

ORANGE COUNTY
PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019





In 2012, Orange County voters approved a half-cent sales tax to support increased transit investments in the county. In fiscal year 2019, \$9,885,797, including sales-tax revenues and new vehicle registration fees, was raised to support the Orange County Transit Plan. Additionally, \$4,763,784 in cash balance reserves were used to support FY19 expenditures.

From its inception through fiscal year 2019, the half-cent sales tax has been used to increase bus service by 67,528 hours and to add 925 paratransit hours for GoTriangle, Chapel Hill Transit and Orange County Public Transportation.

In fiscal year 2019, GoTriangle extended Sunday service on two routes, added service on five holidays and submitted for approval a site plan design for the Hillsborough park-and-ride lot among other improvements.

View the Orange County Transit Plan at goforwardnc.org/county/orange-county/about.

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.



OPERATING

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS IMPLEMENTED

- GOTRIANGLE
 - Extended Sunday service to 9 p.m. on GoTriangle Routes 400 and 800.
 - Added service on five holidays.
- CHAPEL HILL TRANSIT
 - Enhanced peak-hour service on Routes CW and D.
 - Extended Saturday service on all routes.

PLANNING PROJECTS INITIATED

- Completed short-range transit plans for Chapel Hill Transit, Orange County Public Transportation and GoTriangle.

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 that existed before the Orange County Transit Plan was implemented.

CAPITAL

BUS INFRASTRUCTURE

- Executed a contract for professional services to provide a site plan design for the Hillsborough park-and-ride lot. The design was submitted to Orange County Planning Department for formal approval.
- Requested a cost proposal from an on-call engineering firm for professional services to design four Orange County bus stops.
- Hired a consultant and performed engineering surveys at four shared bus stop locations.



OPERATING

OPERATING SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

- Add service on Route CRX (Chapel Hill-Raleigh Express) to improve the frequency of the route.
- Improve travel times on Route 800 (Chapel Hill-RTC) by keeping it on Interstate 40 at all times of day.
- Enhance service on Chapel Hill Transit Routes CW and D.
- Extend Saturday service on various Chapel Hill Transit routes for a total of 16 additional trips.

PLANNING PROJECTS

- Begin to update the Orange County Transit Plan in the wake of the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light-Rail Project. Chapel Hill Transit, GoTriangle, Orange County Public Transportation and other partners will work together on a new plan.

CAPITAL

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Obtain site plan approvals for four shared GoTriangle/Orange County bus stops. Orange County will manage construction of these stops.
- Obtain final approval of the Hillsborough park-and-ride lot site plan design. Orange County will manage construction of this park-and-ride lot.

CHAPEL HILL NORTH-SOUTH BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT UPDATE

The North-South Bus Rapid Transit project along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, South Columbia Street and U.S. 15-501 South aims to improve access, capacity, convenience and reduced travel times for customers traveling between Chapel Hill Transit's Eubanks park-and-ride lot and the Southern Village park-and-ride lot.

The NSBRT will operate in a combination of dedicated lanes and mixed traffic, using traffic signal priority and providing frequent, reliable and convenient transit service. The project, which will include bicycle and pedestrian amenities, is expected to begin service in late 2024 to early 2025 depending on funding and to cost \$140 million.

The Orange County Transit Plan has funded \$14.1 million of the project, and Chapel Hill Transit has applied to SPOT 6 – the process that guides the development of a 2023-2032 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program – for an additional \$35 million to meet the nonfederal match.

The project has been accepted into the development phase of the Federal Transportation Administration's Small Starts program. In August 2019, Chapel Hill Transit applied for an official rating in the Small Starts process. The next steps – expected to be achieved by fall 2020 – are to complete 30% design and the environmental study required for federally funded projects under the National Environmental Policy Act.



HILLSBOROUGH TRAIN STATION UPDATE

The NC Department of Transportation, the Town of Hillsborough and the Orange County Transit Plan have contributed \$8.1 million for design and construction for the Hillsborough Amtrak station. From the station, passengers will be able to travel on two current Amtrak routes – the Carolinian and the Piedmont – which together will provide eight daily departures. Passengers will be able to ride the Carolinian, which travels between Charlotte and New York twice daily (once in each direction), and the Piedmont, which travels between Charlotte and Raleigh six times daily (three times in each direction).

Environmental documentation is complete. Station design is expected to begin in fiscal year 2020 after the three parties approve a funding agreement as coordination with North Carolina Railroad Company (owner of the rail tracks) and Norfolk Southern (freight railroad operator) continues. In fiscal year 2020, the NC Department of Transportation may revise the scope and budget to increase the track infrastructure improvements included in the project.



\$7,938,137 ■
HALF-CENT SALES TAX

\$4,763,784 ■
ALLOCATION FROM ORANGE
TRANSIT TAX RESERVES

\$774,655 ■
\$7 VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX

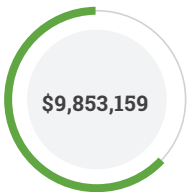
\$657,529 ■
VEHICLE RENTAL TAX

\$331,995 ■
\$3 VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX

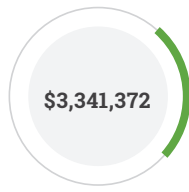
\$183,481 ■
*OTHER REVENUE

\$14,649,581
**TOTAL REVENUE

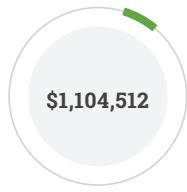
**OTHER REVENUE INCLUDES INVESTMENT INCOME
**REVENUE DOES NOT INCLUDE FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS*



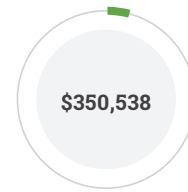
LIGHT-RAIL
DEVELOPMENT



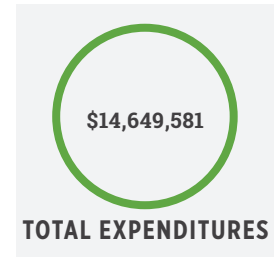
**TRANSIT SERVICES



*D-O ADMINISTRATION



BUS INFRASTRUCTURE



TOTAL EXPENDITURES

**INCLUDES GOTRIANGLE STAFF AND SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE
**INCLUDES DURHAM ORANGE STAFF WORKING GROUP AND AUDITOR PRIOR YEAR RESTATEMENT OF TRANSIT SERVICES*