impacts identified. Other potential impacts may be added as a result of scoping and agency coordination efforts.

VI. FTA Procedures

The EIS is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508) and FHWA environmental impact regulations (49 CFR Part 622, 23 CFR Part 771, and 23 CFR Part 774) and Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005. This EIS will also comply with requirements of Section 106 of the
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR Part 800),
Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 CFR 771.135), the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), the regulation implementing Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR Part 402), and other applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations. This EIS will also satisfy local and state environmental review requirements.

Regulations implementing NEPA, as well as provisions of SAFETEA-LU, call for enhanced agency and public involvement in the EIS process. An invitation to all Federal and non-Federal agencies and Native American tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project will be extended. In the event that an agency or tribe is not invited and would like to participate, please contact Brian Smart at the contact information listed above. The public coordination and outreach efforts will include public meetings, open houses, a project website, stakeholder advisory and work groups, and public hearings.

The project sponsor may identify a locally preferred alternative in the DEIS when made available for public and agency comments. Public hearings on the DEIS will be held. On the basis of the DEIS and the public and agency comments received, the Project Sponsor will identify the locally preferred alternative in the FEIS. The FEIS will serve as the basis for federal and state environmental findings and determinations needed to conclude the environmental review process.
(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: March 27, 2012

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Yvette G. Taylor,
Regional Administrator

[FR Doc. 2012-7897 Filed 04/02/2012 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 04/03/2012]
APPENDIX A: SCOPING PHASE NOTIFICATION

PART 2: MEDIA NOTIFICATIONS
NEWS RELEASES OF SCOPING MEETINGS
LEGAL NOTICE IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Brad Schulz (919) 485-7434

Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project
Environmental Review Workshops Announced

Research Triangle Park, NC (April 3, 2012) – Important environmental review workshops on the proposed Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project (DO LRT Project) will be held next month.

Today’s announcement coincides with the publication of a Federal Register Notice of Intent which indicates that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Triangle Transit intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study the proposed Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project.

The EIS process will begin with public scoping meetings through which open coordination with public, Federal, State and local agencies, elected officials, project partners and citizens will identify and define the issues to be studied in detail in the Federally-required environmental process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended.

Two public workshops are planned:

**Wednesday, May 2, 2012**
4 P.M. to 7 P.M.
Extraordinary Ventures
200 S. Elliott Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC

**Thursday, May 3, 2012**
4 P.M. to 7 P.M.
Durham Armory
212 Foster St.
Durham, NC

Each of the public sessions will be in an Open House format. Public transit access is available to both locations. Route information is available by using the Trip Planner at gotriangle.org or by calling **919-485-RIDE** (7433).

Citizens unable to attend the public meetings can submit comments online at: **www.ourtransitfuture.com**, by mail to: TRTP, Box 530, Morrisville, NC 27560 or by phone at 800-816-7817. All comments are to be submitted no later than **June 18, 2012**.

The Federal Register Notice, which includes the Project’s Purpose and Need, Study Area, and EIS Alternatives, is at: **http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-04-03/pdf/2012-7897.pdf**. More information also is available at: **www.ourtransitfuture.com**.

Environmental work follows the selection of light rail transit as the preferred technology in the proposed 17-mile corridor by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization in February 2012. The Triangle has been working for more than five years planning ways to better connect Durham, Chapel Hill and the region by transit.

The Triangle Regional Transit Program is a comprehensive study of fixed guideway transit opportunities to help complement new and expanded bus service. The Triangle Regional Transit Program is managed by Triangle Transit.

