

May 26, 2021

To: GoTriangle Board
From: Caroline Dwyer, AICP, Project Manager, Renaissance Planning
Re: Update on Orange County Transit Plan

Background

With the discontinuation of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (D-O LRT) project, a new Orange County Transit Plan is necessary to determine the priorities and projects that are most important and beneficial to Orange County and its constituent municipalities. In early 2020, Renaissance Planning was selected as the lead consultant to spearhead the effort of drafting a new Orange County Transit Plan. The project is organized into two main phases. 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. The project team is currently transitioning from Phase 1 tasks to Phase 2 tasks (see image).

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

Progress Summary

Several key project milestones have been met, including:

- Five (5) meetings with the Policy Steering Committee
- Project website launched: www.octransit2020.com
- [Public Engagement Plan](#) (PIP) completed
- [Transit Choices Brochure](#) was completed
- A review draft of the Regional Connections Opportunities was completed.
- A first round of public engagement was conducted from September 2020 to October 2020:



- A print and online [public survey](#) received 215 responses
- Approximately 60 individuals participated in a virtual [Transit Summit](#) on October 1, 2020.

Between January and May 2021, the consulting team has been coordinating with the Policy Steering Committee, transit service providers, and the consulting team preparing the Durham Transit Plan update to develop two transit scenarios which will be presented for review to the Policy Steering Committee on May 28, 2021 and to transit service providers for review during the first week of June (date TBD). Following this review, we will launch our second phase of public outreach and engagement, which is expected to extend through July. This second phase of outreach is focused on receiving feedback on the two transit scenarios and their constituent projects. Evolving public health conditions related to COVID-19 allows the contracting team to facilitate a wider range of engagement activities than during the first round last fall. In addition to coordinating with the Policy Steering Committee and transit service providers, we intend to convene focus groups, launch an online public survey, and conduct polling at the busiest bus stop in Orange County. We are hopeful this additional engagement will reach a more representative cross-section of transit riders.

Following the second phase of engagement, we will begin to prepare the draft transit plan and implementation plan (to 2040). Our projected project completion date is October 2021.