

**ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT COMPREHENSIVE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
("PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT")**

Between

TRANSIT GOVERNANCE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (ILA) PARTIES:

**RESEARCH TRIANGLE REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
("GoTriangle"), DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION ("DCHC MPO"), and COUNTY OF ORANGE ("Orange
County")**

And

**The TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, TOWN OF CARBORRO, TOWN OF
HILLSBOROUGH, and CITY OF MEBANE**

(All parties collectively referred to herein as "Parties")

And Parties will further coordinate with

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS:

**TRIANGLE J COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ("TJCOG"), and UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL ("UNC Chapel Hill")**

**As current and/or future partners through specific project agreements that shall
incorporate the terms of this document**

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Parties to this Agreement and the Implementation Partners, have or may have specific roles in public transit implementation and public transit infrastructure support in Orange County, they have determined it is in their best interest and that of their constituents to coordinate future public transit planning, funding, expansion and construction; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan, the Governance ILA Parties adopted the Orange County Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement ("Governance ILA") that creates a governance structure for the implementation of the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan by and through the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program; and

WHEREAS, the Governance ILA establishes the Staff Working Group ("SWG"), comprised of staff representatives from the Governance ILA Parties and the Implementation Partners, and charged the SWG with coordinating and recommending the planning and implementation aspects of the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program; and

WHEREAS, the Parties, and the Implementation Partners intend to implement an inclusive and cooperative process to continuously develop and improve the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan. They will further develop a public involvement plan to guide the Parties' and SWG's coordinated efforts for engagement aligned with federal, state and local policies and guidelines; and

WHEREAS the Parties and Partners collectively make recommendations, develop and review the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program; and

WHEREAS the Parties have a formal role in approving the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program through structured representation on the Orange County Board of Commissioners, DCHC MPO Board, and GoTriangle Board of Trustees as the ILA defines their oversight and jurisdiction regarding the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program development and implementation; and

WHEREAS, this Participation Agreement serves as the Comprehensive Participation Agreement as formally defined in Section 2.040 in the Governance ILA to establish standards that will govern the Parties' and Partners' eligibility for inclusion of sponsored Implementation Elements in the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program and receipt of any funding allocation from Orange County Transit Tax Revenue and other Dedicated Local Transit Funding Sources; evidence of the Parties' acceptance of the most up-to-date Orange County Transit Annual Work Program (now and in the future) and the associated annual update process; and confirm the Parties' roles in carrying out Staff Working Group (SWG) responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, local Governmental Parties are authorized to enter into this Participation Agreement pursuant to, inter alia, N.C.G.S. 160A-20.1; 160A-312; 160A-313; 160A-610; 153A-275; 153A-276; and 153A-449; and

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above recitals and the mutual covenants herein contained, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE, SCOPE & LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITIES, TERM & EFFECTIVE DATE

1.01 Purpose. The Parties hereby recognize that the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan, as implemented by the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program, will be the guidance document for Orange County public transit investment with Local Government Public Transportation Sales Tax Act revenue and other Locally Dedicated Transit Funding Sources, as identified in the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan. This Agreement

establishes standards for all Parties and Partners who desire to receive project funding from Dedicated Local Transit Funding Sources identified in the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan. This Participation Agreement also confirms the Parties' respective roles for future planning, design, funding, and implementation of the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan via their roles and responsibilities within the Staff Working Group (SWG).

1.02 Scope & Limitation of Authority. This Participation Agreement is limited to the purposes enumerated herein. No Party has the right to expand, abridge, limit or constrain the authority or actions of Orange County, GoTriangle, or the DCHC MPO or the SWG created by the Governance ILA with respect to the administration of the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan, except as specifically agreed to herein. Nothing herein grants funding for any Implementation Element (defined herein in Article II) to any Party. Further, any Party receiving Dedicated Local Transit Funding Source revenue for an Implementation Element is wholly responsible for the completion of that element as set forth by future project or other specific agreements between such individual Parties. The Parties hereby recognize that the official governance and oversight for the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan according to the terms of the Governance ILA and this Participation Agreement remains entirely with Orange County's Board of Commissioners, DCHC MPO's Policy Board, and the GoTriangle Board of Trustees.