(Note: Some of the meeting information in the Federal Register notice is incorrect. The dates and times above are correct.)
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF DURHAM

Advertiser Name: URS
Address: 1600 PERIMETER PARK DR STE 400
MORRISVILLE, NC 27560

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of Wake County North Carolina, duly commissioned and authorized to administer oaths, affirmations, etc., personally appeared Barbara Brown, who being duly sworn or affirmed, according to law, doth depose and say that he or she is Accounts Receivable Specialist of The Durham News a corporation organized and doing business under the Laws of the State of North Carolina, and publishing a newspaper known as The Durham News, in the City of Raleigh, Wake County and State aforesaid, the said newspaper in which such notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published was, at the time of each and every such publication, a newspaper meeting all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper within the meaning of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and that as such he or she makes this affidavit; and is familiar with the books, files and business of said corporation and by reference to the files of said publication the attached advertisement for URS was inserted in the aforesaid newspaper on dates as follows:

04/29/2012

Barbara Brown
Accounts Receivable Specialist
Wake County, North Carolina

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 30th day of April, 2012

My Commission Expires: 05/27/15

Notary Signature
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ORANGE

Advertiser Name: URS
Address: 1600 PERIMETER PARK DR STE 400
MORRISVILLE, NC 27560

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of Wake County North Carolina, duly commissioned and authorized to administer oaths, affirmations, etc., personally appeared Barbara Brown, who being duly sworn or affirmed, according to law, doth depose and say that he or she is Accounts Receivable Specialist of The Chapel Hill News a corporation organized and doing business under the Laws of the State of North Carolina, and publishing a newspaper known as The Chapel Hill News, in the City of Raleigh, Wake County and State aforesaid, the said newspaper in which such notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published was, at the time of each and every such publication, a newspaper meeting all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper within the meaning of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and that as such he or she makes this affidavit; and is familiar with the books, files and business of said corporation and by reference to the files of said publication the attached advertisement for URS was inserted in the aforesaid newspaper on dates as follows:

04/29/2012

Barbara Brown, Accounts Receivable Specialist
Wake County, North Carolina

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 30th day of April, 2012

My Commission Expires: 04/19/10

Notary Signature
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

Advertiser Name: URS
Address: 1600 PERIMETER PARK DR STE 400
          MORRISVILLE, NC 27560

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of Wake County North Carolina, duly commissioned and
authorized to administer oaths, affirmations, etc., personally appeared Barbara Brown, who being
duly sworn or affirmed, according to law, doth depose and say that he or she is Accounts
Receivable Specialist of The News & Observer a corporation organized and doing business under
the laws of the State of North Carolina, and publishing a newspaper known as The News &
Observer, in the City of Raleigh, Wake County and State aforesaid, the said newspaper in which such
notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published was, at the time of each and every
such publication, a newspaper meeting all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of
the General Statutes of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper within the meaning of Section
1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and that as such he or she makes this affidavit; and
is familiar with the books, files and business of said corporation and by reference to the files of said
publication the attached advertisement for URS was inserted in the aforesaid newspaper on dates as
follows:

04/29/2012, 04/30/2012

Barbara Brown
Barbara Brown, Accounts Receivable Specialist
Wake County, North Carolina

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 1st day of May, 2012

My Commission Expires: 12/17/2013

Notary Signature
APPENDIX A: SCOPING PHASE NOTIFICATION

PART 3: SAMPLE EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

REGULATORY AGENCIES
ELECTED OFFICIALS AND PARTNERS
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
Ded Colleague,

As you know, the Triangle has been working for many years on ways to improve transit connections between Durham, Chapel Hill and the region. As a result of an Alternatives Analysis process begun in 2010 with input from the public and other stakeholders, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) adopted the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project to be advanced for further study.

Please join us at the Scoping Meeting for Regulatory Agencies:

**What:** Scoping meeting for Regulatory Agencies on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project

**When:** Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 1:00 P.M.

**Where:** Extraordinary Ventures Center, 200 South Elliott Road, between N. Fordham Boulevard and E. Franklin Street, in Chapel Hill, NC. (Informal notification regarding this meeting has already been distributed.)

Please take a moment to respond and let us know whether you will be attending personally, sending designee(s) and/or other members of staff, or declining this invitation.

On April 3, 2012, a Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register indicating that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Triangle Transit will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project. *(Please note that some of the meeting dates, times and locations in the Federal Register are incorrect.)*

The EIS process will begin with Public Scoping Meetings through which open coordination with Public,
Federal, State and local agencies, elected officials, project partners and citizens will identify and define the issues to be studied in detail in the Federally-required environmental review process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended.

