

# ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

## Orange County Transit Plan

In FY2021, Orange County continued work on an update to its county transit plan to identify new priorities for investments through the year 2040.

The plan is being developed in coordination with transit providers

GoTriangle, Chapel Hill Transit and Orange County Public Transportation; the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization; the Triangle-J Council of Governments; the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and its hospitals; and

municipalities. Updates to the plan will be completed in FY2022 and will include extensive community engagement efforts.

## Ongoing Programs in Orange County

Orange County Public Transportation continued to meet the needs of its community while also expanding service and improving access with customer-focused technology. In addition to launching the Mobility on Demand pilot program, which created a new travel option on Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., OCPT also rolled out mobile ticketing with Umo/TouchPass,

providing riders a touchless, cashless option to pay bus fare. OCPT is also proud to have collaborated with the Orange County Health Department to provide rides to vaccination sites throughout the county, using the MOD vans to provide an accessible, distanced and safe transportation option. Orange County launched its mobility on demand service in March 2021 and in FY2023 will be replacing up to 10 of its existing buses.

In FY2021, Chapel Hill Transit began implementing the FY2020-approved Short Range Transit Plan. Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, full implementation was delayed until FY2022. Funding from the Orange County Transit Plan helped pay for new night and weekend service during FY2021.

## 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

- Added 530 hours of service funded by the Orange County Transit Plan in August 2020 that brought new high-frequency service along major corridors throughout the service area. With funding from the Orange County Transit Plan, weekend service was expanded and new Sunday service was offered for the first time in over 40 years.

### Orange County Public Transportation

- Began the “Mobility on Demand” microtransit service.

## Planning Projects

- Completed the feasibility study for improving or relocating the Regional Transit Center, identifying a strategy for relocating the facility to a new site that will improve transit speed and reliability, address passenger amenity and operational needs and provide new multimodal connections.
- Initiated an update to the Orange County Transit Plan.

**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 Public Transportation that existed before the Orange County Transit Plan was implemented.

## Bus Infrastructure

### GoTriangle

- Completed design and obtained N.C. Department of Transportation approval for four Orange County Public Transit bus stops with three in Hillsborough and one in Chapel Hill.
- Completed design of five shared GoTriangle and Chapel Hill Transit bus stops in Chapel Hill.
- Continued to advance the Hillsborough Park-and-Ride lot through the approval process including coordination with Orange County, NCDOT, utilities and surrounding property owners.
- Procured seven buses, including two electric buses.

### Chapel Hill Transit

- Bought five replacement vehicles with funds from the Orange County Transit Plan.

## Next Steps

### Service Improvements

#### Chapel Hill Transit

- Restore all services impacted by the operator shortage of 2021.

#### Orange County Public Transportation

**These two projects are expected to allow OCPT to increase its service hours to 7,020 during FY2022:**

- Continue the “Mobility on Demand” microtransit service.
- Add a second Hillsborough Circulator route that decreases headways significantly.

### Planning Projects

- Continue updating the Orange County Transit Plan.
- Start work on the Regional Fleet and Facilities Study.
- Initiate design of priority transit safety and access improvements.

### Capital Projects

- Build four bus stops for Orange County Public Transit.
- Complete approvals and construction of five bus stops in Chapel Hill.
- Obtain final approval for the Hillsborough Park-and-Ride lot site plan design. Orange County will manage construction of this park-and-ride lot.
- Begin preliminary engineering for the new Regional Transit Center as funding becomes available.

## Chapel Hill North-South Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

Chapel Hill Transit initiated the preparation of environmental documentation, known as a Categorical Exclusion, and procured consultant services to complete

final design. The project is an 8.2-mile BRT line along one of the town's busiest thoroughfares stretching from Eubanks Road in the north to the popular Southern Village in the south,

connecting downtown Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and UNC Hospitals. The project will also create connections with other regional transit systems.

## Hillsborough Train Station Update

NCDOT, GoTriangle and the Town of Hillsborough executed a three-party funding agreement for the future train station in Hillsborough in February 2021. The town will issue a request for qualifications for design/

engineering in fall 2021. Design and permitting are expected to take at least two years. The scope of work includes building the station and parking lot, improving the site for entering and exiting and making stormwater and

utility improvements to the site from Orange Grove Extension, a local road that will connect to the train station driveway. The funding agreement allows seven years for project completion.



**OTHER REVENUE**  
**\$134,603**



**VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX \$3**  
**\$350,958**



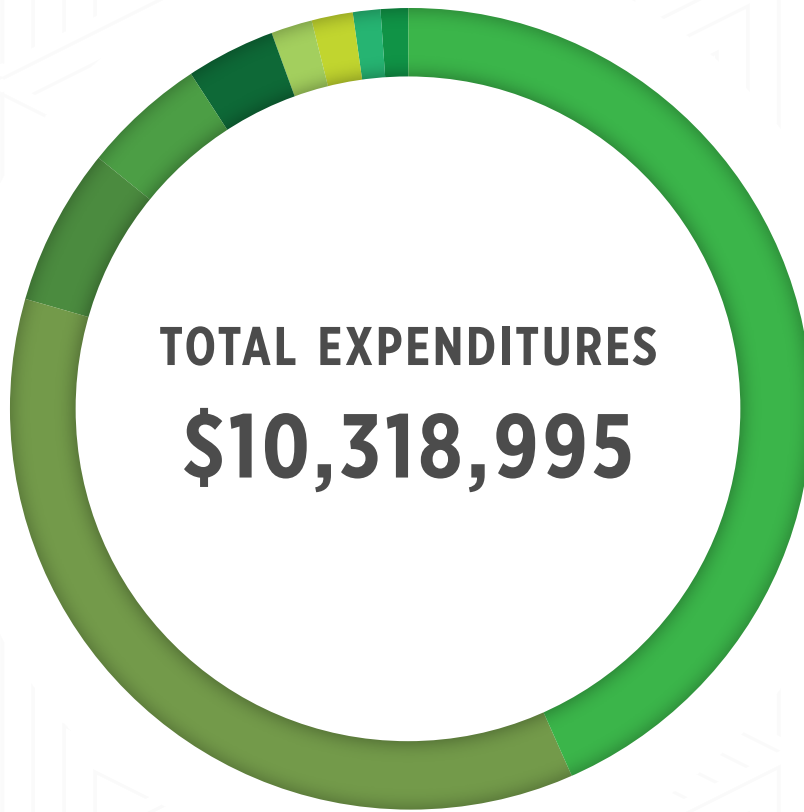
**VEHICLE RENTAL TAX**  
**\$481,695**



**VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX \$7**  
**\$818,895**



**HALF-CENT SALES TAX**  
**\$8,532,844**



LIGHT-RAIL CLOSEOUT  
**\$93,636**



TAX DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION  
**\$130,865**



CAPITAL PLANNING  
**\$144,938**



BUS INFRASTRUCTURE  
**\$179,626**



TRANSIT PLAN ADMINISTRATION  
**\$355,131**



BUS RAPID TRANSIT  
**\$519,061**



VEHICLE ACQUISITION  
**\$688,032**



TRANSIT SERVICES  
**\$3,768,411**



ALLOCATION TO ORANGE  
TRANSIT TAX FUND  
**\$4,439,295**