1.03 Responsibilities of the Governance ILA Parties. The Governance ILA Parties have the responsibilities and duties set out in the Governance ILA.

1.04 Responsibilities of the Participant Parties and Implementation Partners. The Participant Parties shall:

- (a) Provide staff to serve on the SWG if designated as an SWG member in the Governance ILA; and
- (b) Negotiate and enter into Global/Capital Funding Agreement(s) and/or Global/Operating Agreement(s) for any project (using the Work Program Project Code as a unique identifier).
- (c) Receive dedicated Local Transit Funding Sources identified in the Orange County Multi-Year Transit Vision Plan for Implementation Elements identified within the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program in accordance with the agreements negotiated in (b).

1.05 Term & Effective Date. This Participation Agreement becomes effective upon approval and execution by the Parties ("Effective Date"). The Term of this Participation Agreement shall be from the Effective Date through a period of seventeen (17) years unless otherwise amended by the prior express written agreement of the Parties.

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

2.01 "CAPITAL FUNDING AGREEMENT:" An agreement between agencies to provide a specified amount of funding for an Implementation Element. Any such agreement will include details of the capital improvements to be provided and detail expectations on Orange County Transit Annual Work Program resource funding, responsibilities, schedule, reporting and performance and shall adhere to any and all standards outlined in specific project worksheets through the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program.

2.02 "CAPITAL PROJECTS ORDINANCE:" The annual financial ordinance for the Orange Transit major capital fund pursuant to N.C.G.S. Chapter 159, tied to the multi-year Capital Improvement Plan, the Annual Capital Budget, and planned capital project funding agreements that implement needed capital projects.

2.03 "COMPONENT UNIT or SEPARATE COMPONENT UNIT:" A unit of local government within the Tax District that has administrative responsibility for the budget adoption, operation or, management of specified transit services and associated supporting implementation elements. The component unit is required to report Orange County Transit Plan Revenues, including Dedicated Local Transit Funding Sources, expenditures and fund balance in columns separate from the component's financial data in its annual audited statements.

2.04 "GOVERNANCE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT" or "GOVERNANCE ILA:" The Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement dated March 8, 2023 between Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority ("GoTriangle"), Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization ("DCHC MPO"), and Orange County for implementing public transit services and projects in the fiscally constrained Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan. This Governance ILA is included as Exhibit A to this Agreement.

2.05 "IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT:" A discrete project, operation, or study or a discrete logical grouping of projects, operations, or studies tracked separately by the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program.

2.06 "IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS:" The listed signatories to this agreement who are non-voting members of the Orange County SWG. These implementation partners have roles supporting implementing elements of the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program. These partners fulfill their roles and responsibilities as outlined in specific project agreements to deliver approved implementation elements in the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program along with the Dedicated Local Transit Funding Sources approved in these project specific agreements.

2.07 "MAJOR FUND:" A fund as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"), is reported in a separate column in the basic fund financial statements and is subject to a separate audit opinion in the independent auditor's report. The Tax District shall

report at a minimum Major Fund for the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program Operating Funds and a Major Fund for the Orange County Transit Annual Transit Work Program Capital Funds.

2.08 "MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN" ("CIP"): A multi-year document that identifies projected capital projects by year, project sponsors responsible for undertaking these projects, the financial costs, and anticipated funding sources, and projected operating costs associated with those projects. The CIP shall be coordinated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the annual program of projects developed and maintained by the DCHC MPO which is the designated recipient of federal formula transit grants. The plan shall be consistent with submittal deadlines for the Transportation Improvement Program and the horizon years of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

2.09 "MULTI-YEAR SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:" A document or documents that detail how transit services, including expansion and reduction, are to be operated and maintained over a specific number of years. The plan(s) shall detail timing and schedule, justifications for implementation decisions, and public involvement steps. Different transit operators may have different plans for implementation, but the different plans must be coordinated with respect to anticipated funding, public outreach, and the extent to which the different operator's plans connect services between them.

2.10 "OPERATING AGREEMENT:" An agreement or operating plan between one or more Parties or Implementation Partners, the Tax District and others as needed to provide an Implementation Element. The agreement shall state the details of the service to be provided and detail expectations on funding, responsibilities, schedule, and performance and shall adhere to any and all standards outlined in specific project worksheets through the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program.

