

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Monday, November 3, 2025

9:00 A.M. Work Session

**MINUTES**

Place: Commissioners' Chambers, Second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chair Nida Allam, Vice Chair Dr. Mike Lee, Commissioners Michelle Burton, Wendy Jacobs and Stephen Valentine

Presider: Chair Nida Allam

Zoom Hybrid

Participants:

**Citizen Comments**

The Board of County Commissioners provided a 30-minute comment period to allow Durham County citizens an opportunity to speak. Citizens were given the option to deliver their Citizen Comments in-person, virtually or via email to the Clerk no later than Sunday, November 2nd at 12 noon.

The following citizens spoke in favor of the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Corridor Acquisition: *Dale McKeel, Gregory Williams and Dave Connelly*

The following citizens were opposed to the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Corridor Acquisition: *Bob Alberson, Sandra Wrightenberry, Charles Sanford, Heidi Grable, Ricky Smith, Barbara Van Jasedian and Leslie Temple*.

The following comments were received from citizens by email:

1. My name is Bob Anderson I represent citizens in the North Durham Community Alliance. I want the Board to recognize a few things that were noticed in the agenda attachments that are missing or incorrect. First, there is no Railroad title opinion or title presented to the board or public as stated by the Conservation Funds. The citizens have repeatedly requested proof of title with no response from the project administrators. To date, the simple ownership fee of the railway is undetermined. Second, Durham Open Space and Trails Commission in their October 21, 2025, letter to the County Commissioners fabricates that residence support the project is 81%. I have personally been to three meetings in Bahama and Rougemont on this project and over 96% of the residents attending these meetings are against the proposed trail and its funding. To say that north Durham is supportive of the proposed project is frankly an insult to the citizens you represent. Third, the East Coast Greenway Alliance admits in their attachment that they have not received funding as of yet of 1 million dollars to give toward the city county costs. This is only a wish to secure the funds at this point. Fourth, the rail corridor is described as 100 feet when it is actually 60 feet according to many titles with Meets and Bounds descriptions of the properties at the Durham Register of Deeds. Fifth,

there was no community engagement to discuss this project until the beginning of 2025 and any engagement has been siloed to prevent opinions and suggestions of the North Durham Community. I understand this is not a meeting to approve the actual building of the proposed trail. This meeting today is whether to obligate county taxpayer funds to determine who has title to the rail corridor, funding for an environmental impact and survey of the rail corridor, and funding for acquisition of the railway. What is not in the funding and scope of work is the legal costs to be incurred by the county to resolve these issues. There are reasons why Durham has separate city county governance and this proposed trail project stands as a good example. As explained in the fiscal impact portion of the Agenda Action Form Supplemental Document, the County Commissioners are being asked to provide county taxpayer funds for acquisition of a railway in the Unincorporated Area of Durham County with no commitment to approve or fund a trail in the future. As you know, the Unincorporated Area of North Durham is designed as a watershed buffer and has been limited in its development and impervious soil requirements for years so that clean drinking water can be supplied to the city of Durham.

These limitations prevent rapid growth as we have seen in the eastern and southern portions of the county. Should the Unincorporated Area of Rougemont in North Durham seek, municipal incorporation like it did in 2006, an Incorporation Ballot measure you may remember that failed by only 9 votes, then that Township of Rougemont will have zoning and budgeting authority for development in its Territorial Jurisdiction. The issue of an unwanted trail encroaching into the Northern Watershed protection area has a high probability of galvanizing support for a Municipal Incorporation by the North Durham Community Alliance. Most Rail to Trail projects are located and utilized within city boundaries. The City of Durham can and should move forward with funding the trail as they do now as it will take many years to develop and build the trail within these city boundaries. If development in the Northern Tier of Durham County is desired in the future by its citizens a bond referendum to fund the creation of a northern trail can be placed on the ballot for them to decide. Make no mistake, the creation of a trail as described would be a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars to the taxpayers of Durham County and a decision of this magnitude for a trail that has a high probability of never being built should not be taken lightly. The North Durham Community Alliance is recommending to the Durham County Commissioners that there be no suspension of rules and that the Commissioners table any agreements that will commit the county taxpayers to this proposed railway acquisition and project. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting, please contact us at the email provided.

