

**Triangle Regional Transit Program  
Public Involvement Summary  
Round One Public Workshops  
June-July 2010**

**Background:**

The Triangle Regional Transit Program (TRTP) is the study of regional transit investment opportunities including rail and expanded bus service in Wake, Durham and Orange counties in North Carolina. The area's population is expected to grow by 75% between today and 2035. To ensure the success of the TRTP, a broad reaching plan was designed to maximize involvement by the public during the planning process. This report summarizes the strategy, activities and results of the first round of public involvement, from May 1 through July 31, 2010.

The public involvement process includes key project development milestones, use of the Transition document, the Alternatives Analysis and phases subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In accordance with Federal requirements, Triangle Transit and its contractors led by URS, developed a Public Involvement Plan including information and outreach, traditionally underserved populations, reasonable access, and reasonable accommodations for the visually, hearing, or mobility-impaired (ADA) and for people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Public involvement activities are overseen by a Public Involvement Steering Committee composed of 40 transportation professionals and public affairs specialists from municipalities and planning organizations in the Triangle. The Steering Committee meets monthly and uses Microsoft Sharepoint and e-mail to advise Triangle Transit, URS and its subcontractors.

**Methods of Informing the Public:**

Strategies to present the TRTP and the first round of public workshops included:

- Consistent branding, logo, color palette and nomenclature
- Web site at [www.ourtransitfuture.com](http://www.ourtransitfuture.com), containing maps, the schedule of workshops and all materials presented to the public. The web site can be translated into 40 languages using Google Translator, an application that is available on the web site. The web site also contained a full copy of all the presentation materials and video (mentioned below).
- English and Spanish-language news release to local media, Spanish language print media and web sites.
- English and Spanish-language fliers distributed in print and by e-mail to transit riders, local elected leaders, city, town and county officials, business leaders and more than 75 community based groups.
- Use of Social media including a Facebook page with 60+ followers in its first two months and a Twitter feed. The TRTP also produced two 5-minute videos shows at the first round of workshops and available on the web site and on You Tube. One video provides an overview of the need for transit planning, the other with goals of the project including corridor descriptions and transit technologies under consideration.

**Public Workshops:**

The Triangle Regional Transit Program held the first of three expected rounds of public workshops from June 28-July 15. The six workshops, lasting 2 ½ hours each, were scheduled in cities and towns in or near the corridors under study. Participants were able to view two looping videos about the need for transit and the corridors that would be studied, more than 25

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presentation boards on easels on current and future population trends, existing transit services and important components of each corridor under review. At each workshop, citizens were encouraged to meet and discuss the project with staffers from Triangle Transit, CAMPO, DCHC MPO and URS. Each attendee was encouraged to take a packet of workshop materials which included a program statement, frequently asked questions and a glossary of transit terms. Attendees were also asked to sign up for project updates, providing their address and e-mail. (Handout material is attached to this summary).

To accommodate LEP needs at the workshops, an English-Spanish translator was available at all sessions. For those who wished to leave transcribed verbal comments, a court reporter was on hand.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Comments</b>
June 28	Raleigh Convention Center	110	35
June 30	Durham Public Library	90	38
July 6	Cary Town Hall	71	15
July 8	Chapel Hill Town Hall	74	34
July 15	Knightdale	34	15
July 16	Apex/Halle Cultural Arts Center	23	7

Additional opportunities for outreach during the public workshop period included:

- 2 calls on a toll free number (800-816-7817) staffed during office hours and voice mail after 5 p.m. and on weekends.
- 3 comments mailed to the TRTP at P.O. Box 530, Morrisville, NC 27560
- 3 comments mailed to the e-mail: *info@ourtransitfuture.com*

In total, 402 people attended the six public workshops during Round 1 and 152 comments were received at the meetings, through the 800 number, postal mail or e-mail.

**Areas of Interest:**

Of those commenting on the workshops, more than 85% of all people were in favor of transit and rated the public meetings and video, boards and take-home materials as good or excellent.

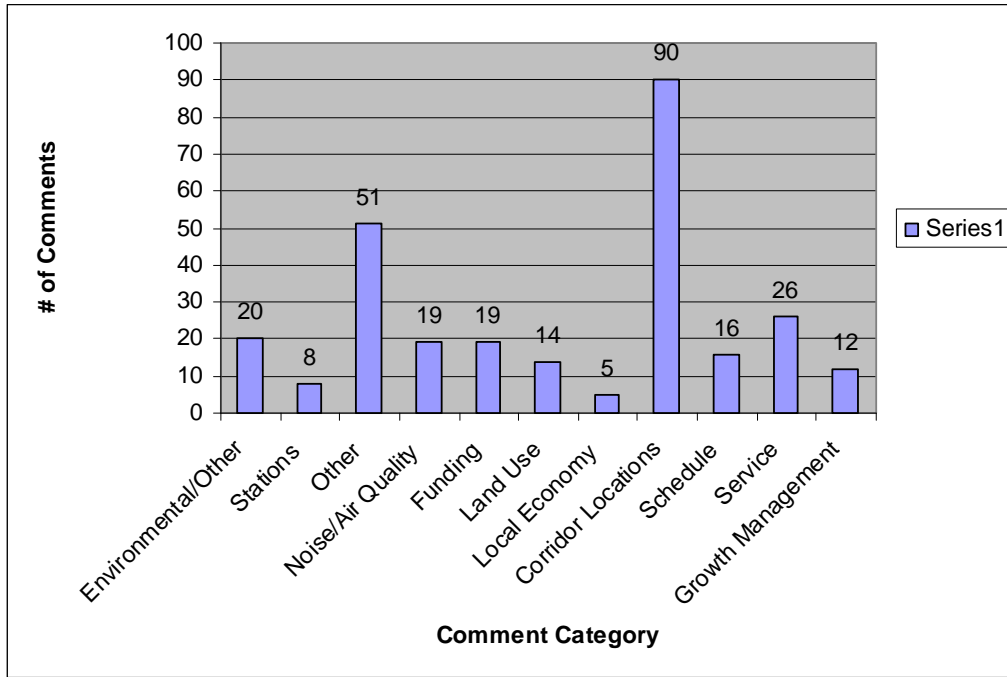
All comment cards received were reviewed and entered into the project database. There was a widerange of interests expressed including bus service to financing future projects.

A graph of interest areas is attached.

**Next Steps:**

The Triangle Regional Transit Program will be updating its site at [ourtransitfuture.com](http://ourtransitfuture.com) to include more information on the corridors under study, future meeting dates for round two and round three, videos, news clips, other resources and a contact list for citizens wanting to comment on future transit needs and/or have a presentation to their interest group.

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**Areas of Interest expressed in Comments**

Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locations that should/should not have stations, development amenities at transit stations i.e. ticket machines, bike racks, shopping, food services.</li> </ul>
Noise/Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound effects, vibration, pollution</li> </ul>
Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions about timeline for studies and implementation</li> </ul>
Corridor Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preference for where transit locations/alignment should be and when</li> </ul>
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development around station locations</li> </ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns on natural environment, intrinsic resources and community and cultural amenities</li> </ul>
Local Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts to businesses in the vicinity of stations, access to jobs, overall regional economic impacts</li> </ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where is funds coming from, who is responsible for paying, and how much is it going to cost</li> </ul>
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How frequently transit should operate, hours of service, amenities, areas served</li> </ul>
Growth Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sprawl, growth rate, within a city, land use policies</li> </ul>
Other	

**Triangle Regional Transit Program**  
**Public Workshop Series #1: COMMENT FORM**

**Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Best way to keep you informed: Email Mail None  
# of years living in the Triangle: \_\_\_\_\_ Best description of you (*check below*):  
Resident Elected Official Government representative Business Owner Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**What objectives do you hope the Triangle Regional Transit Program will achieve?**

(expanded service, improved existing services, new technologies, reduced congestion, etc.)

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**What is one new thing you learned at today's workshop?**

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**What do we need to explain more clearly? What other information are you seeking?**

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**Please write any additional comments or questions regarding the Project.**

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*(Need more room? Please request an additional form or email us at [info@ourtransitfuture.com](mailto:info@ourtransitfuture.com))*

There are four ways to return your comments: 1) Leave this form with us. 2) Email comments to [info@ourtransitfuture.com](mailto:info@ourtransitfuture.com)  
3) Mail your form to: Triangle Regional Transit Program, P.O. Box 530, Morrisville, NC 27560 or 4) Call toll free the Program hotline, 800.816.7817.



**Triangle Regional Transit Program**  
**Public Workshop Series #1: COMMENT FORM**

**Help us plan for the next round of public involvement!**

How did you hear about today's workshop? Email Posted flyer Website \_\_\_\_\_ Word of Mouth  
Newspaper, Radio, TV Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**How was the meeting time?** Excellent Very Good Satisfactory Needs Improvement Unacceptable

**Workshop location?** Excellent Very Good Satisfactory Needs Improvement Unacceptable

**Workshop organization?** Excellent Very Good Satisfactory Needs Improvement Unacceptable

**What was most helpful?** Video Boards Staff to talk to Handout papers Other attendees

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*fold*



U.S. Postage  
Required

**Triangle Regional Transit Program**  
**P.O. Box 530**  
**Morrisville, NC 27560**