



ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

In FY2022, Orange County continued a planning process to update its county transit plan to identify new priorities for transit plan investments through the year 2040. The plan is being developed in coordination with transit providers, including GoTriangle, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Triangle J Council of Governments and municipalities. Updates to the plan will continue into early FY2023 and will include extensive community engagement efforts.



ONGOING PROGRAMS IN ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County Transportation Services continued providing fixed routes, Demand-Response (paratransit) and Mobility-on-Demand, or MOD (microtransit). The fixed routes are Hillsborough Circulator, Orange-Chapel Hill

Connector (Hill-to-Hill) and Orange-Alamance Connector. Demand-Response continued through the county's Americans with Disabilities Act Paratransit Plan and county's Transportation Advisory Services, which includes the Orange County

departments of Social Services, Library, Housing and Human Rights and Relations. Orange County Transportation Services' MOD ran primarily on Friday nights and all day on Saturdays.

LONG-RANGE GOALS

- Improve overall mobility and transportation options in the region.
- Provide geographic equity.
- Support improved capital facilities.
- Support transit-oriented land use.
- Provide positive impact on air quality.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

CHAPEL HILL TRANSIT

- Chapel Hill Transit continued to operate weekday and weekend services funded by the Orange County Transit Plan. Due to local operator shortages, no new services were implemented.

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- OCTS continued providing all services at full operational status. No improvements were made.
- Completed new bus shelters in Hillsborough and Chapel Hill for stops shared by multiple transit agencies.
- Continued updating the Orange County Transit Plan.

GOTRIANGLE

- FY2022 funding from Orange County Transit Plan maintained existing service improvements on multiple GoTriangle routes: Routes 400 and 800 weekend span and frequency improvements, additional trips on Routes 405 and CRX, service to Carrboro on Route 405 and Route ODX Mebane-Hillsborough-Durham.
- Some service was suspended in FY2022 due to an ongoing driver shortage.

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 Chapel Hill Transit and Orange County Transportation Services that existed before the Orange County Transit Plan was implemented.

PLANNING PROJECTS

- After completing the Regional Transit Center Relocation feasibility study in FY2022, GoTriangle prepared initial environmental documentation, continued coordination with regional partners and submitted applications to secure federal funding to match committed local funds.
- Continued updating the Orange County Transit Plan.
- Continued work on the Regional Fleet and Facilities Study.
- Initiated development of the GoTriangle Short-Range Transit Plan.

