



Triangle Regional Transit Program

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Durham City Council Update Durham-Wake and Durham-Orange Corridor Locally Preferred Alternatives

December 8, 2011

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Presentation Overview



- Today's Focus: Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for Durham-Wake & Durham-Orange Transit Corridors
- Background on Process
- Decisions Before MPO
- Review of Recommended Alternatives
- Current Timeline for LPA Decision
- Questions & Discussion

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Today's Focus: LPA

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➤ Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

- A technical definition of a transit project required to apply for federal funds
- Describes a detailed goal; does not specify timing
- Must be approved by Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of DCHC-MPO
- Part of a process required by **FEDERAL** law

➤ Durham and Orange County Bus & Rail Plans

- Specifies revenues, costs, borrowing, financial assumptions (inflation, sales tax growth) and timing of new/expanded bus and rail services to 2035
- Orange plan must be approved by Orange BoCC, DCHC-MPO TAC, and Triangle Transit Board of Trustees (Durham has completed these steps)
- Part of a process required by **STATE** law

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Background

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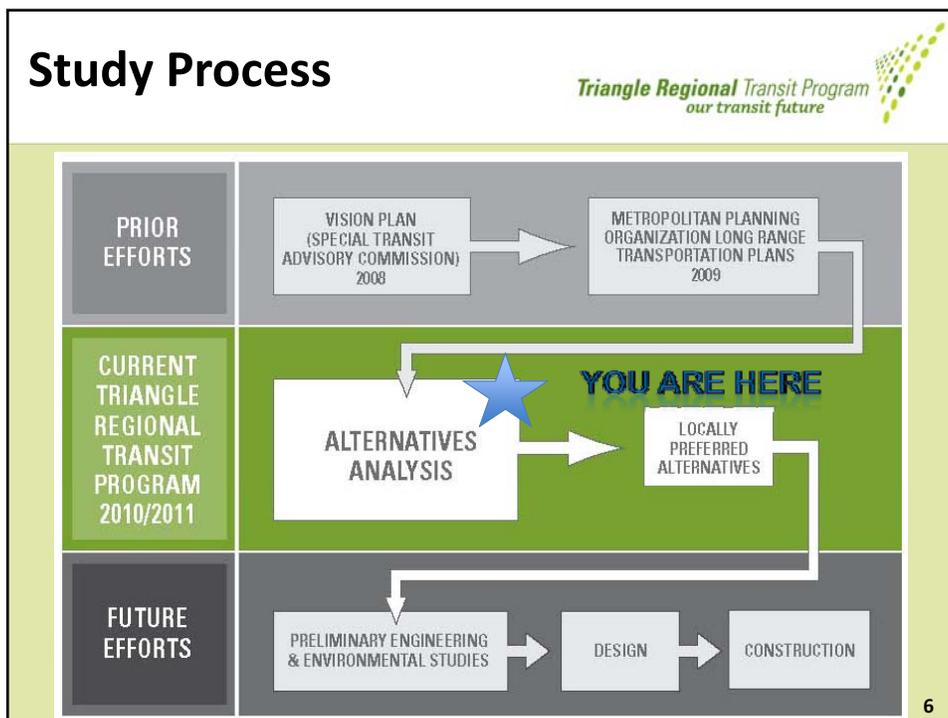
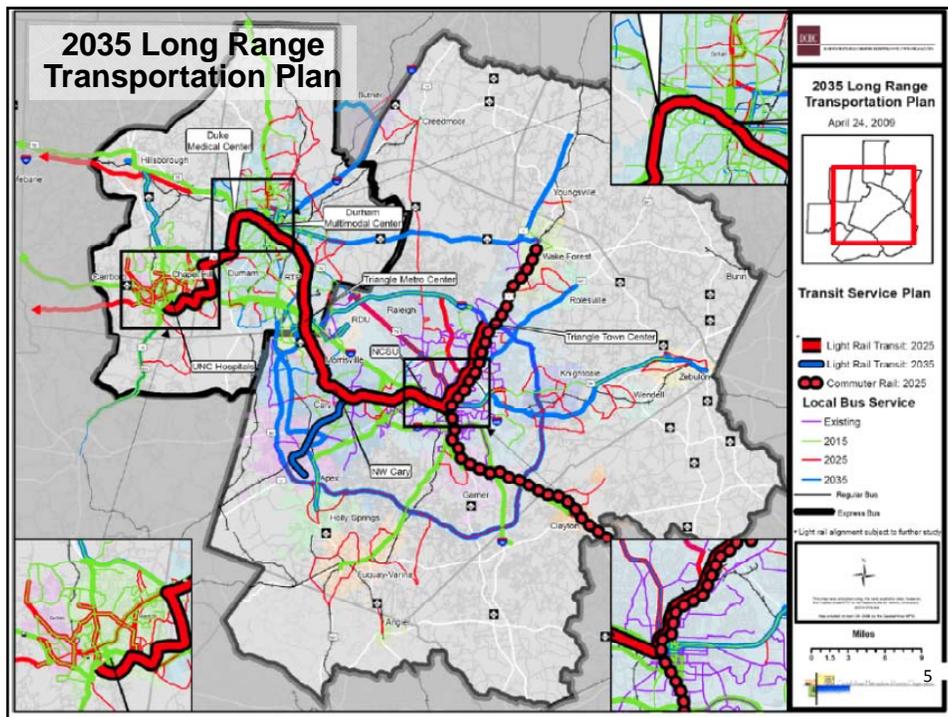
➤ Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) recommendations (2008)

