

**CITY OF DURHAM**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
101 CITY HALL PLAZA • DURHAM, NC 27701  
919. 560.4333 • fax 919.560.4801  
www.durhamnc.gov

September 19, 2006

Commissioner Joe Bryan  
Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee  
Capital Area MPO  
Professional Building – Suite 406  
127 West Hargett Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

RE: Regional Transit Issues

Dear Commissioner Bryan:

Working in cooperation with CAMPO the DCHC MPO included funding for the development of a Regional Transit Vision Plan in its 2006-2007 UPWP. In developing a scope of work for this project the name of the plan was changed to Regional Transit Infrastructure Blueprint (An overview of the Regional Transit Infrastructure Blueprint is attached). The purpose of the Transit Blueprint is to provide clear, consistent information regarding land use, travel markets, and transit infrastructure costs for potential high capacity transit corridors that can be used to engage the public in the development of each MPO's long range transportation plans. This information could also be used by the two MPOs to help set transit investment priorities in the region.

In the original scope of work for this project, Phase I of the Regional Rail System was assumed to be a given and the region's top transit corridor investment priority. With TTA's recent decision to not pursue federal funding for Phase I at this time, this project along with all potential transit corridors will be analyzed in the Transit Blueprint. The scope of work of the Transit Blueprint also includes the development of principles for major transit investments based on land use, travel markets and cost characteristics that can be used by the MPOs to establish transit investment priorities through their Long Range Transportation Plans. (An overview of the process to establish transit infrastructure investment principles for the Transit Blueprint is attached).

Commissioner Joe Bryan  
September 19, 2006  
Page 2

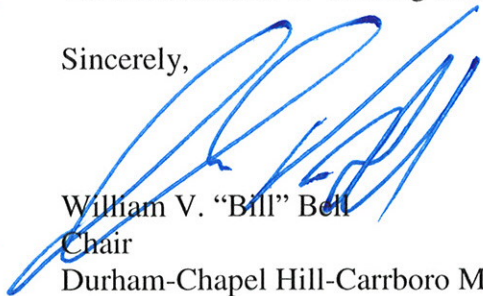
We understand that it will be up to each MPO to establish a process to engage the public in the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The TTA Board of Trustees has expressed the need for a robust involvement of the public in setting regional transit priorities.

We also understand that it will be up to each MPO to establish their own transit investment priorities through their Long Range Transportation Plans. However, due to the regional nature of many of the potential major transit investments in the Triangle, we would encourage DCHC MPO and CAMPO to closely coordinate their public involvement process and development of long range transportation plans with one another. Recognizing that it maybe necessary to establish regional transit investment priorities, the two MPOs should work jointly toward the development of a regional transit plan and regional transit investment priorities. The structure established through the Memorandum of Agreement between the two MPOs would be a good forum to accomplish this.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Chair and Vice Chair of each MPO (Executive Committee) meet soon to discuss potential major transit investments in the Triangle and a process for developing a regional transit plan and regional transit investment priorities. We also request that the Executive Committee set the agenda for the joint MPO meeting on November 29, 2006. Please contact Mark Ahrendsen, TCC Chair, (560-4366 or [mark.ahrendsen@durhamnc.gov](mailto:mark.ahrendsen@durhamnc.gov)) to initiate these meetings.

We look forward to working with you on this regional initiative.

Sincerely,



William V. "Bill" Bell  
Chair

Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization

cc: TAC Members