



# Proclamation



## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WEEK

**WHEREAS**, public transportation provides a vital service to the entire community; moreover, it is a truly invaluable service for those who are unable to drive because they do not have access to a personal vehicle, or they are too young to drive, or they are unable to drive due to disabilities, and numerous other reasons; without this service, many people would be cut off from employment, social and community activities, access to food and medicine, and other essential services; and,

**WHEREAS**, people make the choice to use public transportation for a variety of reasons, such as: saving money on gas and automobile maintenance, preferring to not sit in congested traffic, avoiding the expenditure of money and/or time for parking, having an opportunity to read or accomplish work during their commute, and, for many, a concern for the environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention espouses the health benefits of using public transportation, including:

- **Safety:** an analysis of the transportation fatality risk in the U.S. found that the fatality rates per billion passenger miles traveled between 2000 and 2009 were 0.11 for buses and 0.24 for urban mass transit rail, versus 7.28 for drivers or passengers in a car or light truck;
- **Emissions Reduction:** for every passenger mile traveled, public transportation produces a fraction of the harmful pollution as produced by private vehicles, only 5% as much carbon monoxide, less than 8% as many volatile organic compounds, and less than half as much carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides;
- **Physical Activity:** an examination of public transportation use and physical activity found that use of public transit resulted in an additional 8 to 33 minutes of walking per day; and

**WHEREAS**, with the goal of encouraging more people to use public transportation, our transit partners within the Triangle Region, including our regional transit service provider, GoTriangle, have declared September 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, as Try Transit Week; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the many reasons to use it, public transportation ridership remains low; in 2017, the U.S. Census American Community Survey reported that only 11% of Carrboro residents commuted to work using public transportation, it was even lower, at 7.1%, for Orange County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of September 22<sup>nd</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as Public Transportation Week in the Town of Carrboro. I encourage all residents to learn about and explore the public transit options that are available, to incorporate the use public transit in their daily lives, and to consider taking a ride on public transportation to a place that has piqued their interest, even if it is mostly for the adventure and excitement of the journey itself.

This, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor