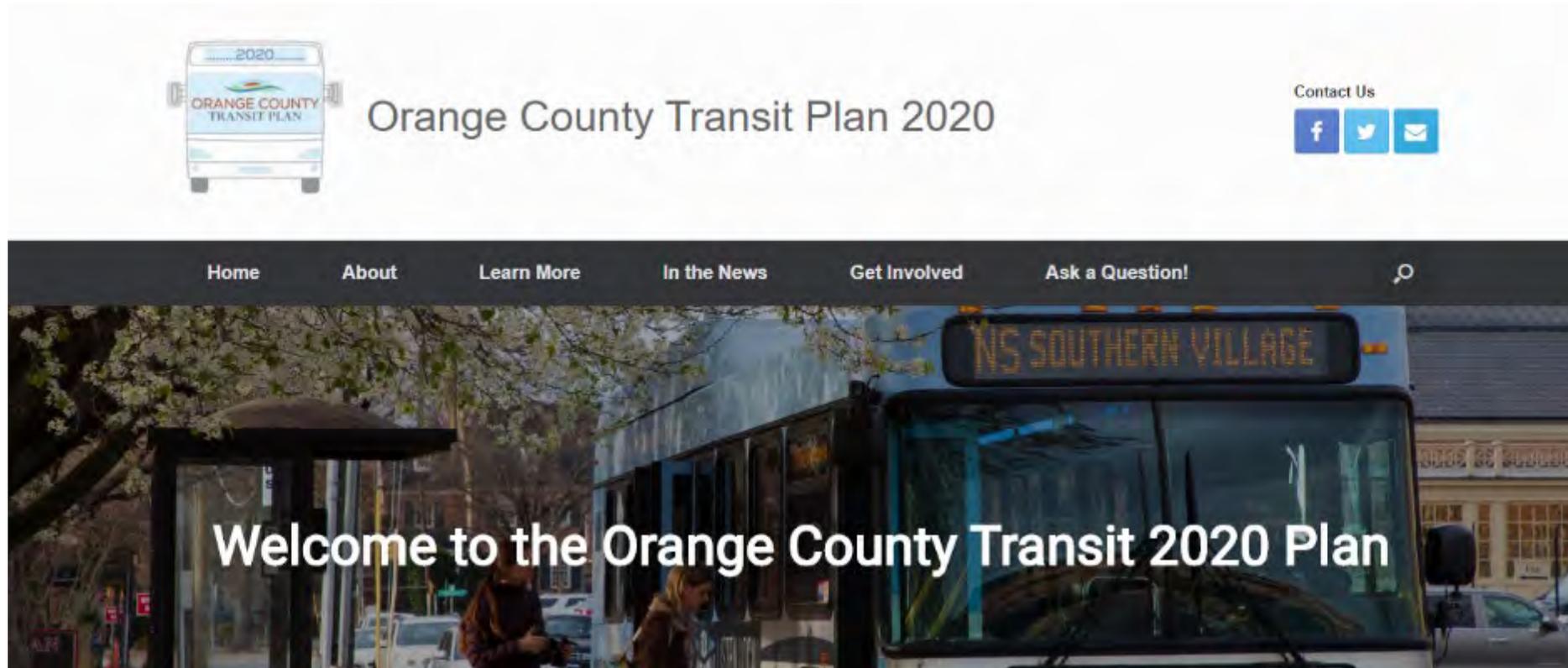


PROJECT UPDATE

Policy Steering Committee Meeting
August 11, 2020



WEBSITE UPDATE



www.octransit2020.com

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Preliminary Demographic Findings

- Continuing regional population growth
- Increasing population in rural and suburban areas (SE Durham County and NW Chatham County); slower-growing urban areas
- Growing African American and Hispanic populations in Orange County (north of Chapel Hill, I-85, and I-40); also to the north and east of Hillsborough
- Growing share of older residents (65+), particularly in the far northern and southern parts of the region
- Decreasing households earning less than \$25,000 (overall) but growing incidence of extremely low-income households on the region's fringes, particularly northern and eastern Durham County

REGIONAL CONTEXT

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Population growth away from urban centers, accompanied by an increase in minority residents, extremely low-income households, and an aging population in these same areas, suggests an increase in transit-dependent households located farther from transit-rich areas.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Preliminary Economic Findings

- Jobs concentrated near higher education and research facilities, particularly around Duke Hospital campus, UNC Chapel Hill, and RTP
- Housing affordability varies by job type; nearly a quarter of the region's workers likely face housing and transportation cost burdens
- Areas with housing affordable to lower-wage workers tend to be located on the region's periphery

REGIONAL CONTEXT

KEY TAKEAWAY:

As housing prices continue to rise in historically affordable areas and average wages remain stagnant more residents/employees will be pushed out to the region's fringes in search of affordable homes. This results in longer commute times, higher VMT, and increased transportation costs.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Preliminary Travel Pattern Findings

- Commuter flows reveal strong regional interdependence
- Research Triangle Park drives regional travel patterns
- There are growing mismatches between population growth, jobs, affordable housing, and accessibility.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

KEY TAKEAWAY:

More affordable areas overlap with areas of lower travel accessibility, meaning vulnerable populations face higher transportation costs with limited alternatives to driving. Residents face longer commute times to reach employment opportunities and established regional job centers remain out of reach to transit-dependent residents.

PHASED APPROACH

Tasks by Phase		
Phase 1	T1	PSC Coordination
	T2	Transit Choices Brochure
	T2	Regional Connections Opportunities Report
	T3	Engagement Preparations
	T3	Engagement Wave 1
	T4	Conceptual Scenario Development
Phase 2	T5	Identify projects
	T5	Prioritization process development
	T5	Preferred Scenario
	T6	Engagement wave 2 prep
	T6	Engagement Wave 2
	T7	Revenue forecasting
	T7	Implementation Plan
	T8	Final Report

PHASE 1 Introduces key transit planning concepts and frames choices in terms of easy-to-understand values to generate alternative conceptual transit scenarios

PHASE 2 Identifies proposed projects, prioritization criteria, and available revenues to produce implementation recommendations through 2040.

PROGRESS

- Task 2

- Preparing draft content for Transit Choices Brochure (TCB) and preliminary analysis for the Regional Connections Opportunities (RCO) report for review

- Task 3:

- Submitted “final” Public Information Plan (PIP)
- Launched project website
- Continuing to develop database of stakeholder information for outreach and engagement efforts
- Early preparation for first Transit Summit

NEXT STEPS (AUGUST-SEPTEMBER)

- Task 2
 - Submit draft Transit Choices Brochure (TCB) and draft Regional Connections Opportunities (RCO) report for review
- Task 3:
 - Prepare for first Transit Summit
 - Facilitate first Transit Summit (mid-to-late September)
 - Summarize findings from Transit Summit
- Task 4:
 - Use findings from Transit Summit to develop frameworks for conceptual scenarios