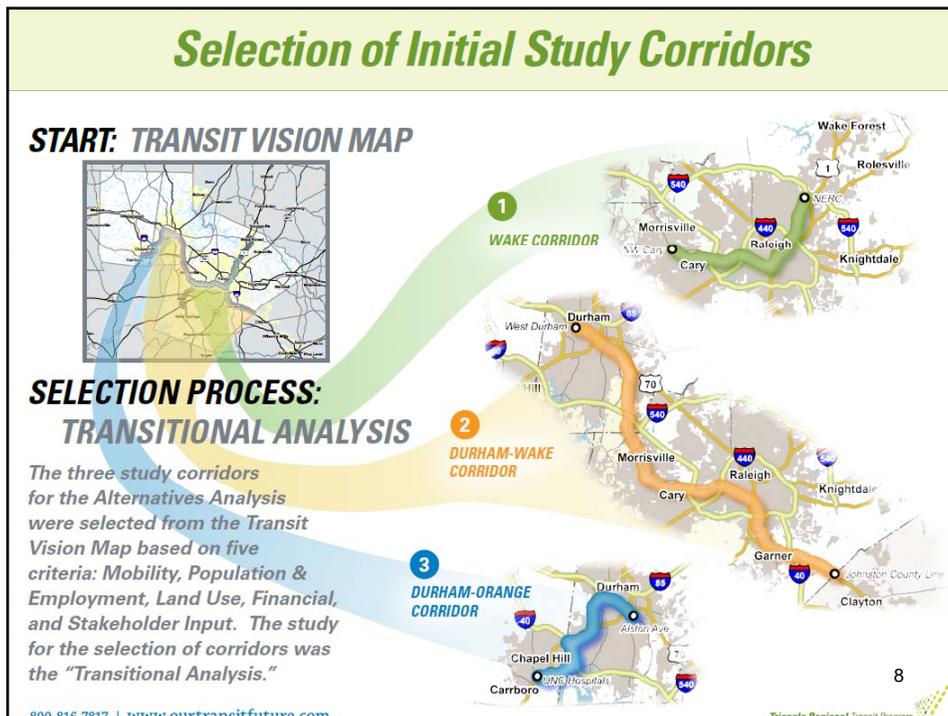
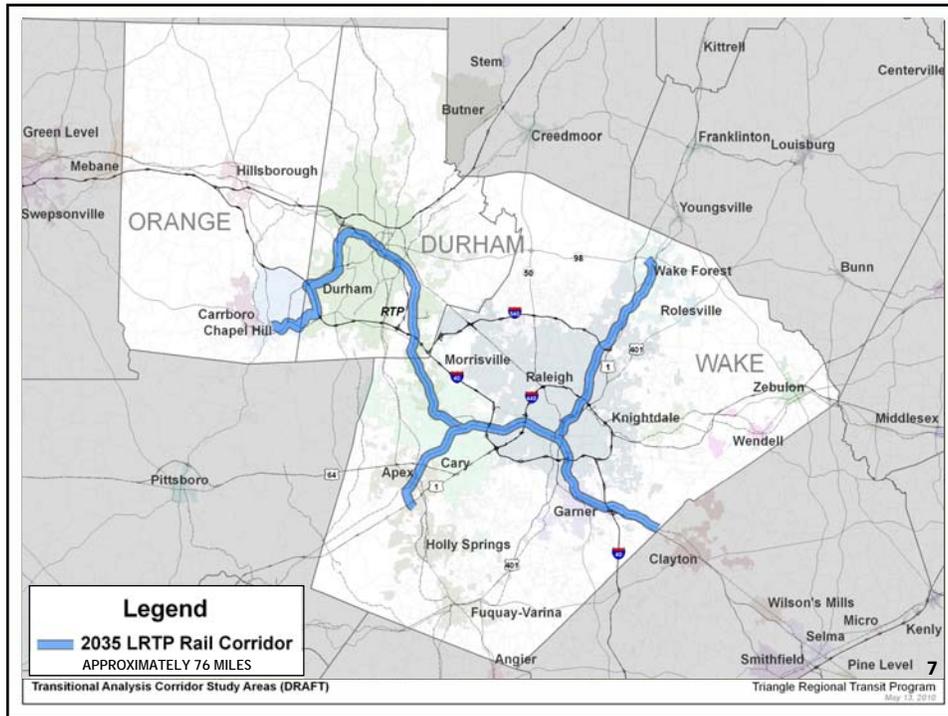
➤ DCHC-CAMPO Joint 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Adopted (2009)

