



NORTH CAROLINA BECOMES NINTH STATE TO EXPLORE VIRGIN HYPERLOOP ONE TECHNOLOGY

TRIPS FROM RALEIGH TO DURHAM OR CHAPEL HILL COULD BE UNDER TEN MINUTES, ACCORDING TO INITIAL ESTIMATES

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA (JULY 12, 2019) – Today, North Carolina’s Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) – the voice of the regional business community on transportation – kicked off an exploration of hyperloop as a potential regional and inter-city transportation platform. A consortium of partners at the 2019 RTA breakfast event, including AECOM and Virgin Hyperloop One, discussed findings and implications of a pre-feasibility hyperloop analysis for the Triangle. The report identified example hyperloop corridors that could seamlessly connect Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, and RDU International Airport near the Research Triangle Park, and create a linchpin for a future hyperloop network across the southeastern U.S. The N.C. Department of Transportation also participated in today’s discussion.

“North Carolina Research Triangle -- home to some of the country’s top companies, universities and healthcare centers -- is an absolute prime location to examine hyperloop technology,” said **Jay Walder, CEO of Virgin Hyperloop One**, the only hyperloop company in the world to successfully test its hyperloop technology at scale. “There is a tremendous opportunity to further connect these regional anchors and link North Carolina’s capital area with markets to the south and the northeast using a more efficient, sustainable, and reliable form of passenger and cargo transportation. It’s incredibly energizing the see North Carolina and the Triangle region take this important step forward in amplifying its vision for what 21st-century transportation can be.”

According to the pre-feasibility study, carried out by AECOM, the introduction of a hyperloop system alongside area freeways including I-40 and NC 147 could generate significant economic and quality of life advantages for the region and for North Carolina, reducing travel time and improving road safety.

Research Triangle hyperloop portal (station) access points might include:

- Downtown Raleigh/North Carolina State University area
- Downtown Durham/Duke University area
- Downtown Chapel Hill/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill area
- Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)/Research Triangle Park area

“The Research Triangle area is uniquely positioned from a technology focus, spatial layout, and favorable mid-east coast location to benefit from a hyperloop travel solution that could quickly link America’s R&D cities of Raleigh and Durham with each other and with neighboring regions in the southeast and mid-Atlantic,” said **Joe Milazzo II, PE, Executive Director, Regional Transportation Alliance**.

Other economic benefits to be considered include travel time reliability, direct linkages to the best-connected medium hub airport in North America, improved logistics for cargo shipments, and the



effects of cities and economic centers connected by the system to have far more synergy by being connected within minutes. Interconnections with a proposed regional bus rapid transit network serving Research Triangle area counties and the existing passenger rail network would further leverage potential benefits of and connections to the system.

Virgin Hyperloop One's technology proposes to transport passengers and goods at speeds comparable to airlines and enable regional cities to connect just as local city subways connect neighborhoods. Virgin Hyperloop One's visionary technology features depressurized tubes that carry on-demand passenger or cargo "pods" at speeds up to 670 miles per hour, powered by magnetic-levitation. Its proprietary depressurized tube infrastructure essentially eliminates the impacts of air-drag and friction, requiring less energy and cost to operate the system and allowing travel to occur at exceptionally high speeds. Virgin Hyperloop One is the only hyperloop company with an at-scale test track, known as "DevLoop." Located outside of Las Vegas in Nevada, Virgin Hyperloop One has completed hundreds of test runs to date.

About Virgin Hyperloop One

Virgin Hyperloop One is the only company in the world that has successfully tested its hyperloop technology at scale, launching the first new mode of mass transportation in over 100 years. The company successfully operated a full-scale hyperloop vehicle using electric propulsion and electromagnetic levitation under near-vacuum conditions, realizing a fundamentally new form of transportation that is faster, safer, cheaper, and more sustainable than existing modes. The company is now working with governments, partners, and investors around the world to make hyperloop a reality in years, not decades. They currently have projects underway in Missouri, Texas, Colorado, the Midwest, India, and the UAE. Learn more about Virgin Hyperloop One's technology, vision, and ongoing projects [here](#).

Media Contact

Madeline Kaye
BerlinRosen
hyperloop@berlinrosen.com
+1 646 369 8226

Media Assets

Virgin Hyperloop One media assets can be found [here](#).