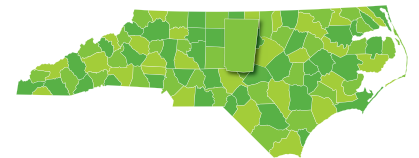


Orange County Transit  
**PROGRESS**  
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

**REPORT**



## ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

In FY20, Orange County initiated 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, including GoTriangle, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Triangle-J Council of Governments and municipalities. Updates to the plan will continue throughout FY21 and will include extensive community engagement efforts.

### ONGOING PROGRAMS IN ORANGE COUNTY

In FY20, Chapel Hill Transit completed and adopted its Short-Range Transit Plan and bought five replacement vehicles with funds from the Orange County Transit Plan. The agency also added 530 hours of new service funded by the Orange County Transit Plan.

Orange County Public Transportation was awarded two grants in FY20 to help electrify its fleet. The 2019 Clean Fuel Advanced Technology grant led to the delivery of a solar charging station that will be used to power the agency's new public "Mobility on Demand service." OCPT plans to launch that service, which will have plug-in hybrids in its fleet, in FY21. The Federal Transit Administration's Bus and Bus Facilities Grant 5339 (b) will provide \$1.1 million toward the purchase of electric buses and a direct current fast-charging station.

GoTriangle is working with Orange County to complete the design of improvements to four bus stops and a new Northern Hillsborough Park-and-Ride lot.

### 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 IMPLEMENTED

### GOTRIANGLE

- *Altered service on Route CRX (Chapel Hill-Raleigh Express) to improve reliability.*
- *Improved Route 800 to use I-40 at all times to provide a faster connection between Chapel Hill and the Regional Transit Center.*

### CHAPEL HILL TRANSIT

- *Added 530 hours of new service funded by the Orange County Transit Plan.*

## PLANNING PROJECTS INITIATED

- *Continued work on plan to study the feasibility of improving or relocating the Regional Transit Center.*
- *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 NCDOT approval for four Orange County Public Transit bus stops including three in Hillsborough and one in Chapel Hill.*
- *Began 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**

## **OPERATING SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS**

### **CHAPEL HILL TRANSIT**

- *Implemented services from its Short-Range 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**

These two projects are expected to allow OCPT to increase its service hours by 7,020 during FY21:

- *Implement 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.*
- *Initiate the Regional Fleet and Facilities Study to evaluate fleet, maintenance facility expansion or relocation and electric vehicle charging needs for GoTriangle’s fleet as well as opportunities for coordination among transit service providers.*

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

- *Build four bus stops for Orange County Public Transit.*
- *Complete design 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.*
- *Initiate preliminary engineering for the revised Regional Transit Center as funding becomes available.*

### **CHAPEL HILL NORTH-SOUTH BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT UPDATE**

In June 2020, the Town of Chapel Hill selected a final Locally Preferred Alternative for its North-South Bus Rapid Transit project, allowing it to complete 30 percent design and move into environmental evaluation. 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 Hospital. The project will also create connections with other regional transit systems.

### **HILLSBOROUGH TRAIN STATION UPDATE**

All three funding partners – GoTriangle, Town of Hillsborough and NCDOT – have approved the funding agreement for the future rail station. However, NCDOT cannot sign new contracts until budget issues are resolved. The rail station project is on hold until further notice by the NCDOT.



## REVENUE & EXPENDITURES



Half-Cent Sales Tax  
**\$7,243,711**



\$7 Vehicle Registration Tax  
**\$755,181**



Vehicle Rental Tax  
**\$564,199**



\$3 Vehicle Registration Tax  
**\$323,646**



Other Revenue\*  
**\$68,583**

# \$8,955,320

TOTAL REVENUE

\* Other revenue includes investment income | \*\*Revenue does not include federal and state grants

**\$17,324**

Capital Planning

**\$172,820**

Light-Rail Closeout

**\$691,380**

Transit Administration+

**\$753,704**

Bus Infrastructure

**\$2,058,561**

Allocation to Orange  
Transit Tax Fund Balance

**\$2,069,478**

Vehicle Acquisition

**\$3,192,053**

Transit Services++

**\$8,955,320**

TOTAL EXPENSES

+Includes DCHC MPO and GoTriangle staff and support infrastructure  
++Includes DO SWG and Auditor Prior Year Restatement of Transit Services