Background information on the Durham-Orange LRT Project is available at the Our Transit Future website. A Scoping Information Booklet for the Project will also be made available on the Project website prior to the meeting. At the May 2nd meeting, Regulatory and Advisory Agency representatives will be provided with an overview of the Project and an opportunity to ask questions. The public comment period closes on June 18, 2012. Your participation in the project scoping process is important for this Project’s development.

Subsequent to the completion of the Scoping Summary document and prior to initiation of the EIS, a concluding regulatory and agency stakeholders meeting will be held during which interested Federal, State and local government agencies will collectively process all input and formally develop the final scope of the EIS.

In addition to the Scoping Meeting for Regulatory Agencies, we will be briefing Elected Official and Project Partners at 10 A.M on May 3, at the Durham Armory and conducting the two Public Workshops described below.

We look forward to meeting with you on May 2, 2012 and to receiving your input no later than June 18, 2012. If you require additional information or have any questions regarding the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project, please do not hesitate to contact us at (919) 461-1481 or by email at: info@ourtransitfuture.com.

Sincerely,

David King
General Manager, Triangle Transit

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**Public Workshop in Orange County**

**Public Workshop in Durham County**

**May 2, Extraordinary Ventures**

**May 3, Durham Armory**

Wednesday, May 2, 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Open House/Drop In style
Extraordinary Ventures (map)
200 S. Elliott Road, Chapel Hill, NC
Call 800-816-7817 if you need public transit information or special assistance for the meeting.

Thursday, May 3, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Open House/Drop in style
Durham Armory (map)
212 Foster Street, Durham, NC
Call 800-816-7817 if you need public transit information or special assistance for the meeting.
Dear Cyndy Yu Robinson,

As you know, the Triangle has been working for many years on ways to improve transit connections between Durham, Chapel Hill and the region. As a result of an Alternatives Analysis process begun in 2010 with input from the public and other stakeholders, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO adopted the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project to be advanced for further study.

Please join us as we begin the next phase of this Project at an Officials and Partners Briefing.

**What:** Elected Officials and Project Partners Briefing on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project

**When:** Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 10:00 A.M.

**Where:** The Durham Armory, located at 212 Foster Street, in downtown Durham across from the Durham Civic Center Complex.

Please take a moment to respond and let us know if you will be attending personally, sending designee(s), or declining the invitation.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Triangle Transit will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project. The EIS process will begin with public scoping meetings through which open coordination with Public, Federal, State and local agencies, elected officials, project partners and citizens will identify and define the issues to be studied in detail in the Federally-required environmental review process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended.

At the Briefing, elected and appointed officials, managers from Federal, State and local governments,
representatives from universities, transportation providers, business, community, and environmental groups and other stakeholders will be provided with an overview of the environmental review process and the opportunity to ask questions. Background information on the Durham-Orange LRT Project is available at the Our Transit Future website. An information booklet about the Project will be available at the project website prior to the meeting.

Your participation in the upcoming Elected Officials and Partners Briefing is important for this Project’s development. In addition to your Briefing meeting, we will be meeting with Regulatory Agencies on May 2 at 1:00 P.M. at the Ventures Center in Chapel Hill and conducting the two Public Workshops described below.

We look forward to hopefully seeing you at our upcoming meeting(s) and to receiving your input no later than June 18, 2012. If you require additional information or have any questions regarding the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project, please do not hesitate to contact us at (919) 461-1481 or by email at: info@ourtransitfuture.com.

Sincerely,

David King
General Manager, Triangle Transit

Public Workshop in Orange County
May 2, Extraordinary Ventures

Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 PM
Open House/Drop in style
Extraordinary Ventures
200 S. Elliott Road, Chapel Hill, NC
Call 800-816-7817 if you need public transit information or special assistance for the meeting.

Public Workshop in Durham County
May 3, Durham Armory

Thursday, May 3, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Open House/Drop in style
Durham Armory
212 Foster Street, Durham, NC
Call 800-816-7817 if you need public transit information or special assistance for the meeting.
Dear Colleague,

As you know, the Triangle has been working for many years on ways to improve transit connections between Durham, Chapel Hill and the region. As a result of an Alternatives Analysis process begun in 2010 with input from the public and other stakeholders, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO adopted the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project to be advanced for further study.

