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TRIANGLE TRANSIT OBTAINS BUILDING PERMIT TO DEMOLISH GRAYBAR BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN DURHAM

Research Triangle Park, NC (December 1, 2009) - Triangle Transit has obtained a building permit from the City of Durham for hazard abatement and demolition of the Graybar Building at 303 S. Duke Street and the former gas station at 404 W. Chapel Hill Street in downtown Durham. Earlier this year, the City declared the Graybar building unsafe and a public nuisance threatening the health, safety and welfare of the community.

The building and accompanying land was purchased by Triangle Transit from the City of Durham in 2005. As indicated in the Long Range Transportation Plan adopted in early 2009 by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, this site is the potential location of a future downtown Durham rail transit station and complimentary transit-oriented development.

On May 12th, Triangle Transit held a public workshop with the City of Durham about the site, the condition of the building, Durham's unsafe structure Findings of Fact and Order and the legal process required to demolish the building. Triangle Transit postponed demolition to provide an opportunity for any interested party to purchase and move the building or present a fully funded plan for using the building until plans call for redevelopment of the site for transit use. Discussions were held between Triangle Transit, Downtown Durham Inc., and a local developer on use of the Graybar Building, but an agreement benefitting all parties could not be reached.

On October 21st, the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees approved a \$346,000 demolition contract with C.T. Wilson Construction of Durham for removal of the Graybar building and a former gas station structure, site work and future landscaping at the site. The former utility payment center (A&P building) will not be affected by the demolition.

A fence is scheduled for installation around the site during the first week of December. Once the asbestos and lead based paint is removed from both the Graybar Building and adjacent gas station, full demolition will begin. Actual demolition is expected to take 30-45 days, after which construction that will stabilize an adjacent portion of the Durham Bookcases building and related site work will occur.

Traffic on Chapel Hill Street and/or Duke Street may be affected at times during the contract period. Electronic signs will notify drivers of traffic changes and Triangle Transit will communicate detours and/or changes to the city, area businesses, local media and area traffic reporters.

Triangle Transit, the City of Durham and Downtown Durham Inc. are working in collaboration and in discussions concerning future landscaping options for the property.

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