



October 12, 2015

Downtown Durham, Inc. (DDI) supports the future Durham Orange Light Rail system, and is grateful for the hard work GoTriangle has done on this project to get the process to this point. DDI is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the long-term economic health of Downtown Durham. We do have concerns about station placement in Downtown and how that will effect ridership.

Recent studies of light rail systems have proven that proximity to jobs is the most important factor effecting transit ridership. These two recommendations are small changes that will make the transit stops more accessible to existing and planned office developments in Downtown Durham:

1. **Create a new "Center City" Station between Mangum St. and Blackwell St.** This location is the epicenter of the revitalization of Downtown Durham, and makes several large job centers less than a ¼ mile "short walk" from the station. These sites include: The Durham County Courthouse, American Tobacco, Durham Bulls Athletic Park, the Durham County Main Library, and many other job sites.
2. **The Transit Center Station should be moved back to the Duke Street property where it was initially planned.** This property also has opportunity for development of retail and other commercial spaces on land already owned by GoTriangle. Its adjacency to the Amtrak, bus and future Commuter Rail Station will facilitate intermodal transfers. Durham Area Designers have done a series of scaled drawings for this proposal which demonstrate it meets engineering constraints.

Light Rail is a proven strategy for economic development, and this project will help Durham and Chapel Hill become more sustainable urban centers by connecting people to jobs, providing alternatives to car commuting, and reduce our reliance on parking. We need to ensure this Light Rail plan has the greatest opportunity for success and connecting people to jobs. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.M.M.", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Miller
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Geoff Durham
DDI President & CEO