



March 4, 2015

To: Transit Departments and Advocates

City of Raleigh, Wake County, Triangle Region

Re: CRC's strong interest in enhancing transit options in our community and region

Enhanced public transportation is critical for sustaining and enhancing the impact the Cooperating Raleigh Colleges (a consortium of our six colleges and universities in Raleigh/Wake County) have throughout our community. We would particularly like to participate in planning how to enable more bus riders to have access to our campuses.

Access to bus (and, hopefully, light rail in the near future) is critical to the educational and employment success of our students, faculty and staff. CRC promotes shared classes, research projects, and library resources among our institutions. This cooperation is a great use of state and private dollars that prevents duplication of services and offerings. But it depends on being able to move from campus to campus, and many of our students do not have their own transportation. In addition, our faculty and staff share projects and resources as well, and viable bus service throughout our educational network is critical.

Our combined group of residents (students and staff) in this area is extensive. In recent years, the six institutions have approximately 80,000 students and 11,500 employees living, working and studying in the county. In our most recent economic impact study (2013), our researcher discovered strong support for higher education institutions in our community. No wonder, given that our campuses accounted for 205,413 jobs for faculty, staff, students and alumni/alumnae living in the area and represented 24% of all wage and salary income in the local economy. We also account for 43% of all Wake County jobs. In recent years our CRC Board members have encouraged some very important collaboration with members of your organizations. We have recently

- *provided representatives to the current Wake County Transit Advisory Committee

- *met with David Eatman, City of Raleigh Transit Administrator in 2012 and Fall 2014 about specific needs among our campuses

- *communicated with Tim Gardiner, Wake County Transit Investment Strategy Project Manager, about our desire to be involved with county planning, and

- *invited Joe Milazzo of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA), to speak with our Board in the fall of 2013

We very much hope to continue collaborating with your transit projects. Please let us know how else we can help you serve our community and region in this important way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Allen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping 'J' and 'A'.

Jo Allen, CRC Board President and Meredith College President

On behalf of Cooperating Raleigh Colleges (CRC) Board of Directors

Cooperating Raleigh Colleges Board of Directors

Jo Allen, President, **Meredith College**

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Bryan Ryan, Senior Vice President, Curriculum Education, **Wake Tech Community College**

Roland Bullard, Vice President for Student Development and Services, **Saint Augustine's University**

Jennifer Spiker, Director **Cooperating Raleigh Colleges**

cc: Jenny Spiker, CRC Director, crc@meredith.edu, 919-673-5504