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Light Rail to Bring Economic Changes to Chapel Hill

In July of 2017, The Federal Transit Administration approved a project from GoTriangle to put a train in central North Carolina. After months of planning, the engineering stage began for the Durham-Orange Light Rail project.

This project plans to run a train system from Chapel Hill to Durham. It will start at UNC Hospitals and end at North Carolina Central University. The route includes a cross of I-40 and stops including Duke University and Downtown Durham.

The planned cost of the Durham-Orange County Light Rail project is $2.47 billion. Just under 43% of the funds will come from local and private sources. Over 7% will come from state funding and 50% will come from federal funds.

The project is currently in the engineering phase, but construction is slated for 2020. The actual service is planned to be running in 2028.

But how will a transportation project this big effect business? With 4 planned stations in Orange County, and even more on the edge of the county, the Durham/Orange Light Rail is bound to change the economic landscape of Chapel Hill.