

10-Year Investment Strategy

Wake Transit Plan will continue to improve Wake County's public transportation system.

The goal of the 10-year investment strategy is to improve and expand transportation choices for people living in, commuting to and traveling through Wake County by funding projects that advance the Four Big Moves:

Connect the Region, Connect all Wake County Communities, Create Frequent, Reliable, Urban Mobility and Enhance Access to Transit.

In the past year, community members have been engaged in the Wake Transit Plan update process through surveys, meetings, focus groups, social media campaigns and pop-up events. The result is a clear and consistent priority to serve more people and more places through continued investment in local transit services, countywide connections and regional transit options.

The 10-year (FY2026–2035) transit investment strategy balances these community priorities with Wake Transit revenue assumptions.

Visit the 2035 Wake Transit Plan project website to learn more about specific projects and goals included in the updated investment strategy and to share your feedback with the planning team.

www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035



Wake County's 10-Year (2026-2035) Transit Investment Strategy

In 2025, the vision for improving and expanding Wake County's transit system is being updated. The original plan was approved by voters in 2016. The 2030 Plan was adopted in 2021, and this update will extend the planning period out to 2035.

The 2035 Wake Transit Plan will guide how \$3 billion will be invested in the next 10-year period, from fiscal year 2026 to 2035.

The Four Big Moves, the investment goals adopted in the original plan, are not changing, but the 2035 plan accounts for completed projects, those in development and adds new capital and service investments that will make it easier for people in Wake County to travel in and around the region.

Four Big Moves Overview

Connect the Region

Invest in the region's rail network by building new stations, improving track and adding train service

Building regional BRT services with new connections from Cary to RTP and Garner to Clayton.

Planning and building a new BRT service on I-40 that will connect Raleigh with RTP.

Connect all Wake County Communities

Expand local and regional bus services so they are service is available all day, every day.

Connecting every town with Cary, Raleigh and/or RTP

Expand local bus routes so towns are connected to each other

Building at least 5 new community transportation hubs

Create Frequent Reliable Urban Mobility

Expand the frequent bus network by offering frequent service in the evening and on weekends

Add 13 new frequent bus routes

Enhance Access to Transit

Double the size of the Community Funding Area program to invest more in individual communities.

Connect the Region

Wake Transit Plan will continue to invest in projects and services that make it easy to travel regionally.

Proposed Investments

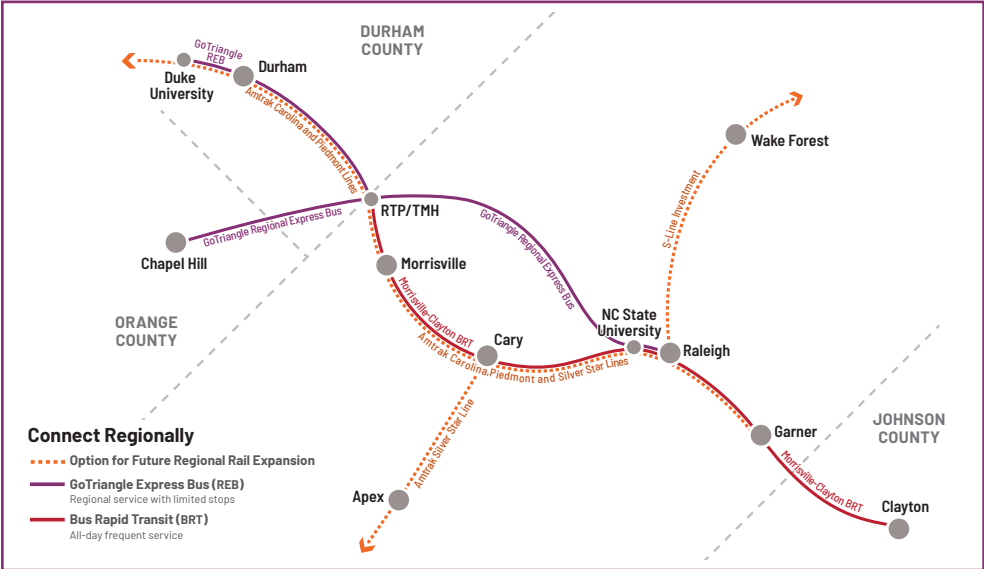
- BRT on I-40 to connect Raleigh with RTP and RDU
- Regional express connect regional hubs with bus service every 30-minutes every day
- Ongoing investment in regional rail