Please join us as we begin the next phase of this Project at an Elected Officials and Project Partners Briefing.

What: Elected Officials and Project Partners Briefing on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project
When: Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 10:00 A.M.
Where: The Durham Armory, located at 212 Foster Street, in downtown Durham across from the Durham Civic Center Complex.

Please take a moment to respond and let us know if you will be attending personally, sending designee(s), or declining the invitation.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Triangle Transit will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project. The EIS process will begin with public scoping meetings through which open coordination with Public, Federal, State and local agencies, elected officials, project partners and citizens will identify and define the issues to be studied in detail in the Federally-required environmental review process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended.
At the Briefing, elected and appointed officials, managers from Federal, State and local governments, representatives from universities, transportation providers, business, community, and environmental groups and other stakeholders will be provided with an overview of the environmental review process and the opportunity to ask questions. Background information on the Durham-Orange LRT Project is available at the Our Transit Future website. An information booklet about the Project will be available at the project website prior to the meeting.

Your participation in the upcoming Elected Officials and Project Partners Briefing is important for this Project’s development. In addition to your Briefing meeting, we will be briefing Regulatory Agencies on May 2 at 1:00 P.M. at Extraordinary Ventures in Chapel Hill and conducting the two Public Workshops on Scoping described below.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting(s) and to receiving your input no later than June 18, 2012. If you require additional information or have any questions regarding the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project, please do not hesitate to contact us at (919) 461-1481 or by email at: info@ourtransitfuture.com.

Sincerely,

David King
General Manager, Triangle Transit

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Public Workshop in Orange County

May 2, Extraordinary Ventures

Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Open House/Drop In style
Extraordinary Ventures (map)
200 S. Elliott Road, Chapel Hill, NC
Call 800-816-7817 if you need public transit information or special assistance for the meeting.

Public Workshop in Durham County

May 3, Durham Armory

Thursday, May 3, 2012, 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Open House/Drop in style
Durham Armory (map)
212 Foster Street, Durham, NC
Call 800-816-7817 if you need public transit information or special assistance for the meeting.
Notice of Public Scoping Workshops on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project

The Triangle has been working for many years on ways to improve transit connections between Durham, Chapel Hill and the region. As a result of an Alternatives Analysis process begun in 2010 with input from the public and other stakeholders, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO adopted the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project to be advanced for further study.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Triangle Transit will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project. The EIS process will begin with Public Scoping Meetings and Workshops on May 2 and 3, 2012, through which open coordination with Public, Federal, State and local agencies, elected officials, project partners and citizens will identify and define the issues to be studied in detail in the Federally-required environmental review process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended.

Background information on the Durham-Orange LRT Project is available at the Our Transit Future website. An information booklet about the Project will be available on the project website for review and downloading prior to the public scoping workshops and printed copies will be distributed at the workshops.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Public Scoping Workshop(s) and to receiving your input no later than June 18, 2012. If you require additional information or have any questions regarding the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project, or if you need special assistance to attend the Public Scoping Workshop(s), please do not hesitate to contact us at (800) 816-7817 or by email at: info@ourtransitfuture.com.
APPENDIX A: SCOPING PHASE NOTIFICATION

PART 4: PROJECT WEBSITE WWW.OURTRANSITFUTURE.COM
WEBPAGES ABOUT SCOPING
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PART 4: PROJECT WEBSITE WWW.OURTRANSITFUTURE.COM
WEBPAGES ABOUT SCOPING
Our Transit Future webpages from April 1, 2012 – July 1, 2012
The Orange County Transit Plan was updated on June 1, 2012. All materials are housed here.

Learn more about the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project

Exhibits, handouts, and slideshows from May 2 and May 3 Public Scoping Meetings are now online.

Comments will be accepted until June 18, 2012. A May 31 news release reminds stakeholders of how and when to comment.

What is Scoping?

