

WAKE COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

Transit Planning Advisory Committee

TPAC Regular Monthly Meeting • May 17, 2023 • 9:30am-12:00pm

Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** (David Eatman, TPAC Chair)
- II. **Adjustments to the Agenda** (David Eatman, TPAC Chair) - none
- III. **General Public or Agency Comment** (David Eatman, TPAC Chair)

Mr. Nathan Spencer announced that his last day with WakeUp Wake County will be Sept 21st. The job announcement for the Executive Director position has been posted on their website and will remain open through May 31st. He noted that FTA has determined that land use is a key factor in the project ratings process. To ensure we stay competitive, the WakeUp Board is working to draft a letter of recommendation to the TPAC asking that a standard for zoning changes be required when taking Wake Transit funds. Several mayors and the CAMPO Executive Board are involved in developing the draft. He encouraged representatives of other local municipalities and organizations to also get involved in the visioning process.

David Eatman thanked Nathan for his years of community support and dedicated participation with the TPAC.

TPAC ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- IV. **Adoption of TPAC Meeting Minutes**
(Action Item: David Eatman, TPAC Chair) **Attachment A**

MOTION to adopt the April 2023 TPAC meeting Minutes made by Michelle Peele. Second by Jennifer Hayden. No comments. Passed.

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ITEMS

- I. **Revised Recommended FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan**
(Information Item: Shelby Powell, CAMPO & Steven Schlossberg, GoTriangle) **Attachment B & C**

On April 19, 2023, the TPAC recommended approval of the Recommended FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan to the Wake Transit governing boards. On April 21, 2023, GoTriangle's leadership, acting through approval by the GoTriangle Board of Trustees, delivered correspondence to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and Wake County leadership describing their intent to no longer contribute 50% of the Regional Transit Authority Vehicle Rental Tax, as defined in NCGS § 105-550 through NCGS § 105-556, to the Orange, Durham, and Wake County Transit Program(s) for the FY2024 budget, effective July 21, 2023. This action would reduce the allocation of Vehicle Rental Tax revenue shown in the Recommended FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan's Tax District Revenues by 94.25% or \$4,516,296.

Due to the change of allocation in revenues, the Recommended FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan has been revised, therefore requiring further consideration of the TPAC. As lead agency for Work Plan development, CAMPO staff will introduce the revisions to the FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan, and GoTriangle staff will

provide further insight on the financial impact of the proposed changes.

It was noted that the revised FY24 Work Plan was discussed at the Program Development Subcommittee meeting held on May 9, 2023, and resulted in a recommendation that the TPAC approve the revised Work Plan for adoption by the Wake Transit Governing Boards for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Shelby Powell reviewed the issue with the TPAC. In short, GoTriangle is seeking to rescind the vehicle rental tax revenues previously committed for Wake Transit Plan implementation. She provided an overview of discussions to date and reviewed draft language that would allow for transfer from capital reserve to accommodate the loss of the funds in the FY24 Work Plan.

The revised draft being presented today, does not include any project adjustments. It is only reflecting changes in the financial assumptions. The Wake tax district showed the changes of those financial assumptions in its presentation slides. The new allocation from fund balance in FY24 is \$14.2M instead of \$9M. The impact to the Wake Transit Program from the GoTriangle Board retaining the vehicle tax revenues was made clear.

MOTION to recommend adoption of the FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan, with the revised financial assumption language, to the Wake Transit governing boards was made by Michael Clark. Second by Jennifer Hayden. With clarity that the revision only applies to FY2024 at this time. Passed.

II. **FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan, Project Agreement Groupings and Reporting Deliverables**

(Action Item: Steven Schlossberg, GoTriangle) **Attachments D & E**

GoTriangle staff presented the grouping of agreements for projects included in the recommended FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan and the reporting deliverables for each category of project covered by those agreements.

Mr. Schlossberg reviewed the \$149M worth of projects that will be covered under agreements during FY24 including their proposed reporting deliverables and groupings. He reviewed examples of deliverables and reporting requirements, noting minimal changes, mainly to period of performance dates, between FY23 and FY24. Attendees were referred to the provided attachments for additional details. Example agreements are included in Attachment E.