2.13 "OPERATING BUDGET ORDINANCE" The annual financial budget ordinance for the Orange Transit major operating fund pursuant to N.C.G.S. Chapter 159. The ordinance includes the funds for the operations of implementation elements identified in the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program, allocations for reserves, and transfers to other major funds identified by the Component Unit (ex. Orange Transit). The Operating Budget Ordinance must include the Component Unit's general administrative expenses designated separately from a Project's Operating Funds.

2.14 "SPECIAL DISTRICT" or "TAX DISTRICT:" Any tax district administered by GoTriangle pursuant to authorizing resolutions and N.C.G.S. 105-508 *et seq.* or N.C.G.S. 105-561 *et seq.* to which Orange County is a member, now or in the future.

2.15 "STAFF WORKING GROUP" or "SWG:" The committee as created by the Governance ILA. The SWG is jointly charged by all parties to this Agreement, including the Implementation Partners, to coordinate and develop the Orange County Transit Annual Work

Program, the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan, and serve in an advisory role to the Orange County Board of Commissioners, DCHC MPO Board, and GoTriangle Board of Trustees in their review consideration, and approval of these two documents.

2.16 **SUBCOMPONENT UNIT:** The subcomponent unit is required to report its financial information as aggregated at the COMPONENT UNIT level and not separately stated. Durham County Transit Plan Revenues, including Dedicated Local Transit Funding Sources, expenditures and fund balance in columns separate from the component's financial data in its annual audited statements.

2.17 **"DEDICATED LOCAL TRANSIT FUNDING SOURCES:"** All revenues derived from transit funding sources designated for use in the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan. These shall include but are not limited to items defined through the Governance ILA in Section 2.012.

2.18 **"TRANSIT PLAN" or "MULTI-YEAR VISION PLAN:"** The comprehensive multi-year vision plan for transit operating and capital needs over a period of time of at least the next 4 years through coordination with the DCHC MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan adoption process and shall also be prepared by the SWG for approval by appropriate governing boards, which shall include all the separate components, as further defined in the Governance ILA in Section 2.038.

2.19 **"ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM" or "WORK PROGRAM:"** shall mean the comprehensive annual program for transit capital and operations annually presented by the SWG which shall include the separate components further defined in the Governance ILA in Section 2.011.

2.20 **"GLOBAL AGREEMENT:"** An Operating or Capital Funding agreement that encompasses a discrete logical grouping of capital projects, transit operations, or studies.

ARTICLE 3 STAFF WORKING GROUP

3.01 **Scope & Authorization.** The Governance ILA establishes and enables the Staff Working Group. The Parties confirm their commitment to serve on the SWG and to carry out their SWG membership responsibilities by executing this participation agreement.

3.02 **Membership.** SWG Membership includes voting & non-voting categories

- a) Voting members: two (2) staff persons appointed by each of the Governance ILA Parties; two (2) staff persons appointed by the Town of Chapel Hill; one (1) staff person appointed by the Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Mebane
- b) Non-Voting members: Each of the Implementation Parties must appoint one (1) staff person

- c) Each member may designate one (1) alternate empowered to fully participate in the SWG in the absence of the appointed staff person.

3.03 Bylaws. The SWG must enact bylaws. The SWG bylaws will govern quorum and voting standards, SWG operations and responsibilities, and, scheduling of efforts to develop the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program and the Orange County Transit Multi-Year Vision Plan.

3.04 SWG Responsibility for the annual Orange County Transit Annual Work Program. Subject to the Governance ILA, the SWG shall develop annual recommendations for the review and approval of the governing bodies. This work program approval process is documented in Article VII of the Governance ILA. Recommendations shall be developed for each of the following Orange County Transit Annual Work Program components:

- (a) Annual Work Program, including all the separate elements defined in Section 2.011 of the Governance ILA
- (b) Multi-Year Service Implementation & Capital Improvement Plans
- (c) Templates containing minimum standards for project and financial reports
- (d) Designation of project sponsors (agencies responsible for each respective capital and operating project), including agencies responsible for each Implementation Element;
- (e) A strategy for each Implementation Element which includes a scope, schedule, project boundaries, an estimated budget, specifies the sponsoring agency/jurisdiction, purpose and goals and (*defines the standard for individual project/Implementation Element worksheets*)
- (f) An articulated strategy for incorporating or accounting for public outreach, involvement, and communication with all components in the annual work program.
- (g) Facilitation to transcribe project worksheets (composition outlined in 3.04(e) above) into Global/Project Agreements.

The SWG shall reference the fiscal year 2024 Work Program Development process, which is to be recognized as the baseline for future work program development cycles and corresponding global/project agreement needs, as long as this Agreement and Governance ILA serve as the governing documents for county transit plan implementation efforts.

3.05 SWG Responsibility for Engagement with Elected Officials. The SWG shall schedule touchpoints on an annual basis with appropriate bodies of elected officials who either serve as a governing board through the Governance ILA or are responsible for a project(s) through the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program. These touchpoints shall be scheduled to allow for elected officials to:

- (a) Provide feedback on the draft Annual Work Program
- (b) Receive as information, and provide feedback as necessary, regarding progress reports developed on a quarterly basis.

3.06 Non-Delegation. The SWG cannot delegate its responsibility to review and present the documents and products defined in Section 3.04.

3.07 Right to Inspect. All Parties to this Participation Agreement, or their authorized representative(s), shall have the right to inspect, examine, and make copies of project work products as they deem necessary for the operation and day-to day business of the SWG or as specifically requested by formal action of any one of the parties' governing bodies. The SWG shall maintain all its records in a manner which facilitates review by the Parties and Implementation Partners.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY FOR ORANGE COUNTY TRANSIT TAX REVENUE FUNDING

4.01 Requirements for Inclusion in the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program. Only Parties in good standing to this Participation Agreement, Implementation Partners recognized through the Staff Working Group, or other partners as deemed critical, may request inclusion of an Implementation Element in the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program. The Parties agree that the terms and conditions of this agreement are pre-requisites to requesting and receiving Orange County Transit Tax Revenues funding allocations.

4.02 Implementation. An Operating or Capital Project Funding Agreement shall be required to support each implementation element submitted by each project sponsor identified in the Orange County Transit Annual Work Program except as specified in Section 4.03. Parties to this Comprehensive Participation Agreement shall endeavor to develop global-level agreements with appropriate timeframes for each project sponsor seeking to implement operating or capital projects. These agreements must be prepared prior to distributing funds and starting the Project(s). All Operating or Capital Project Funding Agreements shall have at least two signatories from appropriate parties and shall also adhere to the requirements further defined in Section 7.07 of the Governance ILA. Signatory authorizations to any Global/Project Agreements shall be determined by the minimum financial threshold by any party to such agreement.

4.03 Grace Period for Legacy Projects. Active project supported by Orange County Transit Plan Revenues or other Dedicated Local Transit Funding Sources at the time of execution of this Agreement and projects in the adopted Fiscal Year 2024 Work Program shall be eligible for continued funding through the end of Fiscal Year 2024 (Grace Period). If a global/operating or global/capital project funding agreement that conforms to the conditions in this Agreement is not in place prior to the start of Fiscal Year 2025, the project shall no longer be eligible for ongoing/additional funding until such Agreement is in place.

4.04 Capital/Operating Agreement Development. Each Capital Funding Agreement and Operating Agreement entered into by any of the Parties or the Partners must contain all components defined in this Participation Agreement. If any Implementation Agreement involves federal or state funding must in addition contain those elements required to maintain eligibility for such funds.

4.05 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Review. Each year's work program development process shall include a review of the CIP to determine which, if any, projects no longer meet the needs of the overall transit plan. Goal for this would be to remove such project(s) and reallocate funding as necessary to other areas of need.

4.06 Good Faith Effort. For any Party to this Agreement, or any involved Implementation Partner, that is unable to deliver a project as included in the Annual Work Program due to issues outside their control, Parties to a specific Project Agreement will work with the Staff Working Group through good faith to determine appropriate action to help resolve issues and facilitate delivery of said project. Parties shall reference supporting Orange County Transit Financial Policies and Procedures to guide the resolution process.

