



*The True Impact of the Durham-Orange  
County Light Rail Transit (DOLRT) Project*

**[www.AffordableTransitForAll.com](http://www.AffordableTransitForAll.com)**

## **Commonly Asked Questions about the DOLRT: Just the Facts**

**It is up to all of us to know where our tax money is going. We've compiled this list of Commonly Asked Questions because many people know little about this huge light rail infrastructure proposal. For more detailed information on this project visit: [www.affordabletransitforall.com](http://www.affordabletransitforall.com).**

### **1. Will the Durham Orange Light Rail (DOLRT) route carry me to the airport, to RTP, and Raleigh?**

No, it will not go to the airport, RTP or Raleigh. The route runs from south of UNC Hospitals to NC Central in Durham. Because of the escalating cost of the light rail, the light rail will consume all of the ½ cent transit tax through 2060, no other spurs will be possible without large tax increases.

### **2. Will the light rail reduce congestion on our major highways such as Routes 15-501 and East 54?**

No. The GoTriangle web site states: "...the project is not expected to have a significant effect on traffic on nearby roadways." Traffic on 15-501 in Chapel Hill is projected to grow by at least 50% by 2030 due to the wave of coming development, including UNC Health Care, Wegman's, Glenn Lennox, and Blue Hill. These developments cannot be served in any practical way by the light rail route, but could be served by a more flexible bus and BRT system.

### **3. Will the DOLRT help protect the environment?**

No. The GoTriangle Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has no data or modeling to show that the light rail project will improve air quality. The EIS estimates that the light rail project will reduce Triangle transportation energy use by less than one tenth of one percent, an insignificant amount. The lack of reduction in energy use confirms the lack of any improvement in air quality. No energy use reduction, no positive effect on air quality or climate change.

**4. How much will it cost?** The total cost in 2017 was \$3.3 billion and is moving upward toward \$4 billion in 2019. The amount Durham and Orange County will pay has tripled. Durham alone will need to pay \$1.5 billion according to 2017 numbers.



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### **5. How will light rail affect County budgets?**

Orange County has at this point determined not to contribute any more money than committed in 2017, \$149.5 million. Durham County is facing big cost increases to keep the project alive as the design is changed to try to resolve objections. We can anticipate further cost escalation as the new tunnel and other features are engineered and as unforeseen construction difficulties arise. These factors can cause light rail costs to increase beyond the income from the half cent sales tax and could threaten county budgets for schools, social services, and other purposes.

### **6. What would be a better transit plan?**

We can follow the example of our much more urban and populous neighbor, Wake County. Wake determined that light rail was not the best transit solution. They have planned a system based on bus, bus rapid transit, and commuter rail to serve more people more cost effectively. And sooner! Wake is making rapid progress getting their system built while we will be waiting for light rail for ten years.