Regards,  
Bob Alberson  
North Durham Community Alliance  
Rougemont Municipal Incorporation Member at Large  
NORTHDURHAMCA@GMAIL.COM

2. My name is Tom Clark. I am a longtime citizen of Durham and a member of Bike Durham. I strongly support the Durham-Roxboro Trail proposal and hope the BOCC will follow through on the County Manager's recommendation for it. In this time of economic turmoil, made so much worse by the current Federal government actions, I believe it is very important to stick to, and further define, our local agenda. This bike trail is a constructive asset to our community, good government in action and I am glad for the prospect of its realization. Thanks for your consideration.  
Tom Clark
3. Dear County Commissioners,  
As an active resident of Durham and a representative to the Durham Open Spaces & Trails Commission on behalf of the City, I strongly encourage you to continue to support and

fund the development of the Durham-Roxboro Rail Trail. The trail represents decades of planning and public support to provide a unique connection between neighboring counties and communities. It will offer transportation and exercise opportunities along with the associated mental health benefits. It also connects to North Durham, a part of our county that does not receive as many organized resources as the downtown core. Please support funding for the purchase of the rail corridor from Norfolk Southern to support the continued development of the Durham-Roxboro Rail Trail. Thank you for your service and continued dedication to our neighbors.

Courtney McGuire

4. Dear Commissioners:

Please approve the acquisition of the corridor. We have been funding urban and rural rail trails in the US for 50 years, and we have continued to build rail trails because they work - they are successful - they become a valued part of the community and markedly improve the health and wellbeing of local residents. Residents of all ages, races, income levels and physical abilities use these trails, it is truly an equalizer. We have a lot of real data to support the benefits!

As a resident of Bahama, I can tell you how dangerous it is to walk and bike along the rural roads up here. Increasing traffic, commercial trucks, and distracted drivers continue to get worse every year. Several times I have been nearly sideswiped by cars even when I have stepped off to the side. We need a safe place to get outside and walk! The plans for Durham to acquire this corridor have been public knowledge for over 30 years and we finally have the chance to make it happen. Thank you for your hard work to make this a reality for us!

Sincerely,

Deborah Luecken  
7000 Blalock Rd

5. I am unable to provide comments at your work session this morning, but I wanted to write to ask you to please approve items 25-0585 and 25-0571 relating to funding the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail. I live in the Colonial Village neighborhood, which is part of Bragtown. I am very excited about the connections this rail trail will provide for us to get to amenities in other parts of Bragtown that are currently inaccessible by anything but car. The trail will provide a pedestrian and bike connection to Red Maple Park and the Bragtown Public Library. It will also be an incredible, safe place for me and my kids to be able to get on a trail on our bikes and be able to go for miles, without having to worry about lots of intersections with cars. This is a much-needed resource for North Durham for generations to come, and I hope you will move expeditiously to approve these funding requests and keep the project moving forward.

Aspen Romeyn

**Consent Agenda Approval from the October 27, 2025, Regular Session Meeting**

Chair Allam asked the Board if they requested to pull or comment on any items on the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Jacobs asked to comment on Item(s) 25-0453.

- Item 25-0453 – She asked if there was a plan from Early Years about how additional funds would be used and would the Board receive updates on how funds were used.

John Keifer, Director of Organizational Effectiveness, responded that Durham County was working closely with Early Years to amend the scope of work and the budget for the existing grant to incorporate additional funds. The funding was used to continue the stipends provided for income-driven childcare assistance for children 0-3 years old and expand to assist children 4-5 years old and the addition of wrap-around services for children with additional needs. The funding was also used to support an expanded waitlist tool for the program. He also stated that performance reports would be made available to the Board and on the DCo website.

Hearing no additional comments, Chair Allam entertained a motion to suspend the rules.

Vice Chair Lee moved, seconded by Commissioner Burton to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Allam entertained a motion for approval.

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda from October 27,2025.

The motion carried unanimously.

25-0453 Approve Certain Adjustments to the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and Approve Grant Agreement Contract Amendment for ARPA Grant to Early Years in Amount of \$1,690,296

25-0478 Approve Execution of Contract with FST Technical Services in the amount of \$182,173.00 for Fundamental and Enhanced Commissioning Services for the New Durham City/County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

25-0529 Authorize the County Manager to execute a contract amendment for underground sand filter design services in the amount of \$19,877.50 with O'Brien Atkins Associates, for a total revised contract amount not to exceed \$4,976,691.50 for the Emergency Operations Center.