ARTICLE V

SUPPLANTATION/SUPPLEMENTATION

5.01 As of the Effective Date of this Participation Agreement, N.C.G.S. § 105-508.2 and N.C.G.S. § 105-564 require that Special District net tax proceeds must supplement and not supplant existing public transportation systems' funds or other resources as defined in Section 2.012 of the Governance ILA. The Parties acknowledge that the only funds subject to these requirements as of the execution of this Participation Agreement are:

- (a) Local Government Sales and Use Taxes for Public Transportation (N.C.G.S. 105-506:514) which is levied at its maximum allowable rate of one-half (1/2%) percent (*non-supplantation cited in N.C.G.S. 105-507.3.b*);
- (b) Regional Transit Authority Registration Tax (N.C.G.S. 105-560:569) which is levied at its maximum amount of \$8.00 per year with \$3.00 of each \$8.00 collected allocated locally to Orange County (*non-supplantation cited in N.C.G.S. 105-564*).

5.02 All Parties may pursue additional state and federal funding sources, which are not controlled locally, when appropriate for implementation of eligible projects. The use of existing funds or other resources, including state and federal funds, must be documented and made publicly available as a condition of receiving Orange County Transit Tax Revenue or other Locally Dedicated Transit Funding Sources. To the extent permitted by law, any audits required as a condition of receiving the identified funding sources shall be available for public inspection as well.

5.03 The most recently audited and reported local fiscal year prior to the January 15, 2012 of the one half (½%) percent Public Transportation Sales Tax Act local option sales and use tax as defined by N.C.G.S. 105-508 is the baseline for comparing all Parties' annual budgets for the Agreement.

5.04 Nothing herein shall be construed to modify, abridge, or deny the authority or discretion of any Party to independently develop, administer, or control transportation projects pursuant to enumerated authority or funding sources separate from the authority and funding sources outlined in this Participation Agreement.

5.05 All Parties shall work together in good faith to determine if the Participation Agreement's intent and purpose can be accomplished by executing necessary Amendments if statutory language in or judicial interpretation of N.C.G.S 105-508.2 or N.C.G.S 105-564 changes after Participation Agreement, execution.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENT, TERMINATION AND NOTICE

6.01 **Amendment.** This Participation Agreement may be amended to add or remove Parties or to change content. After the Effective Date of this Participation Agreement, any Eligible Participant Party or Governance ILA Party may become a Party to this Participation Agreement upon execution of the Participation Agreement by an authorized designee of that Party's governing board (or equivalent). If any Party proposes to amend Participation Agreement content, then the proposed amendment and the reasons for the proposed amendment must be communicated in writing to the SWG. All the Parties that have executed the Participation Agreement must adopt the amendment. The Parties will conduct a review of the Agreement at least every four (4) years to consider any desired updates through the Agreement through the Amendment process. If any Party desires to amend the Agreement outside the four (4) year review cycle, then the proposed amendment and the reasons for the proposed amendment shall be communicated in writing to the other Parties. If the Parties agree to the proposed amendment, then the amendment shall be affected by entering a written amendment to the Agreement. An amendment that does not change the substantive or financial commitments of the Agreement may be executed by the Durham County Manager, the DCHC-MPO Executive Director, and the GoTriangle Chief Executive Officer. Any other amendment to the terms of this Agreement to be effective must be in the form of a written instrument properly authorized and executed by the governing boards of each Party to this Agreement.

6.02 **Termination upon a year's notice.** Any Party may terminate its obligations to this Participation Agreement by giving written notice of intent to terminate to the other Parties at least one (1) year prior to the effective termination date. A withdrawing Party must fulfill all obligations and duties of their Implementation Agreements unless such Agreements are terminated in accordance with their provisions. Any Party terminating participation is ineligible for future Orange County Transit Tax Revenue Funding or other Locally Dedicated Transit Funding Sources for any Implementation Element until and unless the Party re-enters into the Participation Agreement.

6.03 **Cooperation Provisions.** In the event of a termination, the terminating Party must fulfill existing and unperformed obligations until the effective termination date. The Participation Agreement remains in effect for the remaining Parties. The non-withdrawing Parties, beginning at the time notice of termination is received, shall work together in good faith to determine if the Participation Agreement's intent and purpose can be accomplished by executing necessary amendments and/or adding necessary Parties to perform the executory obligations of the withdrawing Party.

6.04 **Notice.** Any written or electronic notice required by this Participation Agreement shall be delivered to the Parties at the following addresses, with a copy where designated for each party, which copy shall not in and of itself constitute notice:

For DCHC MPO:

Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization
Executive Director
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

For GoTriangle:

GoTriangle General
President/CEO
PO BOX 13787
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

with a copy to:

GoTriangle General Counsel
PO Box 13787
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

For the Town of Hillsborough:

Town of Hillsborough
Attn: Town Manager
PO Box 429
Hillsborough, NC 27278

with a copy to:

Town of Hillsborough
Attn: Town Attorney
PO Box 429
Hillsborough, NC 27278

For the Town of Carrboro:

Town of Carrboro
Attn: Town Manager
301 W Main Street
Carrboro, NC 27510

with a copy to:

Town of Carrboro
Attn: Town Attorney
301 W Main Street
Carrboro, NC 27510

For the Town of Chapel Hill:

Town of Chapel Hill
Attn: Town Manager
405 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

with a copy to:

Town of Chapel Hill
Attn: Town Attorney
405 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

For the City of Mebane:

City of Mebane
Attn: City Manager
106 East Washington Street
Mebane, NC 27302

with a copy to:

City of Mebane
Attn: City Attorney
106 East Washington Street
Mebane, NC 27302

For Orange County:

Orange County
Attn: County Manager
300 West Tryon Street
PO Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278

with a copy to:

Orange County Attorney
300 West Tryon Street
PO Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278

ARTICLE VII

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

7.01 Representations and Warranties. The Parties each represent, covenant, and warrant for the other's benefit as follows:

- (a) Each Party has all necessary authority to enter into this Participation Agreement and to conduct the processes created by this Participation Agreement. This Participation Agreement has been executed by each Party's governing body. This Participation Agreement is a valid and binding obligation of each Party.
- (b) To the knowledge of each Party, the execution and delivery of this Participation Agreement, the fulfillment of or compliance with its terms and conditions, and/or completing transactions conducted within this Participation Agreement results in a breach of the terms, conditions and provisions of any agreement or instrument to which a Party is now a party or by that it is bound or constitutes a default.
- (c) To the knowledge of each Party, there is no litigation or other court, or administrative proceeding pending or threatened affecting the Party's rights to execute or deliver this Participation Agreement or to comply with its obligations under this Participation Agreement.
- (d) Neither such Party's execution and delivery of this Participation Agreement, nor its compliance with its obligations under this Participation Agreement, requires the approval of any regulatory body or any other entity the approval of which has not been obtained.
- (e) The Parties agree to work together in good faith and with all due diligence to provide for and carry out the purpose of this Participation Agreement.

7.02 Agreement Related Dispute Resolution. It is the desire and intent of the Parties to resolve any disputes in a collaborative manner and to avoid, if possible, the expense and delay of litigation. In the event that any Party cannot resolve an issue with another Party under this Agreement, the affected party shall engage in the following process:

- (a) Any Party may give written notice to another Party or Parties of any dispute not resolved in the ordinary course of business. Within ten (10) business days after delivery of the written notice by regular or electronic mail, the receiving Party(ies) shall submit a written response to the disputing Party and designate in the notice a representative who will represent that Party in the negotiation to resolve the dispute. If a third-party mediator is necessary, the Party providing initial written notice will indicate as such in the notice and seek confirmation/approval by the receiving parties in written response. It shall be the responsibility of the Party giving notice to cover any costs related to any third-party mediator once confirmed/approved by the receiving parties.
- (b) Within ten (10) business days of receiving the response, the appointees of the disputing and receiving Parties shall meet at a mutually acceptable time and place, and thereafter, as often as necessary to resolve the dispute.

- (c) All reasonable requests for information made by one Party to the other shall be honored in a timely fashion to permit constructive discussion.
- (d) The duty to engage in dispute resolution is a material part of this Agreement enforceable by equitable relief.
- (e) Upon failure to resolve a dispute through the steps outlined in this Agreement, any Party may engage in other dispute resolutions processes agreed upon by the Parties or pursue any legal or equitable remedies available.