Key Benefits

- BRT and Express Bus will connect regional destinations with service all day everyday
- BRT creates benefits faster than commuter rail.
- Continued investment in rail projects

Transit Plan Updates

- Operate BRT extensions (Garner to Clayton and Cary to RTP) by 2035
- Full network of regional transit hubs is available



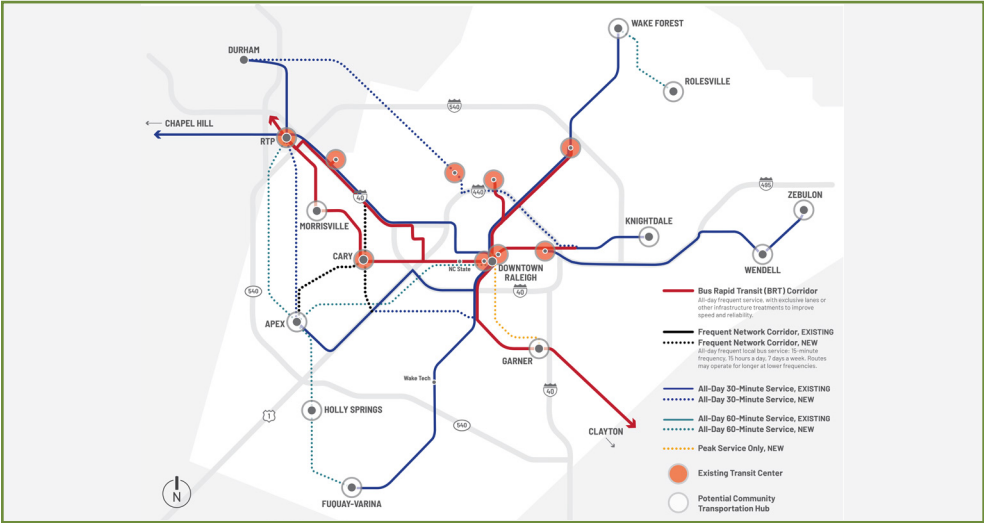
Connect All Communities

More Community Connections

- Faster, more reliable, more available connections between more places, including to Cary and Raleigh and between towns.

More Community Transit Facilities

- Wake Transit Plan will invest in multiple community transportation centers around Wake County



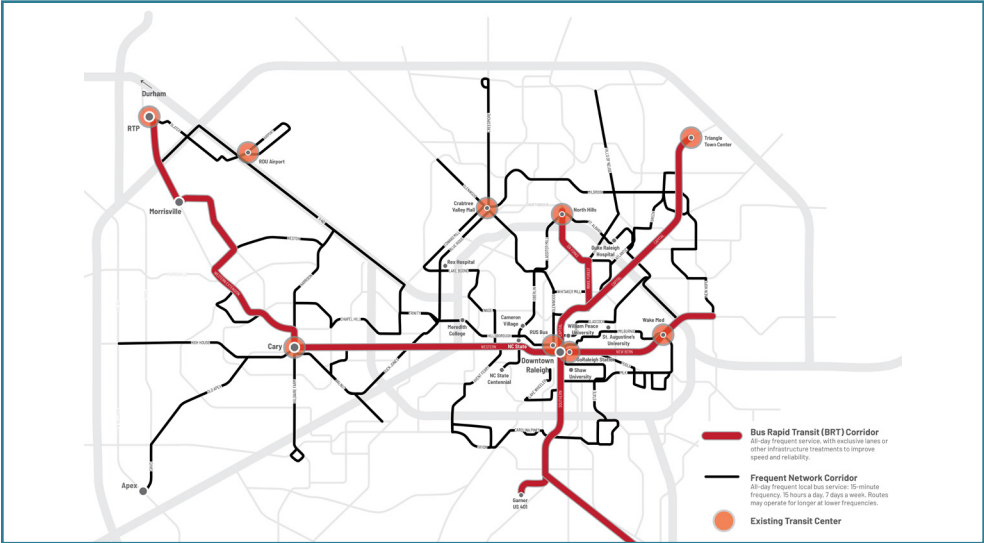
Frequent and Reliable Urban Mobility

More Community Connections

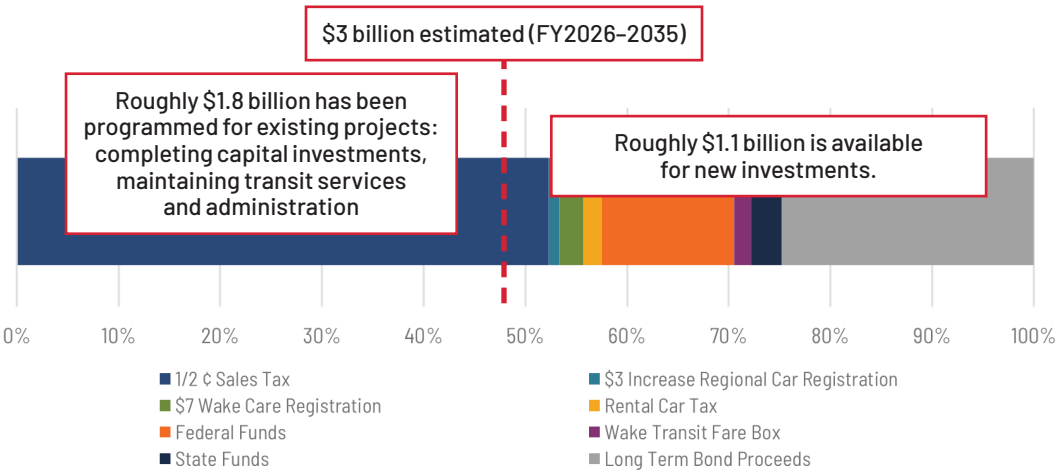
- Faster, more reliable, more available connections between more places, including to Cary and Raleigh and between towns.

More Community Transit Facilities

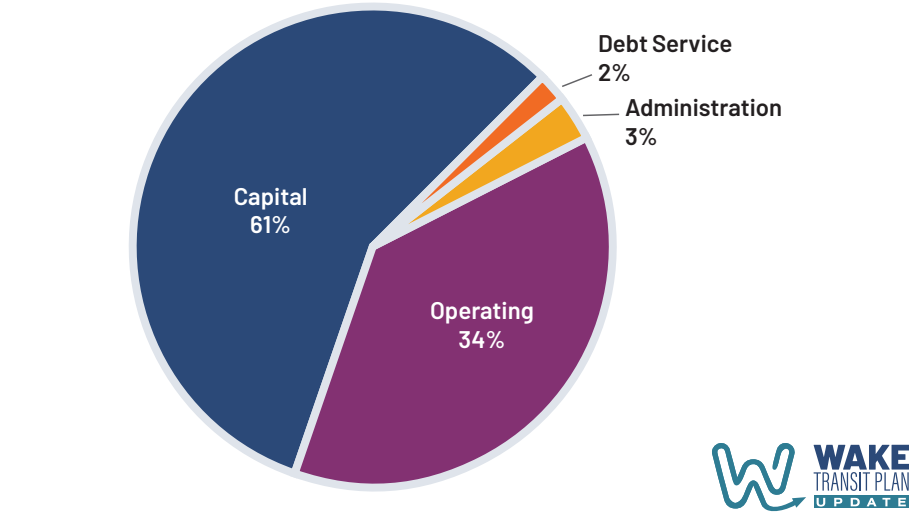
- Wake Transit Plan will invest in multiple community transportation centers around Wake County