\*25-0548 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.26CPA010 and Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC031 Appropriating \$3,020,000 of Debt Service Fund Fund Balance for the Temporary OES Fleet Maintenance Facility Renovation Capital Project (4730DC164), as well as Contract Amendment for the Construction Manager at Risk Contract for GMP#2 for the OES Fleet Maintenance Facility Renovation Project

25-0563 Approval of Subaward Agreement with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council \$1,213,974 to Provide Home Assessments, Quality Assurance Checks, and Contractor Management for the Energy Burden and Emissions Reduction Program

\*25-0576 Approval of Property Tax Releases and Refunds for September 2025

\*25-0580 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26OPA003 for the Opioid Settlement Fund to Transfer \$61,598 from the Post Overdose Response Programmatic Area to the Recovery Response Programmatic Area

Consent Agenda Item #25-0548

**Durham County, North Carolina  
Capital Project  
Amendment Number 26CPA-10**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:  
That the budget capital project is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

Project #	Project Name	Current Budget	Increase / Decrease	Updated Budget
47302635DC164	Geer Street TEMP Fleet Maintenance Facility Capital Project	\$1,000,000.00	\$3,020,000.00	\$4,020,000.00

All capital projects in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved November 03, 2025

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**Durham County, North Carolina  
2025-26 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 26BCC031**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY that the 2025-26 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

Fund Name	Current Budget	Increase/Decrease	Revised Budget
Debt Service Fund			
Expenditure			
General Government	\$117,183,675.87	\$3,020,000.00	\$120,203,675.87
Revenue			
Other Financing Sources	\$115,086,233.87	\$3,020,000.00	\$118,106,233.87

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved November 03, 2025

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Consent Agenda Item #25-0576

Releases and Refunds – February 2025

Current Year 2024 Taxes	Releases	Refunds
Real Property	\$553,701.67	\$747,807.99
Personal Property	\$269,628.92	\$22,585.89

Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$5.28
Solid Waste	\$362.00	\$0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$192.00	\$0.00
Public Service	\$0.00	\$0.00
VTS Refunds	\$0.00	\$23,610.43
Gross Rec./Bev. Lic.	\$0.00	\$1.50
<b>SUB – TOTAL</b>	<b>\$823,884.59</b>	<b>\$794,011.09</b>
		<b>\$1,617,895.68</b>

<b>Prior Year 2015-2023</b>	<b>Releases</b>	<b>Refunds</b>
Real Property	\$0.00	\$19,881.47
Personal Property	\$1,490.46	\$18.06
GAP Vehicles	\$0.00	\$0.00
Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$24.70
Solid Waste	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stormwater Utility	\$0.00	\$0.00
VTS Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,490.46</b>	<b>\$19,924.23</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$825,375.05</b>	<b>\$813,935.32</b>
		<b>\$1,639,310.37</b>

#### Consent Agenda Item #25-0580

**Durham County, North Carolina  
2025-26 Budget Ordinance  
Amendment Number 26OPA003**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF DURHAM COUNTY:  
That the FY 2025-26 budget ordinance is hereby amended to reflect budget adjustments.

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
<u>Opioid Fund Expenditure</u>			
Public Safety	\$558,725.00	(\$61,598.00)	\$497,127.00
Human Services	\$919,353.00	\$61,598.00	\$980,951.00

All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved November 03, 2025

#### Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the following Consent Agenda items for the November 10, 2025, Regular Session meeting.

**25-0524 Approval of a 10-Year Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the Amount of \$3,112,658.44 for the Purchase of Replacement and Additional Taser Equipment for the Durham County Sheriff's Office.**

Commissioner Jacobs asked for more clarification on the increase in funding for replacement of tasers. She also asked for data concerning taser use locally and nationally.

Sheriff Birkhead stated that the additional funds would be used to update the current tasers to the next generation tasers. This increase was also due to number of new hires being added to the Detention Center.

Julian Brown, Axon Enterprises, Senior Regional Manager, stated that this was a contract renewal that locked in the current taser rate for the next ten years with a refresh of the devices after five years. The contract also included a broad scope of virtual reality (VR) de-escalation training for users. He stated that the increase in the contract was due to inflation, cost of production, tariffs and growth for additional users.