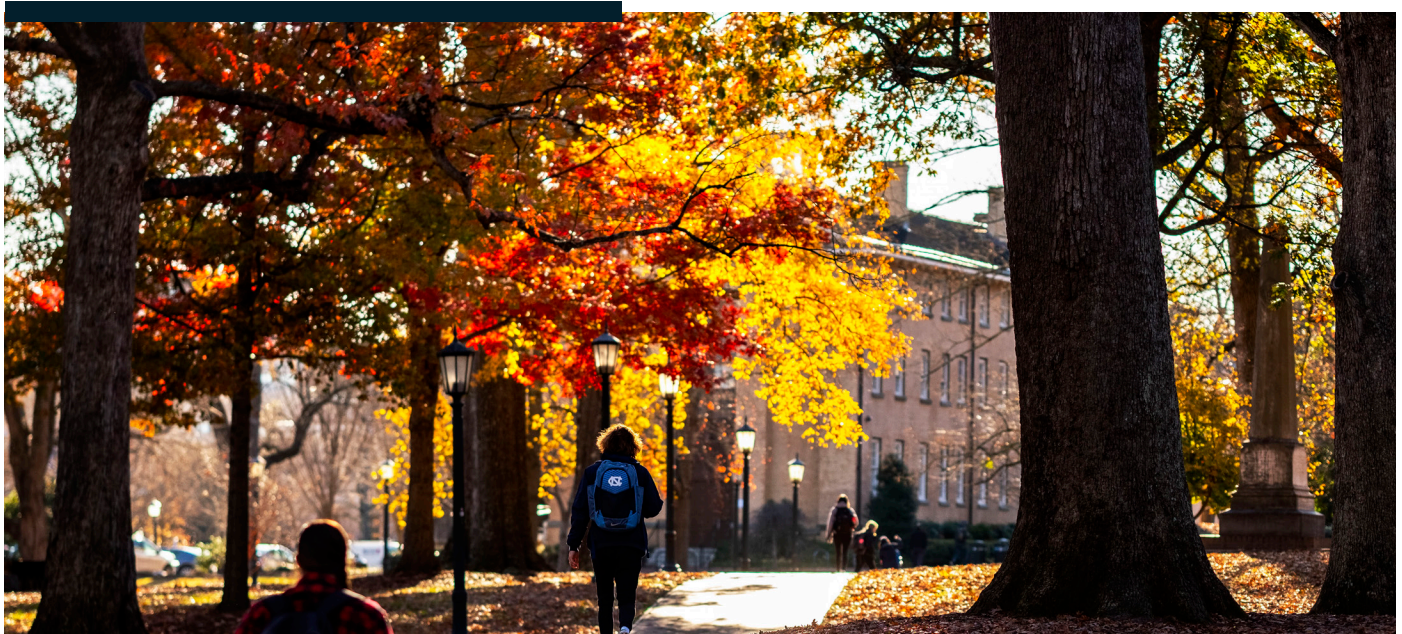
BUS INFRASTRUCTURE

GOTRIANGLE

- **Regional Fleet and Facilities Study** | In FY2022, GoTriangle advanced a multi-faceted 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. To date, the study has produced a design for expanding and renovating the Nelson Road Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility in Morrisville and for evaluating paratransit maintenance facility needs for GoTriangle' ACCESS service. The study will produce an inventory of capital projects and cost estimates that will be programmed into transit plans' future year budgets to ensure that adequate facilities are in place to support the existing and planned service expansions funded by the county transit plans.

CHAPEL HILL TRANSIT

- Chapel Hill Transit received three Gillig electric buses in November 2021. One additional Gillig electric bus was scheduled for delivery in late 2022 and six more were expected in 2023.



NEXT STEPS

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

CHAPEL HILL TRANSIT

- Given the operator shortage resulting from the pandemic, Chapel Hill Transit did not plan to make any service improvements in FY2023. Should operator levels improve, previously reduced service will be restored before additionally funded hours from the Transit Plan.

GOTRIANGLE

- Continue support for Routes 400, 405, 800, CRX and ODX.
- Restore service that was suspended in FY2022 due to the operator shortage.

ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- For FY2023, OCTS will continue working with the NC Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration on updating the fleet with new electric and gas-efficient vehicles.
- Develop operational staff necessary to improve Mobility-on-Demand paratransit service to six days a week per the Orange County Transit Plan update.

PLANNING PROJECTS

- Obtain approval of the Orange County Transit Plan from governing bodies.
- 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 transit plans' future year budgets to ensure that adequate facilities are in place to support the existing and planned service expansions funded by the county transit plans.
- Complete the GoTriangle Short-Range Transit Plan.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Next steps in FY2023 for the Regional Transit Center relocation include completing environmental review, acquiring land and undertaking design and permitting. Construction is expected to follow in subsequent years.
- Continue design for priority transit safety and access improvements in Orange County including on U.S. 15-501 at Eastowne Office Park.

CHAPEL HILL NORTH-SOUTH BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT UPDATE

The North-South Bus Rapid Transit project, an 8.2-mile project extending from Chapel Hill Eubanks park-and-ride lot to the Southern Village park-and-ride lot, continued with 30 percent design and environmental evaluation.

HILLSBOROUGH TRAIN STATION UPDATE

In February 2021, the N.C. Department of Transportation Rail Division, GoTriangle and the Town of Hillsborough executed a three-party funding agreement for a future train station in Hillsborough. The town issued a request for qualifications for design/engineering in August 2021 and signed a contract with a design team in May 2022. Design and permitting are expected to take at least two years. The scope of work includes comprehensive design of the station building, parking lot, site improvements for entering and exiting, as well as stormwater and utility improvements to the site from Orange Grove Extension, a local road to which the train station driveway will connect. The scope also includes a feasibility analysis for a pedestrian connection from downtown to the station site. The funding agreement allows seven years for project completion.

\$11,424,896
TOTAL REVENUES

\$9,576,160
HALF-CENT SALES TAX

\$704,340
VEHICLE RENTAL TAX

\$18,709
INVESTMENT INCOME

\$786,250
VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX \$7

\$336,979
VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX \$3

\$2,458
OTHER REVENUE

\$11,424,896
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$3,940,356
TRANSIT SERVICES

\$3,069,863
BUS RAPID TRANSIT

\$2,698,972
ALLOCATION TO ORANGE
TRANSIT TAX FUND BALANCE

\$759,955
VEHICLE ACQUISITION

\$355,738
TRANSIT PLAN ADMINISTRATION

\$350,622
CAPITAL PLANNING

\$152,847
BUS INFRASTRUCTURE

\$96,543
TAX DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION