

WAKE COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN COMMUNITY FUNDING AREA PROGRAM (CFAP)

The Wake County Transit Plan’s Community Funding Area Program (CFAP) was envisioned as a competitive program providing an opportunity for 10 Wake County municipalities and Research Triangle Park (RTP) as eligible recipients to receive match funding for planning, capital, operating, or combined capital/operating transit projects. The CFAP was created as part of the Wake Transit Plan’s Four Big Moves, Big Move #4: Access to Transit, to provide an opportunity for areas in Wake County that would otherwise have limited fixed-route transit services to create or accelerate public transportation services and programs. An important goal of the CFAP, is the idea of providing geographic equity to the eligible program participants. Therefore a 30% funding cap was put in place, that no program participant should receive more than 30% of the program’s total funding during any given fiscal year.

CAMPO’s Wake Transit staff are presenting this memo, because first, as it currently stands the Town of Apex as recommended by the CFAP Selection Committee will surpass the 30% cap by a total of \$32,303; and second, the CFAP Management Plan clearly states that “the CFAP Administrator and the TPAC should periodically review this funding cap to ensure that it does not unintentionally restrict project sponsors from implementing worthwhile projects that may exceed the funding cap and that do not jeopardize the availability of financial resources for other applicants.” This memo outlines the geographic equity cap, the importance of the 10% overage allowance, the funding issue in question, historic and policy precedent for waiving its enforcement in FY 2024, and next steps.

The CFAP Management Plan, in it’s sixth chapter: Prioritization and Awards, describes the purpose of the geographic equity funding cap as to “[...] balance the competing goals of supporting projects that have capital and operating components with encouraging broad participation in the grant program.” The Management Plan also describes in multiple locations the need to accommodate budget variations up to 10% of the project’s requested amount without triggering a program agreement amendment. Please refer to Table 1: Town of Apex FY 2024 Approved Funding and Project Requests to see how the Town’s funding requests relate to both CFAP Management Plan policies.

Table 1: Town of Apex FY 2024 Approved Funding and Project Requests (FY 2024 30% Cap = \$819,239)

Town of Apex Projects in FY 2024	FY 2024 Requested Funding	FY2024 Funding with 10%
TO005-BF: GoApex Route 1 (Operating)	\$422,267	\$422,267
Sidewalk/Crosswalk Improvements (Capital)	\$268,000	\$294,800
Route 1: Bus Stop Improvements (Capital)	\$100,000	\$110,000
Transit Expansion/Prioritization Study (Planning)	\$22,250	\$24,475
TOTAL	\$812,517	\$851,542 (Over Cap)

This is not the first time the TPAC has been asked to consider waiving the geographic equity cap based on not restricting project sponsors from implementing worthwhile projects. During the FY 2021 Work Plan Development Cycle, TPAC waived the requirement specifically for capital projects because do not impact the fund balance of the CFAP year over year. After considering the policies of the CFAP Management Plan, the worthwhile qualities of each respective application, and the relatively small impact these projects would have to the fiscal health the program as whole, it was the recommendation of the FY 2024 CFAP Selection Committee, that all the Town of Apex projects (as well as the Town of Knightdale’s Sidewalk and Crosswalk Improvement Project) be fully funded with an additional 10% to cover the budget variation policy. The TPAC will need to take action on whether to waive the geographic balance cap for the FY 2024 CFAP Application Cycle.

If the TPAC decides to waive the geographic equity cap for FY 2024, the project will be incorporated into the FY 2024 Recommended Work Plan as presented, and the funding for said projects will be drawn out of TO005-Z: CFAP Reserve. If the TPAC decides not to waive the geographic equity cap, the CFAP Selection Committee will reconvene with representatives from the Town of Apex, to deliver a scope recommendation that fits within the funding cap.