



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL
Office of the Manager

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May 15, 2019

Mr. Jeff Mann
President and CEO
GoTriangle
PO Box 13787
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Re: Request for Funding for North South Bus Rapid Transit Project through Orange County
Transit Plan

Dear Mr. Mann:

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Chapel Hill and our Chapel Hill Transit Funding Partners (Town of Carrboro and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) to request additional funding for the North South Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project in support of the project moving forward in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Small Starts Process. This critical transit project was approved to enter FTA's Project Development phase in November of 2016 and we anticipate requesting a project ranking from FTA in September 2019 as we move forward with pursuing a full-funding grant agreement.

As you are aware local funding commitments play a key role in the project rating process and being able to demonstrate that around 50-percent of the non-federal match is allocated to the project could help the North South BRT project significantly in the rating process. The current cost estimate for the North South BRT project is \$140M, which requires \$28M in non-federal match. The current Orange County Transit Plan allocates \$6.1M of the non-federal match for the project and we are pursuing the difference through the State's SPOT 6.0 process. However, SPOT funding will not be awarded in time for us to submit a rating request to FTA in September 2019. To assist us with this effort, we are asking that the Orange County Transit Plan allocate an additional \$8M to the North South BRT project by August of 2019 and we would agree to revisit the project's fiscal needs after SPOT 6.0 awards are announced in November 2019. The additional funds for the North South BRT project could be reallocated from capital revenues in the plan previously dedicated to the D-O LRT project.

We believe this request is reasonable considering that the D-O LRT project has been discontinued and the North South BRT project remains as one of the key transit investments identified in the Orange County Transit Plan. Additionally, the North South BRT project, despite

its anticipated high SPOT 5.0 score, was removed from the SPOT 5.0 process following a vote by the DCHHC MPO due to its potential risk to D-O LRT funding, eliminating our ability to attract State funding at that time to assist with the non-federal match requirement. We also believe this request is consistent with requirements of the Interlocal Implementation Agreement that governs that Orange County Transit Plan and its associated funding and should be considered a non-material change consistent with paragraphs 16 and 17 of the interlocal agreement.

The Town of Chapel Hill and our Transit Funding Partners are committed to the success of the North South BRT project and believe that this funding request will help us best position the project as we seek federal funding. We appreciate consideration for additional funding for the North South BRT project and look forward to our continued work together to create a dependable, affordable, time-competitive and accessible transportation network that will meet the needs of those who live, work, play, learn and heal throughout Orange County and the Triangle region. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Maurice Jones

Town Manager
Town of Chapel Hill

CC: Pam Hemminger, Mayor, Town of Chapel Hill
Lydia Lavell, Mayor, Town of Carrboro
Bonnie Hamersley, Orange County Manager
Travis Myren, Orange County Deputy Manager
David Andrews, Town Manager, Town of Carrboro
Damon Seils, Chair, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO Board
A. Bradley Ives, Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Enterprises & Chief Sustainability Officer, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Felix Nwoko, Ph.D., MPO Executive Director, Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO
Aaron Cain, Chair, Orange County Staff Working Group
Brian Litchfield, Director, Chapel Hill Transit