

Resolution of the Durham City Council in Support of the Bus and Rail Investment Plan for Durham and Orange Counties

WHEREAS, the Durham community has been recognized for its wonderful quality of life and economic vitality on many occasions over the past decade, including Durham's recent ranking as the best mid-sized city for jobs in the US by Forbes magazine, as the #1 housing market in the US by the Wall Street Journal, as one of the top places in the world to visit in 2011 by the New York Times and the #2 "green city" for lifestyle and quality of life by Country Home magazine; and

WHEREAS, the blessings of a vibrant local economy and high quality of life have brought significant transportation challenges to Durham and the region, including a surge in population growth that will add over one million new residents to our regional population of 1.5 million in the next 30 years, a 23% increase in commute times in the last decade, worsening traffic congestion on the area's major roads and streets, and difficulty in meeting air quality standards, with the most recent indication of the challenges being a study cited in Forbes magazine on May 10, 2011 which found that the Triangle region was the urban region in the US that suffered the most from rising gasoline prices; and

WHEREAS, over four years ago the region's two Transportation Advisory Committee's saw a need to strengthen mobility and transit options and named a blue ribbon group of citizens to address our transportation challenges and recommend bus and rail investments needed over the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, that appointed citizens group (the STAC or Special Transit Advisory Commission) unanimously made recommendations that were formally adopted into the region's long-range transportation plan in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted the Intermodal Transportation Fund Act in 2009 which allows Durham, Orange and Wake counties to hold referendums of their voters on adoption of an ½ cent sales tax for public transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials and their staffs in both Durham and Orange have prepared a detailed plan for needed bus and rail transportation improvements in their respective counties over the next quarter century that will provide substantial transportation, economic, environmental and quality of life benefits for their citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Durham City Council that they have reviewed the Bus and Rail Investment Plan presented to them and by this Resolution do support and recommend its adoption to the Durham Board of County Commissioners.