News Release on Project Scoping

Scoping Information Booklet (PDF, 2.8 MB)

Scoping Information Booklet in Spanish (PDF, 2.4 MB)

On April 3, 2012, a Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register indicating that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Triangle Transit intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Durham-Orange LRT Project: https://federalregister.gov/2012-7897

The NOI includes the Durham-Orange LRT Project’s current Purpose and Need, descriptions of the alternatives to be studied during the EIS, and provides links to specific materials on the Our Transit Future website which are relevant to the proposed Project.

The EIS process will begin with Public Scoping Workshops on May 2 and May 3. The displays, slideshows, and handout available at these public workshops may be seen on the Project webpage. We look forward to your first-time or your continued participation. Public input is critical to making decisions for the Project and our region. This is the time to get involved. Please provide us with your comments no later than June 18, 2012.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING OURTRANSITFUTURE.COM

As transit planning efforts continue you’ll see updates to the pages at www.ourtransitfuture.com. The change won’t affect past materials about transit planning and the Alternatives Analysis process in Wake, Durham and Orange counties. The materials are now organized by “Project” to the left of the home page and on individual web pages. The materials shown or distributed at past public sessions are now found under “Events/Past Events.”

Don’t find what you’re looking for? Please send us an email at info@ourtransitfuture.com or by mail or telephone shown on our home page.
Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project

June 8, 2012: The Alternatives Analysis report on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project has been finalized and will be available on this webpage VERY SOON. It is a large file. (PDF, 25 MB)

The Appendices for the Final AA report on the D-O LRT project are also available for public viewing. (PDF, 14 MB)

May 23, 2012: The latest draft of the Orange County Bus and Rail Investment Plan, which includes the narrative of the plan and appendices, are available for your viewing. The Board of Orange County Commissioners meet on June 5 to discuss this Plan.

February 8, 2012: The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO selected a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) which we refer to as the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project. This route begins at a proposed station called Asten Avenue/NCCU, runs 17 miles and serves major activity centers, and generally follows the North Carolina Railroad Corridor. It is 54 to end at UNC Hospitals.

April 3, 2012: A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register indicating that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Triangle Transit intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Durham-Orange LRT Project. The NOI includes the project’s draft Purpose and Need; descriptions of the alternatives to be studied during the EIS; and provides links to specific materials on this website which are relevant to the proposed Project.

Scoping Meetings: Thanks to the officials, regulatory agencies, and members of the public who participated in the Scoping Meetings on May 2 and 3, 2012. If you missed the Public Workshops, we have prepared a series of materials for your convenience. The exhibits, slideshows, and handouts describe the background, draft Purpose and Need, Locally Preferred Alternative, timeline, and scoping process. After reviewing them, please share your thoughts via the online Comment Form or send an email to info@ourtransitfuture.com.

Handouts (take-home materials)

a. Scoping Information Booklet (PDF, 16 pages, 2.9 MB)
b. Comment Form in English (PDF, 2 pages, 761 KB) TO USE THE ONLINE COMMENT FORM, CLICK HERE NOW.
c. Scoping Information Booklet in Spanish (PDF, 10 pages, 2.4 MB)
d. Comment Form in Spanish (PDF, 2 pages, 657 KB)

Exhibits Part One: Our Transit Future / Background

1.0 Population growth in the Triangle (PDF, 179 KB)
2.0 What is Scoping (PDF, 462 KB)
3.0 What is an EIS? (PDF, 266 KB)
4.0 FTA Process (PDF, 349 KB)
5.0 Project Schedule (PDF, 555 KB)

Exhibits Part Two: Locally Preferred Alternative
This section provides Preliminary Station Locations, Maps, and Alternative Analysis documents for the Durham-Orange Corridor.