**25-0532 Approval to Enter into a Contract with Key Environmental Consulting in the Amount of \$159,547 for a Durham County Food System Assessment & Strategic Plan**

Manager Hager requested that the item be moved to the November 10, 2025, Regular Session meeting for additional discussion.

**25-0557 The Board is requested to approve and authorize the Manager to execute two lease renewals for the Shoppes of Hope Valley with the County as Landlord. The first lease renewal agreement is with Lee and Cho, LLC, DBA Beautysmart, for a 9-year term and total value of \$1,041,009. The second agreement is an Assignment and Assumption of Lease with a 3-year extension for MAGC Wireless with a total value of \$74,182.**

Commissioner Burton asked whether Durham County rented the property at the Shoppes of Hope Valley at discounted rates or at market value. She also questioned if Durham County managed the property.

Christy Raulli, Senior Real Estate Officer, stated that the Shoppes of Hope Valley was rented at the current market rate and that Trademark, a property management company, managed the property.

**25-0558 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC028 for the Department of Social Services to Recognize \$1,001,500 in General Fund Fund Balance to Fully Fund the Low-Income Homeowners Tax Relief Program (LIHRP) and to Approve the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Durham County and the City of Durham**

Commissioner Burton asked if all the funds were used for this year.

Manager Hager stated that residents were still going through the application process and that the Board would be updated in February 2026 (or before) if funds were near depletion.

Commissioner Jacobs asked why the dollars were being used out of the fund balance.

David Ades, Assistant Director of Budget, stated that this was an administrative line issue that has since been resolved.

**25-0560 Approval of Capital Project Amendment No.26CPA008 and Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC026 Decreasing the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Capital Project (4730DC083) by \$225,000 and Transferring that Funding to the General Fund to Support Improvements at Little River Regional Park and Natural Area**

Commissioner Jacobs asked staff to explain the delay in the plan and how to get information to residents about this seemingly underutilized handicapped accessible park.

Celeste Burns, Open Real Estate Manager, stated Orange County had a delay in finding 50% of the funds for paving. She stated staff would work with Public Information to distribute information pertaining to the park to County residents.

**25-0574 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC033 Appropriating \$130,000 of General Fund Fund Balance to Open Space and Real Estate to Cover Rent Payments to 300 East Main, LLC, a Subsidiary of Laurel Street Residential, for the Sub-lease of the Future Childcare Center at the 300 East Main Street Affordable Housing Project**

Commissioner Burton asked if the County had challenges finding providers for the space and was the County paying rent for any empty units.

Peri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering, stated that the County was having difficulty finding providers for the space. They were working on solutions and would provide further information to the Board soon. He also expressed that per the master development agreement with Laurel Street Residential, Durham County was responsible for the rent fees for the space and once the unit was occupied the tenant would pay Durham County for the unit.

**25-0584 Approval of Appropriating Budget \$271,680 of Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC034 General Fund Fund Balance to Engineering to Pay for a 911 Consolidation and HEART Expansion Feasibility Study and Authorize the County Manager to Execute a Contract with ADCOMM Engineering, LLC. to Provide 911 Consolidation and HEART Expansion Feasibility Study**

The Board asked how long it would take to complete the study.

Peri Manns, Deputy Director of Engineering, stated that it would take 10-12 months once the consultants received data from all stakeholders.

Commissioner Jacobs requested that future plans or studies be added to the agenda as discussion items and not on the consent agenda so that the Board had enough time for questions and for the benefit of the public.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired about 911 data that was previously requested. She asked if the consultant would be incorporating the National Best Practice into the plan; adding those studies indicate screening all 911 calls for behavioral health diversion was not dependent on the merger of the 911 centers and could be implemented independently of the study. She was also concerned about the timeline and moving forward with the upcoming budget.

Manager Hager stated that the 911 data was encompassed in this study and that the information would be shared with the Board.

Mr. Manns stated that the consultant would be presenting to the Board soon and that they were selected based on their experience with Best Practices.

Manager Hager stated a placeholder would be placed in the budget that would support potential recommendations.

The Board requested a tour of the 911 centers.

