

Petition to Town of Chapel Hill Mayor and Council

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2018

RE: Proposed Light Rail Cooperative Agreement

A few weeks ago I attended part of a Council work session where GoTriangle staff was asked a variety of questions about the proposed Cooperative Agreement for the Durham-Orange Light rail Transit Project. Rather than answer your questions, staff appeared annoyed by them. You were told that answers would be provided the next week. I hope you did get answers because we taxpayers certainly have questions this draft Agreement either does not address or addresses incorrectly. You have received a letter about key concerns from a growing list of citizens. We are worried about both the Agreement process and its content.

This Agreement is not a mere formality. Here is one example of its importance: Current wording in Part 2 binds the Town for a period of years even though **the termination date should be no later than November 30, 2019.** Why Next November 30? Because it is a state law that the project will be terminated by then if federal funding has not been obtained. There is no reason you should allow GoTriangle to continue receiving funds if federal support has not been approved by that date.

Tonight you have an opportunity to begin to identify and address this and other flaws in the current draft. This is the first time we, your constituents, have seen the draft. We feel certain you want to be sure it is protective of the interests of ALL residents. There is no big rush.

You and staff have until the end of the Engineering Phase to make the Agreement acceptable to all parties--in other words, by end of January, 2019. Let's get answers to your questions and understand what Attorney Karpinos may sign on your behalf.

No matter where you stand on the light rail project as a whole, this Agreement is binding and requires more than a cursory review.

Thank you.

Joan Guilkey