



April 24, 2017

Dear Chairman Dorosin and Board of County Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to express the support and continued commitment of the majority of the Chapel Hill Town Council to the creation of an affordable and effective local and regionally integrated transit system for Chapel Hill, Orange County and the Greater Triangle region, including the Durham Orange Light Rail Project.

The Durham-Orange Light Rail Project (DOLRT) and accompanying Orange County Transit Plan represent a significant financial commitment and we wish to express our gratitude for the hard work that the Board of Commissioners and County staff have done to negotiate a more equitable cost sharing agreement with Durham County. And while we acknowledge the significant financial commitment the DO-LRT represents, we also understand the critical importance of a robust transportation infrastructure and transit options for Chapel Hill's and Orange County's participation in the future economic growth and expansion of the Triangle and adjoining counties.

Since the early 1970s, the Town of Chapel Hill and our Transit Partners have consistently worked to prioritize and encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation through transit and land use policy decisions.

Foundational to our future plans has been the ability of Chapel Hill Transit to serve as the backbone of local service and as a connector to regional transit providers. With this in mind, we wish to advocate for increased financial resources for the Chapel Hill Transit system which are necessary to meet future growth demand, to connect riders to station areas and to make essential "last mile" connections.

In that spirit, we request the following clarifications in the Orange County Plan:

- Include the Town of Chapel Hill, as the operator of Chapel Hill Transit, as a signatory to the interlocal Implementation Agreement for the Orange County Transit Plan and continue including Town of Chapel Hill staff on the working group for the Transit Plan.
- Recognize that the \$6.1M allocated for the North/South Bus Rapid Transit (NS BRT) plan is a minimum amount to be allocated to the project and that funding levels could be increased as additional funding becomes available or during future updates of the plan. Funding at this level could significantly delay the project and/or decrease its ability to serve a critical transportation corridor in Chapel Hill/Orange County.
 - Consider fully funding the local match for the NS BRT (\$37.7M). This level of funding provides 30% of the estimated capital investment and increases the project's competitiveness in the federal evaluation process.
- Commit to Bus Service for DOLRT stations. The current draft plan identifies the need for additional service to connect with light rail stations as DOLRT comes online in 2028-29. Chapel Hill Transit will begin planning for service in the development of a short-range transit plan, beginning in August of 2017 in

coordination with our funding partners, customers, the general public, GoTriangle, Orange County through OPT and other regional partners. We believe adequate bus service to stations is critical in developing a comprehensive and seamless transit system and that “rail dividend hours”, in Orange County, will not adequately support this critical need.

To facilitate any additional discussions, we ask that you support our request for the two managers to work together to identify ways to meet our mutual interests.

We appreciate your consideration of these requests and look forward to working more closely with you to create a dependable, affordable, time-competitive and accessible transportation network that will meet the needs of those who live, work, play, learn and heal throughout our County and the Triangle region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Hemming". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Pam Hemming and the Chapel Hill Town Council