### Recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan available for community review

The recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan is available for community review during a 30-day comment period from April 29 to May 29. The recommended Work Plan is located online, along with additional information at: <u>https://goforwardnc.org/wakeinput/</u>

The annual Wake Transit Work Plan allocates projected revenues to fund service investments and capital projects that will improve and expand Wake County's transit network in the upcoming fiscal year (July-June). The "Four Big Moves" of the Wake Transit program are designed to accomplish the following goals: 1) Connect the region; 2) Connect all Wake County communities; 3) Create frequent and reliable urban mobility; and, 4) Enhance access to transit.

"The service and infrastructure projects proposed to receive funding in FY23 reflect our commitment toward accomplishing the goals of the Wake Transit Plan, known as the Four Big Moves," says Gaby Lawlor, Chair of Wake County's Transit Planning Advisory Committee. "We are asking the community to take a look at the recommended Work Plan to tell us what they think about the direction we're headed. Their feedback is a critical component of all Wake Transit planning activities, but especially as we develop each annual Work Plan."

A total of \$121.7 million is budgeted in the recommended Work Plan for FY23. It is estimated that \$107.5 million of that total will be collected through the transit-dedicated, half-cent sales tax, with the balance derived from a mixture of other funding sources. Ongoing and completed project studies have provided updated cost and schedule information that planning partners used to evaluate and rebalance the FY23 Work Plan budget, as well as multi-year investment strategies through FY2030.

Overall, the Work Plan balances the careful use of taxpayer dollars with thoughtful investment in transit. The \$29.8 million operating budget provides the necessary funding to administer the Wake Transit program and to continue bus operations that were funded in previous years. It also includes just over \$2 million dollars for new <u>Community Funding Area Program</u> applications, as well as previously established CFAP-funded operations, such as <u>Morrisville's</u> <u>new Smart Shuttle service</u>, the <u>Wake Forest Circulator</u>, and the upcoming <u>GoApex Route 1</u>. It is also proposed that the City of Raleigh will receive \$670,680 to establish the first portion of Route 9, which is a new high-frequency bus service along the busy Hillsborough Street corridor through downtown.

Capital projects in the draft Work Plan will result in the construction of new transit stations, centers, and transfer points; continued improvements to park-and-ride lots and local bus stops; the expansion and construction of system support facilities; and, the purchase of alternative fuel buses and other vehicles. Two of the larger proposed capital expenditures are for the

construction phase of the GoRaleigh Union Station project and the final design phase of the <u>Wake BRT: Southern Corridor</u> project. Combined, Wake Transit's investment in capital projects will improve service reliability, access to transit, and the rider experience while providing new and enhanced travel options to meet evolving customer needs. A total of \$91.9 million is included in the FY23 capital budget. About \$47 million is proposed to be allocated to specific FY23 projects with the remainder placed in fund balance to support future efforts.

Since its creation, the Wake Transit program has provided funding and other support to increase the frequency and reliability of urban mobility. For example, developing the <u>four (4)</u> <u>core Wake bus rapid transit (Wake BRT) corridors</u> that will radiate outward from downtown Raleigh, continues to be a priority:

- The Wake BRT: New Bern Ave. Corridor runs eastward to New Hope Rd. It will serve numerous businesses and neighborhoods, as well as WakeMed's main campus. This 5.1-mile corridor is the furthest along in the project development process. Construction is anticipated to begin in FY23.
- The Wake BRT: Western Blvd. Corridor will extend west to downtown Cary. A preferred route alternative was selected, and a detailed corridor study was completed in 2021. Preliminary design is underway with anticipated completion in FY23.
- The Wake BRT: Southern Corridor will provide frequent service between Raleigh and the Garner Station area. A preferred route alternative was selected in 2021 and preliminary design is underway. About \$7.6 million to get this project through the final design phase is included in the draft FY23 Work Plan.
- The Wake BRT: Northern Corridor is anticipated to serve the communities surrounding Capital Blvd. The City of Raleigh plans additional studies this year to update the list of routing alternatives for this BRT corridor.

In support of the Big Move to connect the region, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization launched a study in 2021 that will identify opportunities to extend rapid bus service from the Wake BRT: Western Corridor out to Research Triangle Park in Durham County, as well as from the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor into Johnston County. Results of the study are anticipated to be published in FY23.

The <u>Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Phase 2</u> is nearing completion. This new transit service would connect western Durham to Garner, with a possible extension to Clayton still under review. In FY23, governing bodies from across the region are expected to receive the study results and consider taking action to move the project into the next phase of development. In previous years, Wake Transit funds were placed in reserve to support future

approved commuter rail planning activities. Therefore, no additional funds have been requested in the draft FY23 Work Plan.

Another planning milestone expected to be met in FY23 is the completion of the Wake Bus Plan Update. Led by GoTriangle, this effort will include short-range transit investment plans for GoRaleigh, GoCary, GoTriangle, and GoWake Access that will define an implementation strategy for transit investments through FY2030.

Funds allocated for new and upgraded bus stops in previous Work Plans have resulted in 266 bus stop projects throughout Wake County, with many more currently in various stages of feasibility and planning. At least 146 new stops have been built and 120 existing stops have been improved with Wake Transit funds. An additional \$35.7 million is requested for additional bus infrastructure-related investments in FY23.

Interested community members can view the City of Raleigh's <u>new interactive map</u> to see completed and planned bus stop investments within its service area:

https://ral.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c748be9e9c1b43dfa2836eb3c d7c0784

Wake Transit planners will collect comments submitted between April 29 and May 29. Input received will be carefully considered by the TPAC for incorporation into the FY23 Wake Transit Work Plan that will be recommended for adoption by the governing boards of the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and GoTriangle in late June. Community members and other stakeholders had the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft FY23 Wake Transit Work Plan during its comment period earlier this year. Their input was incorporated into the recommended Work Plan.

Anyone interested in following Wake Transit program progress on Twitter can visit @WakeTransit. They may also sign up for email updates by visiting: <u>https://goforwardnc.org/</u> and scrolling to the bottom of the page and entering their information.

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#### Recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan Social Media Posts & Schedule Instagram, Facebook, Twitter | GoTriangle & Wake Transit accounts Posting Dates: 4/29/22 – 5/28/22

#### 4/29/22

The recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan is now available for review! Wake Transit partners strategically develop an annual Work Plan that identifies projects that will be funded in the upcoming fiscal year. The goals: improved access, rider experience, connectivity, and travel options throughout the region. Take a look and leave your feedback at <u>goforwardnc.org/wakeinput</u>.

#### 5/07/22

Dedicated bus rapid transit routes, more frequent service, enhanced transit centers, and improved bus stops are just some of the proposed investments available for review in the recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan! Check out the details and leave your comments at <u>goforwardnc.org/wakeinput</u>.

#### 5/18/22

The recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan allocates funds to keep bus services rolling, add new services, improve bus stops, advance the planning for new transit centers, and other exciting projects. Review the plan and submit comments at <u>goforwardnc.org/wakeinput</u>.

#### 5/24/22

Act now before it's too late to provide your input on the recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan. Review what's being considered for funding in FY2023 to improve access and the transit experience for riders in Wake County. <u>goforwardnc.org/wakeinput</u>

#### 5/28/22

Tomorrow is the final day to make your voice heard by reviewing and leaving comments on the recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan! Your feedback is critical to help ensure that our transit plans are meeting community needs and expectations. Review and submit comments at <u>goforwardnc.org/wakeinput</u>.

## Twitter

# Facebook

Instagram

# **Social Media Graphics**







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- The "Four Big Moves" that guide Wake Transit Plan implementation are to: 1) Connect the region; 2) Connect all Wake County communities; 3) Create frequent and reliable urban mobility; and, 4) Enhance access to transit.
- A total of \$121.7 million is budgeted in the recommended Wake Transit Work Plan for FY2023. It is estimated that \$107.5 million of that total will be collected through the transit-dedicated, half-cent sales tax, with the balance derived from a mixture of other funding sources.
- **The recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan** balances the careful use of taxpayer dollars with thoughtful investment in transit. It provides the necessary funding to administer the Wake Transit program and to continue bus operations that were funded in previous years. The proposed \$29.8 million operating budget provides the necessary funding to administer the Wake Transit program and to continue bus operations that were funded in previous years. It also includes just over \$2 million for CFAP projects and \$670,680 to launch the first portion of GoRaleigh's Route 9 (Hillsborough Street).
- **Capital Projects** included in the recommended Work Plan include numerous efforts involving the construction of new transit stations, centers, and transfer points; continued improvements to park-and-ride lots and local bus stops; the expansion and construction of system support facilities; the purchase of alternative fuel buses and other support vehicles; and, funding to get the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor through the final design project development phase. These projects will improve service reliability, access to transit, and the rider experience while providing new and enhanced travel options to meet evolving customer needs.

## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

For more info and to review the full recommended FY2023 Wake Transit Work Plan, visit, **goforwardnc.org/wakeinput** 

T Submit your comments online at goforwardnc.org/wakeinput; or email to: publicengagement@gotriangle.org

Mail comments to: GoTriangle, ATTN: Recommended Work Plan Comments, 4600 Emperor Blvd., Suite 100, Durham, NC 27703

Text "**Comment**" to **73224** (charges may apply); or call **855-925-2801** (toll-free) and enter the code **6723** to leave a voicemail.



Follow us on Twitter to stay up-to-date @waketransit.



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