



Chapel Hill Transit

Charlottesville

Chamber2Chamber Visit

May 2026

Chapel Hill Transit Overview

Chapel Hill Transit is one of the largest transit systems in North Carolina (2 million rides/year), serving Chapel Hill, Carrboro and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Responsibilities:

- Fixed-route Bus Service (20 weekday & 12 weekend routes)
- EZ Rider (ADA Service)
- Short and Long Range Transit Planning
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Major Transit Initiatives

Staff (208 employees):

- Operations – 158
- Maintenance – 34
- Administration – 16

Fleet (113 revenue vehicles):

- Buses – 93 (15 hybrids, 18 electric)
- Demand Response – 20



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Partners Committee Structure

Department of the Town of Chapel Hill - Advised by the Chapel Hill Transit Partners Committee, which provides policy and financial guidance*:

- 3-Town of Chapel Hill – Council Members
- 3-Town of Carrboro – 2 Council Member and Assistant Town Manager
- 3 - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Associate Vice Chancellor for Real Estate and Campus Enterprises, Director and Associate Director of Transportation and Parking

*Utilize consensus based decision making



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FY2025-26 Budget Overview



FY25-26 Adopted Budget: \$36.5M

- **\$2.3 Million (6%) Federal**
- **\$3.4 Million (9%) State**
- **\$22 Million (60%) Local** (Chapel Hill \$7.8M, Carrboro \$2.5M and University \$11.9M*)
- **\$7.1 Million (19%) Orange County Transit Plan** (includes NSBRT funding) - voter-approved half-cent sales tax
- **\$1.7 Million (5%) Other funding**

* The two Towns and University share annual operating and capital costs on a contractual basis. The University pays 100% of the costs (after outside revenues have been applied) for their direct routes and shares in the costs for all local routes and EZ Rider.