Wake Transit Plan 10-Year Revenue Assumption



New Investment Breakdown: FY2026-2035



Wake Transit's First 10 Years: 2016–2025

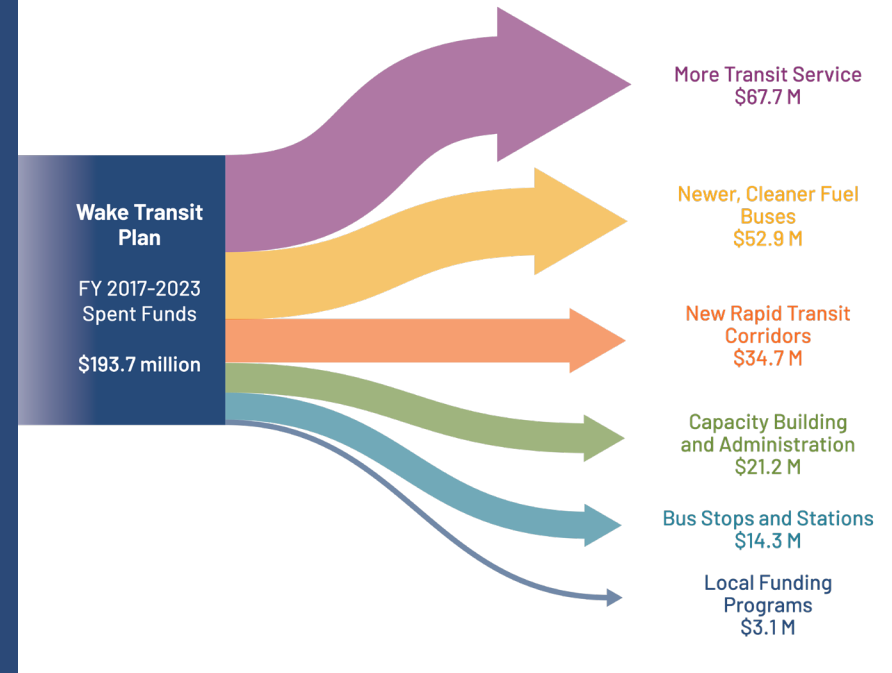
In 2016, Wake County voters approved the first Wake Transit Plan and a package of taxes and fees dedicated to funding planned transit investments. Revenue collection began in April 2017 and the first transit investments began later that year. Through 2025, nearly \$200 million has been spent on a wide variety of service enhancements, capital projects and transit programs. An additional \$1.8 million is programmed to fund projects planed through Wake Transit's ongoing development process. Here are some system highlights from the first 10-years of Wake Transit Plan implementation.

- All 12 Wake County communities have access to a public transportation service.
- Wake County bus service has grown by 25% systemwide.
- 22 miles of Bus Rapid Transit (Wake BRT) service is being designed with the first corridor, New Bern Ave, entering construction phase in 2025.
- Over 500 improvement projects at bus stops, park & ride lots, transit centers and other facilities completed.
- Funded Raleigh Union Station transit terminal (opens in 2025) Poole Road Maintenance facility (opened in 2024) and other large capital projects that are underway.
- 182 new buses have been purchased, nearly half use clean fuel technology (CNG and BEB)
- Local services have been launched or expanded in Wake Forest, Morrisville, Apex, Knightdale, Rolesville, Wendell and Zebulon.

\$200 million invested since 2017.

Funds invested in **more bus service, new buses, Bus Rapid Transit, more stops and stations, and local funding programs.**

Also invested in staff, leadership, and financial management.