➤ NC House Bill 148: Congestion Relief & Inter-modal 21st Century Transportation Fund (2009)

- Option of ½ sales tax (referendum required) for public transportation purposes in Triangle and Triad
- Option of ¼ cent sales tax (referendum required) for public transportation purposes in all other NC Counties
- Option of vehicle registration fee increase (up to \$7) for public transportation purposes in all NC Counties

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Agency & Public Involvement

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- **Multiple station planning, site specific and corridor meetings**
- **3 Sets of Public Workshops totaling 19 meetings**
 - June and Sept 2010; March 2011
 - multiple locations in Raleigh, Cary, Durham and Chapel Hill
 - in Morrisville, Apex, Carrboro, Garner, Knightdale, RTP and Wake Forest
- **Over 1,100 participants**
- **75,000 unique website visitors**



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Decisions Before the MPO

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- **Choosing a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for Corridors: Required Elements**
 - Technology
 - Termini (Endpoints)
 - Alignment
- **Not Required, But Fewer Unknowns = Better**
 - Exact Station Locations
 - Outcome of Design Option Investigations
 - Maintenance facility location

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Recommendations: Durham-Wake Corridor

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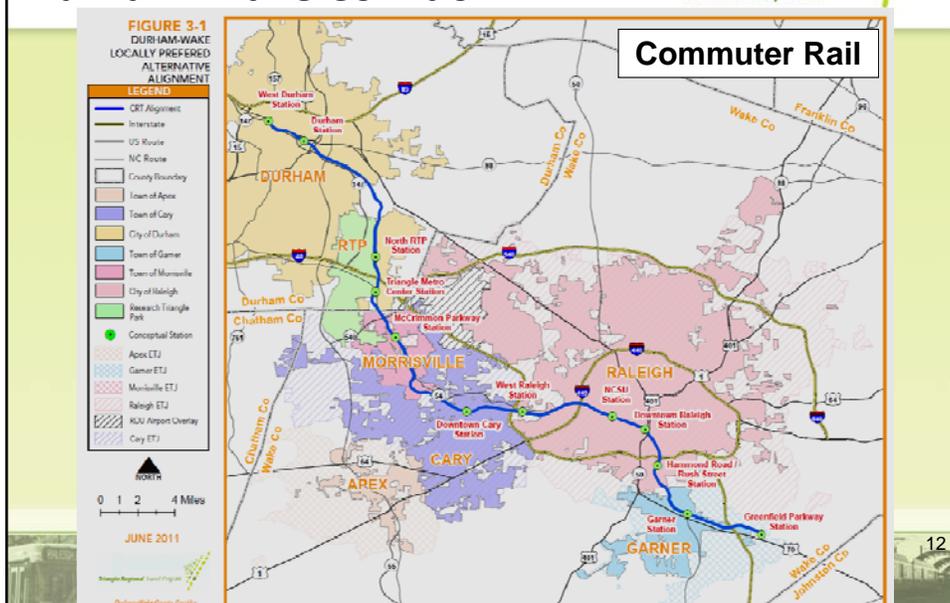
- ▶ **Commuter Rail: West Durham to Greenfield Pkwy**
 - (Technology and Endpoints Recommendation)
- ▶ **Recommended Alignment: NCRR Corridor**
- ▶ **Reasons for Recommendation:**
 - Connects Durham / Raleigh with fast, reliable, rail service
 - Improves transit efficiency in study area
 - Community support / Consistent with local plans
 - Takes advantage of investment for NCDOT High Speed Rail
 - No environmental flaws, can improve air quality

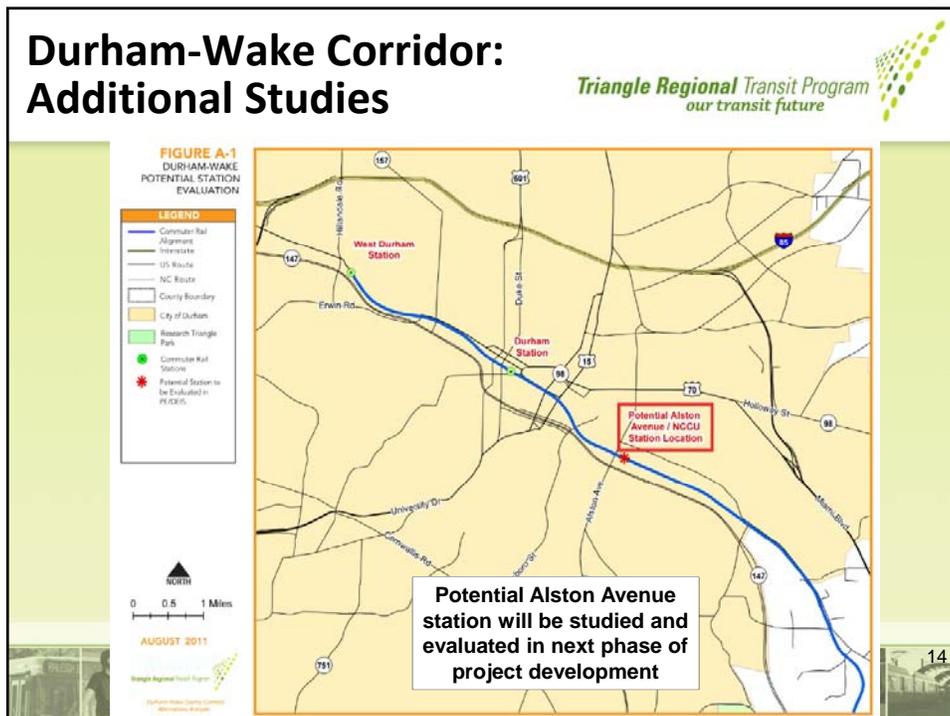
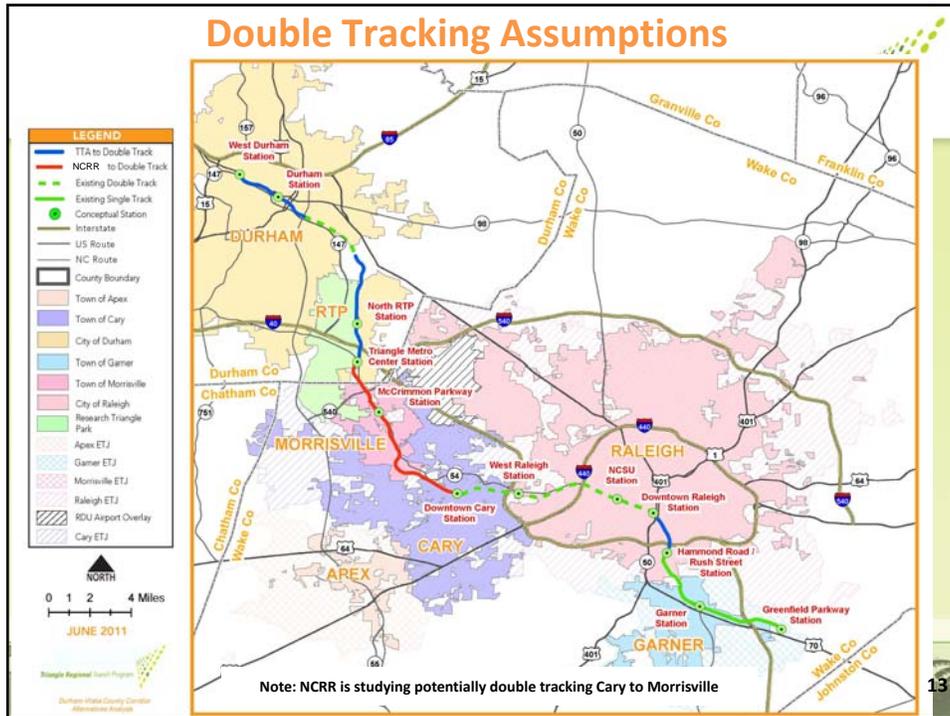
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Recommendations Durham-Wake Corridor

