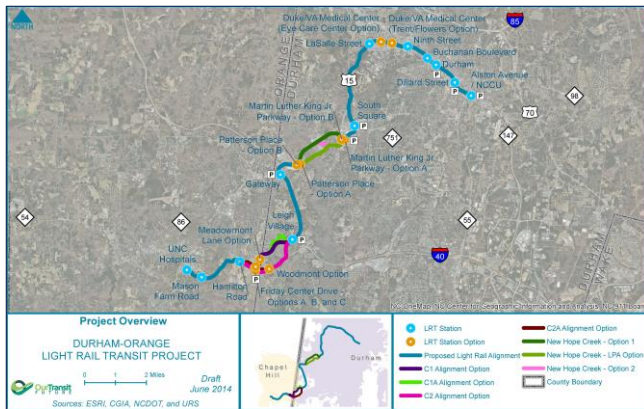


Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project

Section 5309 New Starts Submittal



The Durham-Orange Light Rail Project is one of three priority corridors that had been selected for further consideration in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area. An Alternatives Analysis (AA) was recently completed for this particular corridor, with light rail transit (LRT) selected as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The proposed LRT alignment is just over 17 miles in length, with end-of-line stations at Alston Avenue in Durham (east of downtown Durham) and the University of North Carolina (UNC) Hospitals in Chapel Hill. There are a total of 17 stations that include stops in downtown Durham, Duke Medical Center and the South Square shopping area.



CTG was brought on to the consultant team to review and update bus and rail operations plans from the AA work effort, in advance of a New Starts submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Service plans for the No-Build, Baseline and Build Alternatives were updated to maximize ridership potential in a cost effective manner. Significant modifications were made to the feeder bus plans to improve cost effectiveness. Service statistics were calculated for input to O&M cost estimates, the project's Financial Plan and the project's calculation of cost effectiveness.

CTG also developed detailed O&M cost models. A LRT cost model was developed using cost data from other LRT systems in the United States. Cost models were developed for Triangle Transit, Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA) and Chapel Hill Transit to measure cost impacts associated with background bus service changes. All cost models were developed in a manner consistent with FTA guidelines.

CTG staff continues to provide support to the project through tasks such as LRT travel time updates, periodic adjustments to the background bus network, O&M cost estimates and a review of station bus bay plans.