Stay up to date on Wake Transit news, share your thoughts, and follow our progress:



www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake



www.waketransittracker.com



Wake Transit Plan Update – Phase 3 Engagement Partner Toolkit

Public Event List

| Local Partner | Event Type | Event Details |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| Apex | Presentation | May 13, Town Council meeting at 6pm |
| Apex | Pop-Up Event | May 3, PeakFest, 9am to 11am |
| Cary | Pop-Up Event | May 10 Ritmo Latino Festival, 3pm to 5pm |
| Fuquay Varina | None | Staff Council update and digital promotion of Phase 3 |
| Garner | Pop-Up Event | May 31 - SE Wake Library and Amazon (pending) |
| Garner | Presentation | May 27, Town Council meeting at 6pm |
| Holly Springs | Pop-Up Event | May 2, Farmers Market, May 24, 8 to 10am (pending) |
| Knightdale | Presentation | May 5 Council work session at 7pm (pending) |
| Morrisville | Pop-Up Event | May 17, SpringFest, 12 to 2pm |
| Raleigh | Presentation | May 8 th RTA meeting at 3:30pm |
| Raleigh | Pop-Up Event | May 15, GoRaleigh station, 7-9am |
| Rolesville | Presentation | May 6 or May 20 Board Meeting, 6pm (pending) |
| Wake Forest | Pop-Up Event | May 3, Meet in the Streets Event, 12 to 2pm |
| Wendell | Presentation | May 27 Town Council meeting at 7pm |
| Zebulon | TBD? | TBD? |
| NC State | Pop-Up Event | May 15, 7:30-10am BTWD Pit Stop |
| GoTriangle | Pop-Up Event | May 22, RTC, 7-9am |

Social Media Posts

Joint Messaging (WTP + FY26 Workplan)

Detailed messages and schedule TBD

WTP Messaging (May 16 – May 31)

Detailed messages and schedule TBD

Social Media Graphics



What's Next for Wake Transit?



Visit our project website to review draft materials, share your thoughts, and stay up to date on Wake Transit news!

<https://www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake>



LAST CHANCE TO COMMENT by May 31st!



What's Next for Wake Transit?

Visit our project website to review draft materials, share your thoughts, and stay up to date on Wake Transit news!

<https://www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake>





DRAFT 10-Year Investment Strategy



Visit our project website to see how Wake Transit will invest **nearly \$3 billion** to improve and expand our transit system by 2035!

<https://www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake>



RECOMMENDED FY2026 Wake Transit Work Plan



Visit our project website to see what actions Wake Transit will take over the next year to improve and expand our transit system.

<https://www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake>



Digital Ads

What's Next for Wake Transit?

Placeholder for Spanish



Review Draft Materials!

Visit our project website to see how Wake Transit will invest nearly \$3 billion to improve and expand our transit system by 2035!

<https://www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake>

¡PLACEHOLDER TEXT!

Visite la página web de nuestro proyecto para aprender más sobre el Plan de Tránsito Wake 2035 y compartir sus pensamientos sobre el futuro del tránsito en la región.

Video Reels

REEL 1 CONNECT THE REGION AND ALL WAKE COUNTY COMMUNITIES

- Did you know Wake Transit is making it easier to travel around the region? We are investing in existing regional rail service and expanding the planned bus rapid transit network with connections from Cary to RTP, Garner to Clayton, and even BRT along I-40 for better connections from Raleigh to RTP.
- Wake Transit is also improving local bus service with better connections between Wake County towns and cities, later service offered more days of the week, and new community transportation hubs—making connecting to transit easier and more convenient.

REEL 2 CREATE FREQUENT, RELIABLE URBAN MOBILITY AND ENHANCE ACCESS TO TRANSIT

- Did you know Wake Transit is investing in later service and weekend service, as well as more bus routes that operate every-15-minutes or better?