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Recommendations: Durham-Wake Corridor

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- **Advance Commuter Rail Service with 12 stations along 37 miles**
- **Average Daily Boardings: 6,900* (in year 2035)**
- **Travel Time: 52 minutes**
- **Capital Cost: \$650M (2011 dollars)**
 - *Cost covers the entire project (Durham County share is \$315M)*
- **Annual O&M Cost: \$11M (2011 dollars)**
 - *(Durham County share is \$2.7 M per year)*

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*Subject to further FTA coordination and approval

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Amtrak, Commuter Rail, LRT Station

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Proposed Durham LRT Station Rendering
Alongside Proposed Commuter Rail Station

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Recommendations: Durham-Orange Corridor

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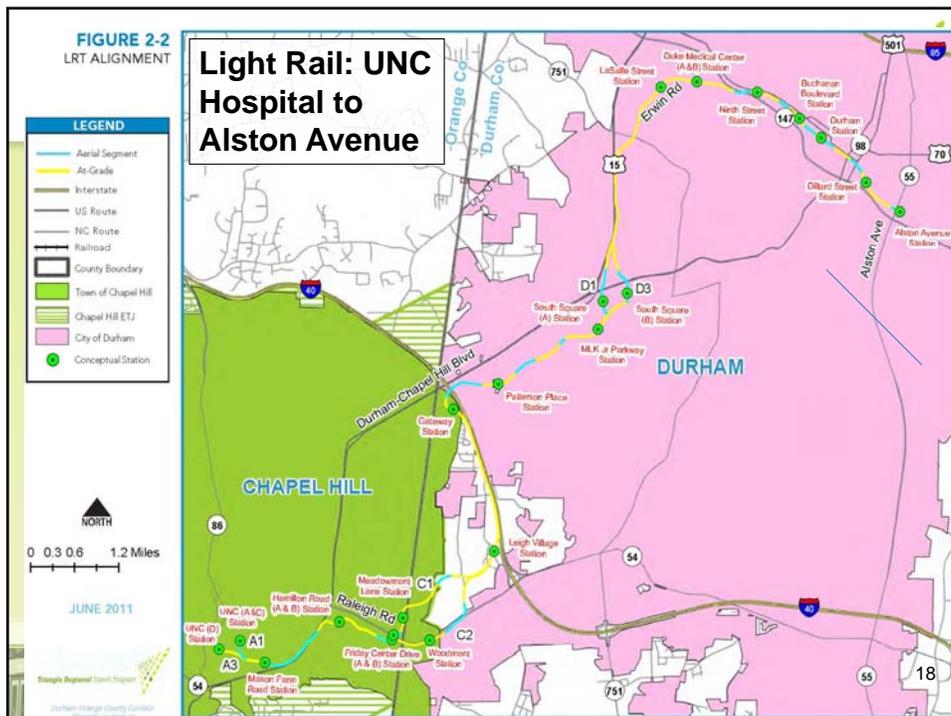
➤ Light Rail Transit (LRT) from UNC Hospital to Alston Avenue