7.03 Waivers of Non-Compliance with Participation Agreement.

- (a) No provision of this Participation Agreement may be waived once the grace period as defined in Section 4.03, as applied to Legacy Projects, has concluded.
- (b) Any waiver of a provision or provisions of this document must be formally executed in accordance with section 7.07 of this Participation Agreement.
- (c) The failure of any Party to require timely compliance with this agreement or another agreement executed based upon this agreement shall not affect the right of the other Party to enforce the provisions of the agreement.
- (d) No waiver or acquiescence by a Party to any breach of any provision of an agreement is to be taken as authorization or a waiver to commit any subsequent breach of that provision or any other provision.

7.04 Governing Law. The parties intend that this Participation Agreement be governed by the law of the State of North Carolina. Proper venue for any action shall solely be Orange County.

7.05 Assignment. No Party may sell or assign any interest in or obligation under this Participation Agreement without the prior express written consent of the other Parties.

7.06 Independence of the Parties. Nothing herein shall be construed to modify, abridge, or deny the authority or discretion of any Party to independently develop, administer, or control Implementation Elements pursuant to enumerated authority or funding sources separate from those outlined in this Participation Agreement.

7.07 Execution in Counterparts/Electronic Version of Participation Agreement. This Participation Agreement may be executed via the use of counterparts. Any Party may convert the fully executed Participation Agreement to an electronic record pursuant to a North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources approved procedure and process for record retention purposes. Such electronic record of the Participation Agreement shall be deemed for all purposes to be an executed Participation Agreement.

7.08 No Waiver of Sovereign Immunity. Nothing in this Participation Agreement shall be construed to mandate purchase of insurance by Orange County pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-435 or purchase of insurance by any municipality pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-485; or to in any other

way waive any Party's defense of sovereign or governmental immunity from any cause of action alleged or brought against any Party for any reason if otherwise available as a matter of law.

7.09 No Waiver of Qualified Immunity. No officer, agent or employee of any Party shall be subject to any personal liability by reason of the execution of this Participation Agreement or any other documents related to associated transactions. Such officers, agents, or employees execute this Participation Agreement in their official capacities only and not in their individual capacities. This section shall not relieve any such officer, agent, or employee from the performance of any official duty provided by law.

7.10 Verification of Work Authorization; Iran Divestment Act. All Parties, and any permitted subcontractors, must comply with Article 2, Chapter 64, of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Parties hereby certify that they, and all permitted subcontractors, if any, are not on the Iran Final Divestment List created by the North Carolina State Treasurer pursuant to N.C.G.S. 147-86.58.

7.11 Third-Party Beneficiaries. There are no third-party beneficiaries to this Participation Agreement.

The Comprehensive Participation Agreement between Orange County, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Mebane was _____ by the Orange County Board of Commissioners by a vote of _____ on _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

BY: _____

BY: _____

TITLE: _____
Commissioners

TITLE: Chairperson, Board of County

The Comprehensive Participation Agreement between Orange County, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Mebane was _____ by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Board by a vote of _____ on _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

BY: _____

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

TITLE: Chairperson, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro
Metropolitan Planning Organization Board

The Comprehensive Participation Agreement between Orange County, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Mebane was _____ by the GoTriangle Board of Trustees by a vote of _____ on _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

**RESEARCH TRIANGLE REGIONAL PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY D/B/A
GOTRIANGLE**

BY: _____

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

TITLE: Chairperson, Board of Trustees

The Comprehensive Participation Agreement between Orange County, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Mebane was _____ by the Town of Chapel Hill Town Council by a vote of _____ on _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

BY: _____

TITLE: Chairperson, Town Council

The Comprehensive Participation Agreement between Orange County, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Mebane was _____ by the Town of Carrboro Town Council by a vote of _____ on _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

TOWN OF CARRBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

BY: _____

TITLE: Chairperson, Town Council

The Comprehensive Participation Agreement between Orange County, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Mebane was _____ by the Town of Hillsborough Board of Commissioners by a vote of _____ on _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

CAROLINA

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH, NORTH

BY: _____

TITLE: Chairperson, Board of Commissioners

The Comprehensive Participation Agreement between Orange County, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, and City of Mebane was _____ by the City of Mebane Town Council by a vote of _____ on _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

CITY OF MEBANE, NORTH CAROLINA

BY: _____

TITLE: Chairperson, City Council