**There were no questions regarding the items below:**

**25-0547 Approval of Contract Amendment with Batteries of NC & S.W.S. LLC in the Amount of \$108,168.06 for the Sheriff's Office FY26 Vehicle Equipment for a New Total Amount of \$764,499.84**

**25-0554 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC023 to Recognize \$369,949 of Year-4 Funds to Support Grant Award #5H79TI084839-04 to the Office of Emergency Services-EMS Division (OES-EMS) from the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and to Authorize the County Manager to Sign and Execute all Contracts for Authorized and Approved Uses Associated With the Grant Program Throughout the Grant's Period of Performance.**

**25-0555 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC024 for the Department of Social Services to recognize Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC - 2025 NC Rate Settlement Funds #3 of \$22,000.00**

**25-0556 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC025 for the Department of Social Services to Recognize Emergency Placement Funding of \$14,122.00.**

**25-0561 Authorize the County Manager to execute an amendment to the contract between the City of Durham and Durham County for the City to Accept Municipal Solid Waste and Yard Waste from Durham County in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.**

**25-0562 Approval of Purchase through the SAVVIK Cooperative for Five Ambulances in the Office of Emergency Services for a total not to exceed \$2,119,440.00**

**25-0564 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC030 to recognize additional funding from the NC Department of Adult Correction in the amount of \$19,117.00 for transportation for the Local Reentry Council**

**25-0570 Approve the acceptance of an 8.2-acre conservation easement donation from James Tcheng and Marianne Powers at 5824 Garrett Road (REID 136160) for the purpose of permanently protected open space.**

**25-0573 Approval Recognizing of Budget \$140,000 from Ordinance the Amendment No.26BCC032 Department of Justice's FY25 Community Policing Development Microgrants, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to the Durham County Sheriff's Office.**

**25-0575 Approve Land Acquisition of 32 acres at 3601 Southwest Durham Drive (a portion of REID 140125) as permanently protected open space within the New Hope Creek Corridor**

**25-0579 Agreement - City-County Appearance Commission Interlocal Agreement Amendment**

**25-0583 Authorization of an Amendment to the Design Contract with HH Architecture, PA for Design Development and Construction Administration Services Related to the Office of Emergency Services Fleet Maintenance Project in the Amount of \$138,182.50**

**25-0591 Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC035 for the Department of Social Services to Recognize Additional Funding to Durham County's FY25-26 Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Funding Plan in the Amount of \$42,254.00 to Improve Planning and Coordination of In-Home and Community-Based Services for Older Adults**

## **Discussion Items**

### **Suspend the Rules to Authorize the Chair to Sign the Great Trails State Grant Program Grant Agreement with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to Accept \$500,000 for the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Corridor Acquisition.**

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Valentine moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Lee, to authorize the Chair to sign the Great Trails State Grant Program Grant Agreement with the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to accept \$500,000 for the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Corridor Acquisition.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Suspend the Rules to Authorize the Board to Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC029 and Capital Project Amendment No. 26CPA009 and TIP Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Acquisition of the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Corridor, Spending \$1,151,445.00 with a Net county Expenditure of \$223,000 and Recognition of State Grants of \$928,445.**

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to suspend the rules.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to authorize the Board to Approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC029 and Capital Project Amendment No. 26CPA009 and TIP Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Acquisition of the Durham-to-Roxboro Rail Trail Corridor, Spending \$1,151,445, with a Net County Expenditure of \$223,000 and Recognition of State Grants of \$928,445

The motion carried unanimously.

Ellen Beckman, Transit Planning and Services Manager, shared a brief overview of the presentation on the Rail to Trail Project. This presentation was originally shared at the October 6, 2025, Work Session.

### **Ordinance - Zoning Map Change - Z2500025**

The Board reviewed and provided comments on the proposed zoning map change. A public hearing on this request was scheduled for November 24, 2025.

Durham County, in conjunction with the Research Triangle Foundation, proposed changing the zoning designation of 164 parcels of land totaling 5,059.19 acres that included right-of-way, that encompassed the entirety of Research Triangle Park (RTP) within Durham County except for the Durham County Wildlife Club (located at 3616 Hopson Road). The current zoning was Science and Research Park (SRP), Science and Research Park-Core (SRP-C), Industrial Light (IL), Industrial Park (IP), Office and Institutional (OI), Residential Suburban-20 (RS-20), and Residential Rural (RR).