(Technology and Endpoints Recommendation)

➤ Recommended Alignment Alternatives

- A3(d): UNC Hospital Station at Mason Farm Rd
- D3: South Square East - Shannon Road near Target
- C1: Alignment using elevated station at Friday Center, Meadowmont path to Leigh Village; C2 advanced to DEIS stage as backup alignment

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Alternatives Evaluated: Alignments C1 & C2

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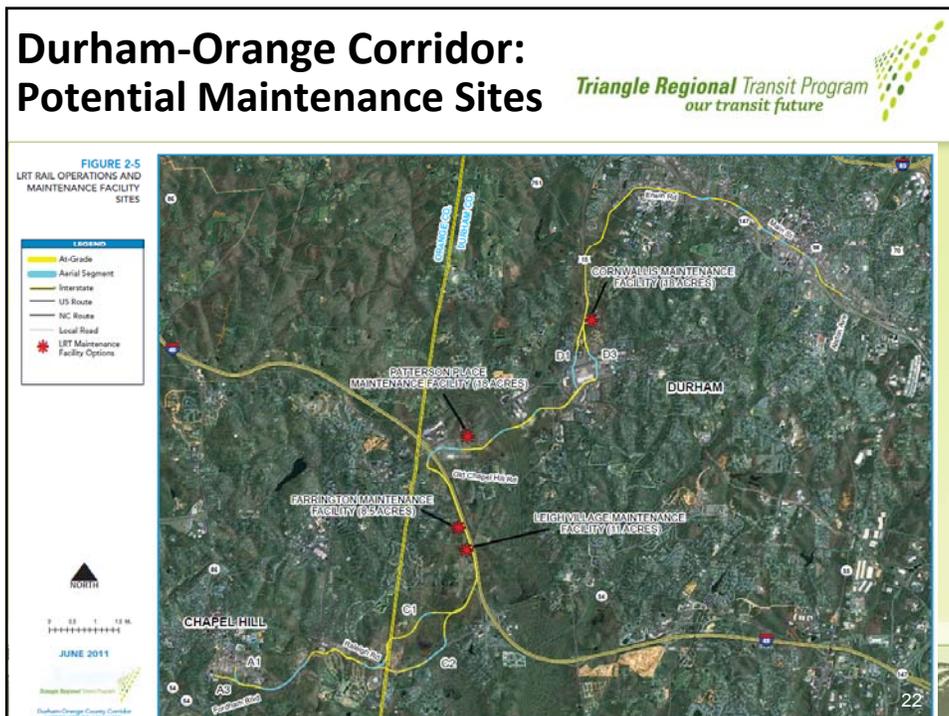
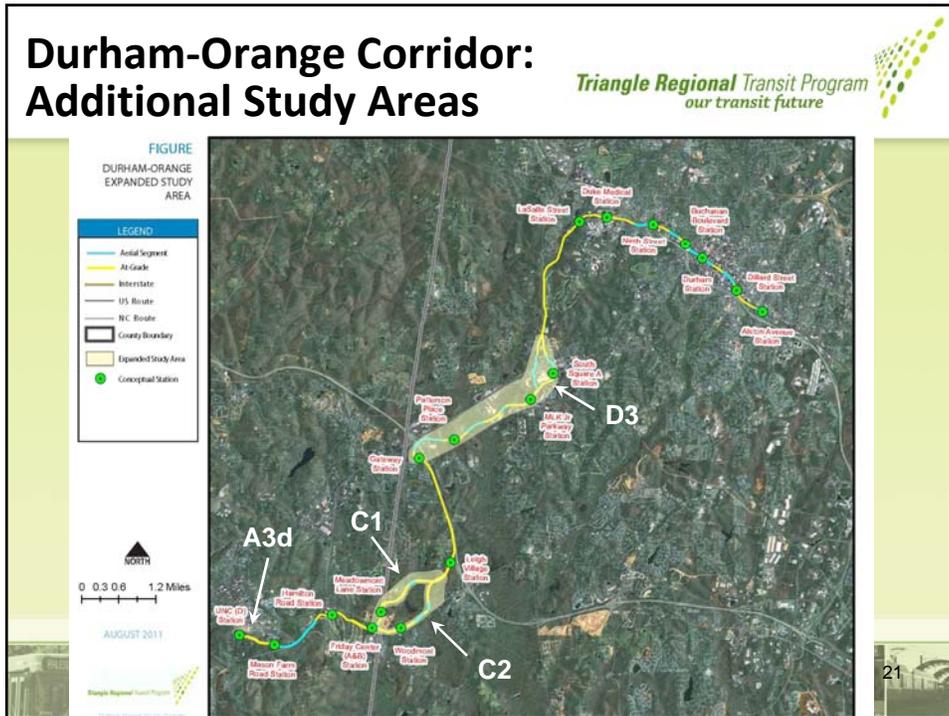
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Alternatives Evaluated: Alignments D1 & D3

