



News Release

For Immediate Release: May 29, 2018

City of Durham Seeks Input on Durham Belt Line Trail Master Plan Draft

Public Open House Set for June 11; Online Feedback Form Also Available

DURHAM, N.C. – The draft of the much-anticipated [Durham Belt Line Trail Master Plan](#) is now ready and the City of Durham is seeking public input.

The Durham Belt Line is envisioned to be a greenway and series of parks that extends 1.7 miles from downtown Durham, through the Innovation District, Trinity Park, Pearl Mill Village, North Durham and Duke Park neighborhoods, and then east to the Avondale Drive area. The master plan includes policy recommendations that address safety, design of trail-side development, and housing and equity issues. Preliminary cost estimates for the trail and other components are included in the draft plan and will be used by the City to help inform future funding decisions.

The City's Transportation Department is asking the public to review the draft master plan, along with meeting and workshop summaries, at <https://DurhamBeltLine.com>. Comments may be provided at the public open house on Monday, June 11 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Durham Nativity School, 1004 N. Mangum Street, and may also be submitted through an online feedback survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/durham-belt-line>. Online feedback is requested by June 25, and paper copies of the feedback survey are also available upon request.

The development of the draft master plan has been nearly a year-long process. In July 2017, the City began engaging residents, business owners, and other stakeholders in conversations about this project, including a community-wide visioning workshop in September 2017. Working with a Steering Committee, the City's project team developed a draft master plan for the abandoned rail line, which is envisioned to be transformed into a public space. The Conservation Fund, a non-profit organization that works to conserve land for parks across the United States, purchased the corridor from the Norfolk Southern Railroad, and the City is now in discussions with the Conservation Fund to purchase the 17 acres using a combination of federal and local funds. Over the coming weeks, after receiving input from public meeting attendees and the online feedback survey, the City and its partner organizations may hold additional informational meetings prior to finalizing edits. After the Master Plan is complete, the City's project team will then prepare a recommendation for how to proceed with this project.

For more information about this project, contact Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Dale McKeel with the City's Transportation Department at (919) 560-4366, ext. 36421 or Dale.McKeel@DurhamNC.gov; or Project Manager Todd Delk with Stewart, Inc., the design, engineering and planning firm working with the City on this project, at tdelk@stewartinc.com. Persons who require assistance to attend the June 11th community open house should call (919) 560-4197 or email ADA@DurhamNC.gov no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

About the Transportation Department

The [Transportation Department](#) is responsible for a broad range of transportation services, which include

traffic signs and signals, transportation planning, [parking operations](#), street lighting, taxicab administration, and bicycle and pedestrian planning. The department also oversees [GoDurham](#) and [GoDurham ACCESS](#) as well as leads planning functions for the [Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) (DCHC MPO), which is the regional organization that is responsible for planning and programming state and federal transportation projects in the urbanized areas of Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps to strengthen the foundation, enhance the value, and improve the quality and sustainability of neighborhoods that are necessary for a strong and diverse community.

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