Commissioner Jacobs asked if environmental requirements would be met.

Robin Schultez, Principal Planner/Arborist, stated that they would have to meet every requirement of Article 8 and they were committed to 10% tree coverage throughout the campus on our side.

#### **RTP 3.0: A Privately Initiated Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Text Amendment**

The Board reviewed and provided comments on the proposed Unified Development Ordinance text amendment. The public hearing for this item was scheduled for the Board of Commissioners meeting on November 24, 2025.

TC2500001 was a privately initiated text amendment request to amend multiple sections of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) in order to expand the existing University and College District (UC and UC-2) standards to create a new zoning district (“UC-3”) and facilitate the inclusion of “large scientific and technical research parks” within the UC districts framework. This application coincided with a zoning map change request that aligned with the existing Research Triangle Park (RTP) covenants (case number Z2500025).

#### **Presentation on the Financial Strategies required for Capital Improvement Planning**

Jeremy Carter, DEC Associates Inc., provided an overview of strategies for maintaining strong fiscal standing while meeting capital goals through sound financial planning and policy development.

Mr. Carter stated that Durham County maintained a multi-year capital improvement plan that outlined the Board of County Commissioners' priorities for addressing capital needs. The plan identified the fiscal strategies required to fund projects and the logistical factors that influenced project timing. He highlighted strategies the County successfully used to preserve its bond rating and recommended approaches for planning future debt issuances.

Commissioner Jacobs mentioned the role and the impact that the State and Federal Government had on County's finances since 2010. She noted that the reason Durham had large bonds for education was due to a lack of funding from the State and Federal level; adding innovation and partnership was the key for the future of Durham.

#### **Durham Bus Rapid Transit Vision Plan**

The Board received a presentation on the Durham Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Vision Plan from Curtis Scarpignato, Transportation Planner.

Mr. Scarpignato stated the plan was currently underway and would include the analysis and community engagement. He added the plan would provide necessary guides to the planning of

specific, quick, and reliable regional transportation connection projects over a multi-year timeframe. Detailed information pertaining to the project could be located on the website <https://durhambrtvision.com/>.

As part of the planning process, a “universe of corridors” for consideration for BRT was being developed through technical analysis, stakeholder engagement, and public feedback. The list of potential corridors was refined through further analysis and engagement. Evaluation criteria for assessing the potential BRT corridors were being developed. Public input helped shape the final set of criteria and their relative weightings. Additionally, the plan would assess funding options for the BRT corridors, including both capital and operating costs.

Commissioner Jacobs shared an overview of the Mpact Transit and Community Conference that was held in Portland Oregon, October 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2025.

### **Directive**

- The Board requested a presentation from Central Durham BRT.

### **County Grant Landscape - Update on Federal and State Policy Changes and Funding Implications**

The Board received an update on Durham County's grant landscape, with particular emphasis on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid programs. This update also included how recent federal policy changes and the lack of a federal budget were affecting residents.

Raina Bunnag, Food Security Coordinator, stated that due to the ongoing government shutdown, SNAP funding was paused for additional distribution. 32,529 Durham residents received SNAP benefits and the total benefit amount at risk of not being issued was nearly \$6 million for November 2025. Efforts that were made to support residents during this period included DCo Employee Food Drive and community food resource information distributed via the DCo website and flyers for both those who needed to find food and those who wanted to help the community.

The Board thanked staff and the community for stepping up to fill the gap for those in need.

### **Boards and Commission Appointments**

Larissa Williamson, County Attorney announced the voting results.

The Board made the following appointments (incumbents are identified with an (i). Individuals who are recommended by a Board are underlined.) Individuals listed in bold print were appointed.

#### **Discover Durham Tourism Development Authority**

**Ron Wood** (Allam, Burton, Jacobs, Lee)

Michael Hill (Valentine)

### **Closed Session**

The Board was requested to adjourn to Closed Session for the following:

- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, to discuss the matter of Durham County vs. Iodine Propco 2021 LLC, which privilege is hereby acknowledged to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). .
- To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs, to adjourn into the Closed Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Burton moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Lee, to adjourn the Work Session meeting at 2:54 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgina Nicole Moreno  
Administrative Assistant