**PRELIMINARY STATION LOCATIONS**

- UNC LRT Station
- Mason Farm Road LRT Station
- Hamilton Road LRT Station
- Friday Center Drive (A) LRT Station
- Friday Center Drive (B) LRT Station
- Meadowmont Lane LRT Station
- Woodmont LRT Station
- Leigh Village LRT Station
- Gateway LRT Station
- Patterson Place LRT Station
- MLK Jr. Parkway LRT Station
- South Square LRT Station
- Leith Street LRT Station
- Duke Medical Center (A, B, and C) LRT Station
- Ninth Street LRT Station
- Buchanan Boulevard LRT Station
- Durham LRT Station
- Dillard Street LRT Station
- Aston Avenue / NCCU LRT Station back to top

**ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS**

About | Download below | Order a DVD | Read printed copies or view DVDs at selected local libraries.

Volume 1: Detailed Definition of Alternative Technical Report
- Durham-Orange Vol 1 Detailed Definition of Alternatives (11.2 MB PDF)
- Durham-Orange Vol 1 Det Def of Alts Appendices AStation Evaluation & BConst. Impacts (7.51 MB PDF)

Volume 2: Conceptual Plans and Profiles
- Durham-Orange Vol 2 Plans and Profiles - Index, Key Index & Top Deck (21 MB PDF)
- Durham-Orange Vol 2 Plans and Profiles - Segments A & B (UNC to Friday Center (4.48 MB)
Events > Scoping meeting and Calendar function

Scoping is an important element of the environmental assessment and review process, and involves active consultation and participation of the public, their elected officials, and interested government agencies, from whom input on the alternatives under consideration and the potential impacts is being requested.

Triangle Transit will be hosting Scoping Meetings on May 2 and May 3, 2012, to identify and define the issues to be studied in detail in the federally required NEPA environmental process. Click on the calendar entries below to see directions and transit information.

**NEED HELP?** If you have any questions about getting to the Public Workshop (s), please call GoTriangle at (919) 485-RIDE. If you require language, mobility, or other special assistance during the Public Workshop, please call 800-816-7817 by April 28 so that we may help you.

### Our Transit Future

**Wednesday, May 2**
- 1:00pm Regulatory Agencies Meeting
- 4:00pm Public Workshop in Orange County

**Thursday, May 3**
- 10:00am Elected Officials Meeting
- 4:00pm Public Workshop in Durham County

**Friday, May 18**
- 9:00am 30 days left to submit comments on Durham-Orange LRT project

**Monday, June 18**
- Last day to submit comments on Durham-Orange LRT project

**Events shown in time zone Eastern Time**

**Look for more**
Events > RSVP page for Elected Officials & Partners Scoping Meeting, May 3, 2012

Important note: There were errors in the Federal Register notice posted on April 3, 2012. The dates and locations on this website are correct.

DURHAM-ORANGE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT

ELECTED OFFICIALS/PARTNERS MEETING

When: Thursday May 3 from 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

Where: Durham Armory, 212 Foster Street, Durham, NC (map)

Materials: An Officials Briefing packet is available online for reading or download (PDF, 1.4 MB)

Name*

Email*

Organization

I am sending a designee. That person's name is:

Designee:

No, my office cannot attend the Scoping meeting. I would appreciate a packet of briefing materials be sent to me.

Comment

Submit RSVP
Officials webpage > Meeting Schedule and Briefing Materials available online

On May 2, Regulatory Agencies were briefed by the project staff on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit.

On May 3, Officials and Partners (neighbors along the D-O Corridor) were briefed by the project staff on the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project.

Comments Due Date: Scoping comments are due on June 18, 1012.

Submitting your Comments:

Agencies or officials who missed either briefing may request a set of materials by sending a note to info@ourtransitfuture.com or calling the TRTP Hotline is 800-816-7817. Please provide your mailing address.

Comments (from the public, agencies, officials, and all organizations) may be submitted:

- by email to info@ourtransitfuture.com
- by postal mail to: TRTP, P.O. Box 530, Morrisville, NC 27560
- The online webform is more suited to comments from the public.

The hotline, 800-816-7817, is also more suited to questions from the public.

The Public Involvement Coordinator is Cyndy Yu-Robinson, 919-461-1481.
About TRTP > webpage that ties Triangle Transit and other stakeholders to the OurTransitFuture brand and the TRTP.
Comments > Online comment form open April 30 – June 18, 2012