* 100% Fare Free System



MAJOR TRANSIT INITIATIVES

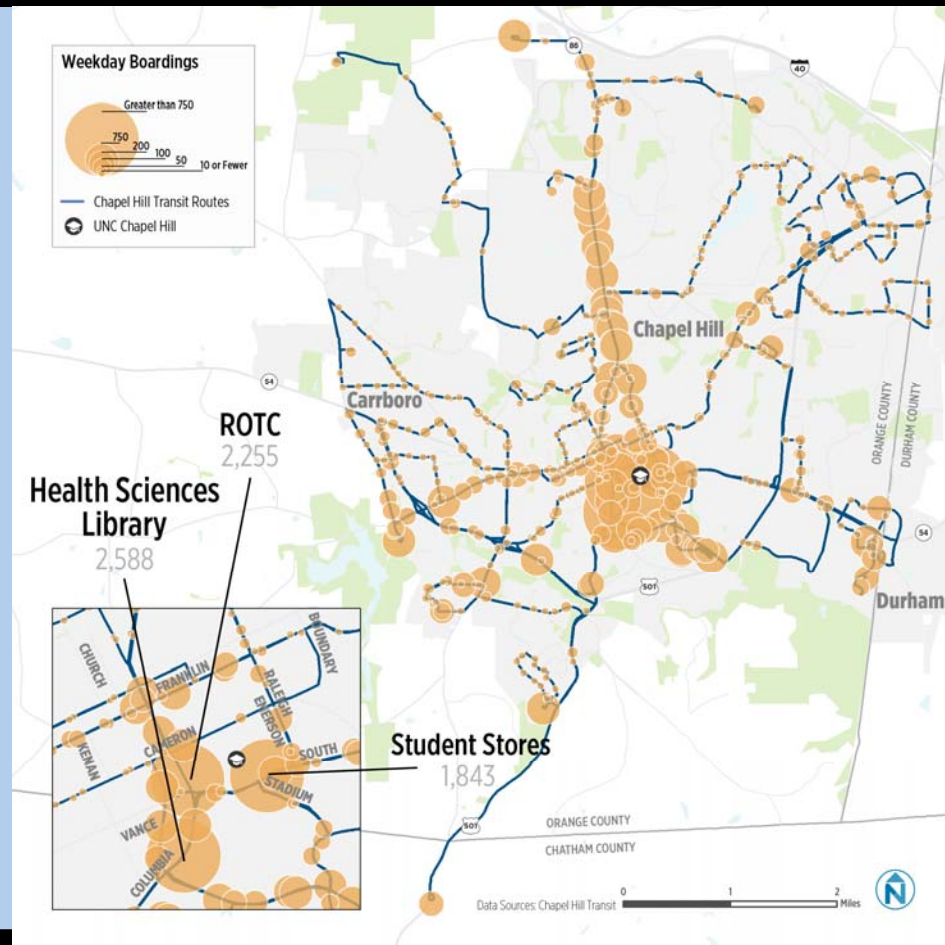


Facility Expansion Needs

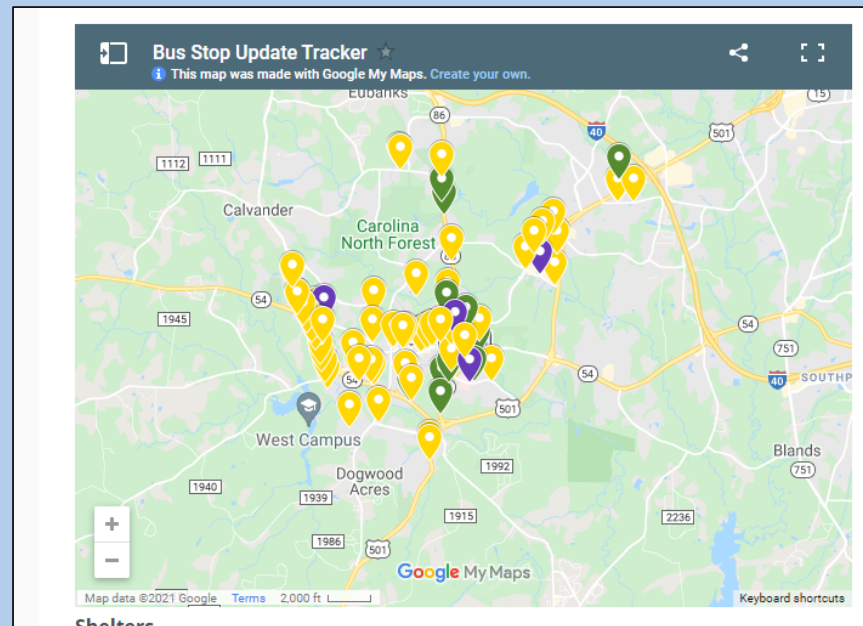


Short Range Transit Plan

- Goals include:
 - ✓ High frequency corridors
 - ✓ Equity
 - ✓ Sunday service
 - ✓ Increase ridership
 - ✓ Sustainability



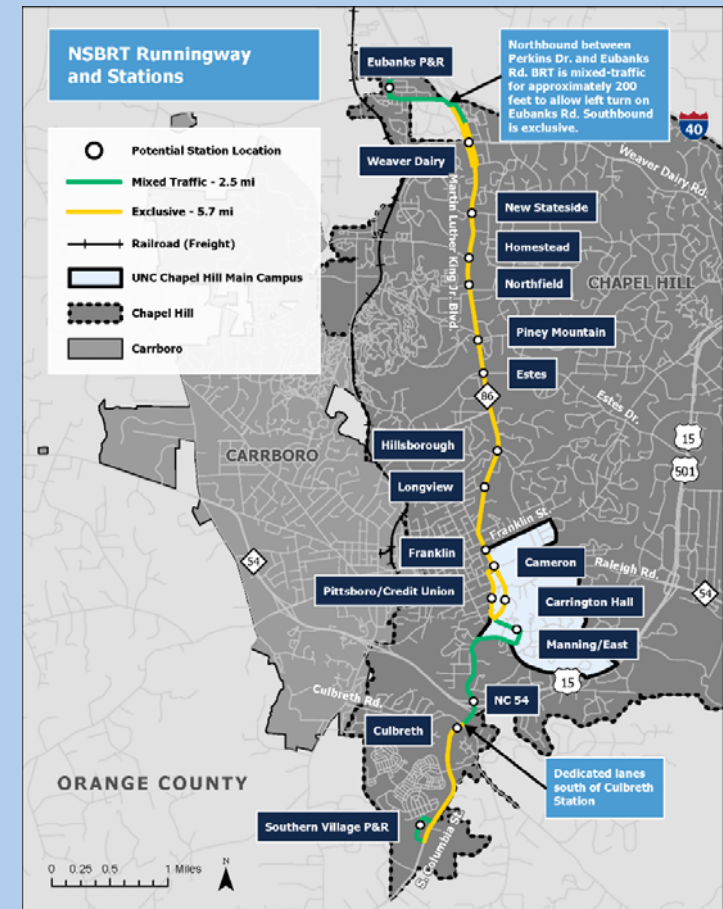
Bus Stop Improvement Projects



North-South Bus Rapid Transit (NSBRT)

More than just “better” bus service; NSBRT is a landmark investment in Chapel Hill’s transportation future - \$125M project, ~\$3.5M annual operating cost

- 8.2 mile route (5.7 of exclusive transit lanes)
- 17 station areas
- Travels along Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., S. Columbia St., and US 15-501 South
- Connects Eubanks Road Park & Ride to Southern Village Park & Ride
- Serves downtown Chapel Hill, UNC’s campus, and UNC hospitals
- Connects to regional service providers
- Includes: dedicated bus lanes, transit signal priority, optimized station locations, and a companion multiuse path



Questions/Feedback

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