

## **Disposition of Property by Easement – UNC-Chapel Hill**

### **ISSUE OVERVIEW**

UNC System institutions are required to request authority from the Board of Governors to proceed with certain acquisitions and dispositions of real property. The Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has requested authorization to dispose of property by easement.

GoTriangle, the Research Triangle's regional transit authority, has requested that UNC-Chapel Hill donate rights-of-way on its campus to allow for the development of the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit System. The contemplated easements would be approximately 75 feet in width, which is needed to accommodate the tracks and guideway on a cross-country light-rail alignment, not within an existing street. Total acreage to be donated is projected to be approximately 20 acres interspersed at various points on campus stretching from the Friday Center, along Prestwick Drive (Finley Golf Course), US Highway 15-501, and terminating off of Mason Farm Road, covering approximately 2.65 miles from the UNC Hospitals Station to the UNC Friday Center Station. The final path of the track, as well as the terms of the easements, will be determined in consultation between UNC-Chapel Hill and GoTriangle.

GoTriangle will have maintenance responsibilities within the donated easements. All donated easements are reversionary and will be returned to the university in the event that the Durham-Orange Light Rail is not constructed as currently planned. A specific expiration date will be negotiated and incorporated into the final easement agreement. GoTriangle has requested approval of easements for both UNC-Chapel Hill and NCCU, which will provide an opportunity to address both in a single request for approval to the NC Council of State.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees voted to approve these easements at its May 31, 2018 meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve this request. Following Board approval, final action by the NC Council of State will be required.