- Wake Transit is also making it safer to get to the bus stop and more comfortable once you're there, with major investments in sidewalk connections to transit, crosswalks, and bus stop amenity improvements.

REEL 3 EVERGREEN WAKE TRANSIT CONTENT

- This reel will include general, more high-level Wake Transit information
 - Funded through a voter-approved half-cent sales tax
 - Updated every 5-years
 - 10-year investment strategy
 - Projects fall into the four big moves with a balance between operating and capital, coverage, and frequency
- This reel will be longer, and is intended to be used after the conclusion of this current phase of outreach
- This reel will be offered in English and in Spanish

Email and Newsletter Content

Hello Wake Transit Partners,

Help us spread the word about the draft 2035 Wake Transit Plan 10-Year Investment Strategy! The [project website](#) has been updated with an interactive storymap, a simple feedback form, and supporting documents. Please spread the word through social media posts, email blasts, and other communication channels. The outreach period is from May 1 to May 31, 2025.

Please see the link below to the local partner toolkit for the following materials:

- Printed materials
- In-person engagement dates
- Online survey
- Social media reels
- Social media post language/script

XXXX INSERT PARTNER TOOLKIT LINK HERE XXXX

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything additional.

Council/Board Agenda Item

TBD

What's Next for Wake Transit?



What are the Wake Transit Four Big Moves?

Wake Transit was developed to improve and expand travel choices for people in Wake County.

The program prioritizes **Four Big Moves**:

- **Connect** the Region
- **Connect** All Wake County Communities
- **Create** Frequent and Reliable Urban Mobility
- **Enhance** Access to Transit

DRAFT 2035 Wake Transit Plan 10-Year Investment Strategy

Guides how nearly \$3 billion will be invested to improve and expand our transit system by 2035.

KEY ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- **Invest** in the rail network by building new stations, improving track and adding train service.
- **Add** new and frequent bus routes.
- **Plan** and build new Bus Rapid Transit service.
- **Fund** improvements to bus stops, sidewalks and crosswalks.

Recommended FY2026 Wake Transit Work Plan

Outlines actions Wake Transit will complete by investing \$186.55 million over the next year.

KEY ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Continuing current bus services.
- Buying new buses.
- New transfer centers, transit centers and park-and-ride lots.
- Supporting Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects.
- Adding new Microtransit service.
- Providing transit assistance programs.



Review Draft Materials

Visit our project website to learn more about Wake Transit and share your thoughts on the future of transit in Wake County.

<https://www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake>

What's Next for Wake Transit?



What are the Wake Transit Four Big Moves?

The Wake Transit Program was developed to improve and expand transportation choices for people in Wake County.

The program prioritizes **Four Big Moves:**

- **Connect** the Region
- **Connect** All Wake County Communities
- **Create** Frequent and Reliable Urban Mobility
- **Enhance** Access to Transit

DRAFT 2035 Wake Transit Plan 10-Year Investment Strategy

The DRAFT 10-year investment strategy guides how nearly \$3 billion will be used to improve and expand our transit system, making it easier for people to travel.

KEY ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- **Invest** in the rail network by building new stations, improving track and adding train service.
- **Add** new and frequent bus routes.
- **Build** at least 5 new community transportation hubs.
- **Plan** and build new Bus Rapid Transit service.
- **Fund** annual investments to improve bus stops, sidewalks and crosswalks.
- **Connect** every town with Cary, Raleigh and/or RTP.
- **Expand** local bus routes so towns are connected to each other.
- **Double** the size of the Community Funding Area program to invest more in individual communities.



Review Draft Materials

Visit our project website to learn more about Wake Transit and share your thoughts on the future of transit in Wake County.