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Recommendations: Durham-Orange Corridor

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➤ Advance LRT service: 17 stations along 17 miles

- Average daily boardings: 11,700* (year 2035)
- End to end travel time: 35 minutes
- Estimated capital cost: \$1.37B (2011 dollars)
- Estimated annual O&M Cost: \$15M (2011 dollars)

➤ Options to be resolved in Preliminary Engineering/Environmental Impact Statement (PE/DEIS)

- Further study of Little Creek (Meadowmont) and New Hope Creek areas
- Location of Hamilton and Duke Medical Center stations
- Maintenance Facility Location

*Subject to further FTA coordination and approval

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Reasons for Durham-Orange Recommendations

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➤ LRT over Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

- LRT faster and more reliable end-to-end travel times
- LRT more likely to foster compact growth and support economic development than BRT
- LRT lower long term operating costs than BRT

➤ Endpoints cover three travel markets:

- Employment center at UNC
- Employment center Duke/Downtown Durham
- Lower-income worker access to 15-501 jobs and shopping

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Reasons for Durham-Orange Recommendations

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- **A3 Station at UNC Hospital:**
 - preferred by UNC-Chapel Hill, Town of Chapel Hill staff
- **C1 alignment via Meadowmont:**
 - MPO, town, city planned/reserved corridor for a decade
 - Existing TOD more supportive of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) land use evaluation (good urban design and pedestrian-supportive street network)
 - C2 development is potential TOD but may be limited in extent by existing development and roadway networks
- **D3 due to superior TOD opportunities and station access**

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LRT Station at Duke Medical Center

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Timeline

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➤ Upcoming Key Dates

- Durham BOCC – 12/05/2011 Work Session
- Orange BOCC – 12/08/2011 Work Session
- Durham City Council – 12/08/2011 Work Session
- MPO Public Comment Period Closes – 01/04/2012
- MPO TAC Holds Public Hearing – 01/11/2012
- TCC Recommends LPA – 01/25/2012
- TAC reviews/takes action on LPA – 02/08/2012

➤ Submit New Starts Application to FTA – August 2012

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Questions / Discussion

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