

Wake County Transit Plan Transit Planning Advisory Committee Tax District Administration

Purpose:

TPAC recommendation to authorize the FY2021 & FY2022 reimbursements submitted by transit operators that were impacted by COVID.

Discussion:

Transit operators have been working with CAMPO and Wake County staff over the past few months on the elucidation of the existing baseline funding and a consistent methodology for Wake Transit fixed route operations to be reimbursed. Based on the outcomes of the discussions that occurred in the most recent workgroup meetings and the TPAC meeting earlier this year, it was recommended that a reprieve of baseline service be brought forth to TPAC for consideration. The request of the reprieve is due to the impacts from the operator shortage and the steps that were taken during the COVID pandemic. These challenges, along with the suspension of fares, have resulted in partners potentially not being able to meet preexisting Wake County transit service. Agencies are requesting that reimbursements are approved for services that were provided throughout the fiscal years 2021 and 2022 as identified in the Wake Transit Work Plan.

There was always an awareness that the COVID strategies and protocols that impacted operations could be significant and that was acknowledged in the adopted transit work plan after discussions that occurred during the Budget and Finance subcommittee early 2021. To ensure that transit operators are not financially impacted while the above outstanding procedures are discussed and updated, the Tax District Administration is requesting that reimbursements for the partners are approved considering the impact was due to the unprecedented global pandemic. Conversations will continue among the workgroup to discuss both initiatives that will help guide the fiscal year 2023 process, and we will bring the outcome to TPAC in the near future.

Financial Impact of the request:

The request, if recommended will have zero financial impact to the Wake Transit Plan as all of the FY21 and FY22 transit operation requests will not exceed the budgeted amount. The request is for transit partners to be reimbursed for services/projects that have been authorized as part of the Wake Transit Work Plans.

Action requested:

The Tax District Administration requests that TPAC recommend payment of all submitted FY21 and FY22 reimbursements due to the impact of COVID changes as a consistent reimbursement policy is developed for all transit agencies.