<https://www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake>



DRAFT FEEDBACK FORM

The 2035 Wake Transit Plan will be the region's 10-year transit investment strategy, setting the vision for improving and expanding the public transit network in Wake County. We have developed this plan to be consistent with the Wake Transit Plan's **Four Big Moves**:

- Connect the Region
- Connect All Wake County Communities
- Create Frequent, Reliable Urban Mobility
- Enhance Access to Transit

INSERT LINKS TO MAPS ON THE BULLETS ABOVE

Please answer the following questions to share your thoughts on the 10-year transit investment strategy. The public review and comment period is open May 1 through May 31, 2025. Thank you for helping shape the future of our transit system!

1. What is your home zip code? _____

2. How often do you ride public transit (the bus)?

- Often
 - Sometimes/rarely
 - Never
-

3. The proposed 10-Year investment strategy will:

CONNECT THE REGION by:

- Investing in the regional rail network to expand existing rail service by building new stations, improving tracks, and potentially adding more trips.
- Expanding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network with new connections from Cary to RTP and Garner to Clayton.
- Planning and building a new BRT service on I-40 that will connect Raleigh with RTP (and the new Triangle Mobility Hub).

CONNECT ALL WAKE COUNTY COMMUNITIES by:

- Expanding local and regional bus service to make it available for longer hours and more days of the week.
- Connecting towns with Cary, Raleigh, and/or RTP and each other.
- Building at least five new community transportation hubs.

CREATE FREQUENT, RELIABLE URBAN MOBILITY by:

- Offering frequent service in the evening and on weekends.
- Adding more frequent bus routes.

ENHANCE ACCESS TO TRANSIT by:

- Investing up to \$3 million a year to improve bus stops, sidewalks, and crosswalks.
- Doubling the size of the Community Funding Area program, so more resources are available to individual communities.

Does this strategy make sense for Wake County?

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree

4. The proposed changes to the project prioritization policy include:

| Existing Prioritization Tiers | Proposed Prioritization Tiers |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <u>Tier 1:</u> Continued Funding for Community Funding Area Program as Currently Programmed and Funding Programmed for Rural Elderly/Disabled and General Public Demand-Response Trips (GoWake Access Allocations) | |
| <u>Tier 2:</u> Capital Projects with Design or Land Acquisition Phases Already Initiated, for Which Later Phases Should Be Funded to Keep Their Momentum | |
| <u>Tier 3:</u> Facilities/Infrastructure/Resources Needed to Support Future Expansion or General State of Good Repair and Operations | |
| <u>Tier 4:</u> Projects That Involve Time-Sensitive External Grant Sources as Part of Their Overall Funding Mechanism | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Tier 5: Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Program of Projects | |
| Tier 6: Commuter Rail Project Design, Right-of-Way/Land Acquisition, Construction, Vehicle Procurement, and Operations | |
| Tier 7: Systemwide Bus Stop Improvements for Already Served Corridors/Stop Locations | |

Do you have any feedback on the proposed changes to the project prioritization policy?

5. Here are a few highlights of the proposed changes to the Community Funding Area Program Management Plan (CFA PMP):

- The funding available for CFA will increase from \$20 million to \$40 million.
- The local match requirement for capital and operating projects is decreasing from 50% to 35%.
- Wake County has been added as an eligible CFAP recipient.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed changes?

6. Several Wake County communities have started, or are planning to start, local Microtransit services. To assist, we have developed proposed Microtransit Guidelines.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Guidelines?

7. Please share any additional feedback regarding the 2035 Wake Transit 10-Year Investment Strategy.

8. If you have an extra minute, we'd like to learn more about you! Please select all that apply.

- I am 17 years old or younger
- I am 26-64 years old
- I am 18-24 years old
- I am 65 years old
- I identify as female
- I identify as male
- I identify as non-binary or other gender
- My household receives one or more of these benefits: Medicaid, TANF, SNAP, FNS, LIEAP, or similar
- I am Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin of any race
- I represent a minority race or 2+ races (African American, Asian, South Asian, American Indian, Alaska Native, Middle Eastern, Hawaiian Pacific Islander)
- My primary language is English, or I speak and read English well
- I am or am considered to be disabled