MOTION to recommend approval of the FY2024 Wake Transit Work Plan Project Agreement Groups and Reporting Deliverables to the Wake Transit governing boards made by Shelby Powell. Second by Christine Sondej. No Comments. Passed.

III. **Recommended FY2025-2030 Wake Bus Plan**

(Action Item: Michelle Peele, GoTriangle) **Attachment F**

This Wake Bus Plan update recommends bus service improvements in Wake County for fiscal years 2025 through 2030. While it specifically addresses new bus services funded with Wake Transit revenues, the Wake Bus Plan also proposes changes to existing routes that will make bus service more useful and more responsive to changing travel patterns. Led by GoTriangle, the plan update began in July 2021 with consultant support and guidance from partner transit agencies, municipalities, CAMPO, and other key institutions in Wake County. The draft 2025-2030 Wake Bus Plan has been finalized and the TPAC is being asked to recommend it for adoption to the governing boards. The complete draft and associated appendices can be found online here:

<https://www.goforwardnc.org/wake-county/plans-policies/>.

Mrs. Michelle Peele noted that development of the Wake Bus Plan took over two years to complete. GoTriangle thanked the planning team and all of the partners and stakeholders who participated throughout the process. She provided an overview of the Plan including a year by year review of how Wake Transit funds are anticipated to be spent on future operating and capital project delivery. Members reviewed analysis of existing and previously planned routes, as well as land use supports for bus services. Mrs. Peele noted how historically disadvantaged communities were considered in the planning process. Engagement occurred in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Engagement included 16 pop up events, along with surveys. (The full engagement summary report is attached.) The majority of survey respondents were pleased with the system improvements proposed. Some commented that improvements were needed sooner, and that even more regional connections and expanded frequency should be planned. Input received was incorporated into the final draft Wake Bus Plan.

MOTION to recommend adoption of the FY2025-2030 Wake Bus Plan to the Wake Transit governing boards made by Jennifer Hayden. Second by David Walker. No Comments. Passed.

Roll Call Vote for Action Items

IV. Greater Triangle Commuter Rail Project Update

(Information Item: Matthew Clark, GoTriangle)

Mathew Clark provided an update on the Great Triangle Commuter Rail Project. Discussion is currently happening with the DCHC and CAMPO Executive Board CRT Subcommittees. The MPO Board members lead the decision-making process on whether/how to move forward w/ GTCR. GoTriangle will keep you updated as the process continues to unfold.

Received as information.

V. Western BRT Update

(Information Item: Het Patel, GoRaleigh)

In March 2023, Raleigh staff provided an update on all four of the Wake Bus Rapid Transit Program of projects. This discussion will provide additional details on the New Bern, Southern and Western Corridors. As typical, Het Patel began the presentation

by sharing the status overview graphic. Which shows each projects current status and upcoming steps.

which includes anticipated timeline for federal Small Starts Ratings application process and advancing the project through preliminary design to final design. The Western BRT Corridor extends approximately 12

WAKE BRT PROGRAM | OVERVIEW

PROJECTS IN FTA CIG SMALL STARTS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

NEW BERN AVENUE

- Status – advanced design (100%)
- Next steps – construction (2023)

SOUTHERN CORRIDOR

- Status – preliminary design (30%)
- Next steps – advanced design (2024)*

WESTERN CORRIDOR

- Status – preliminary design (10%)
- Next steps – advanced design (2025)*



* NOTE – BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION PHASE IS CONTINGENT ON FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION AND AWARD



miles connecting downtown Raleigh to downtown Cary via Western Boulevard, Western Boulevard Extension, Cary Towne Boulevard, Maynard Road and Chatham Street.

SOUTHERN CORRIDOR

Overview


- 5.1 miles | 3.8 miles dedicated lanes
- Ten (10) proposed stations – nine (9) new
- Seven (7) 60' articulated buses (CNG or alternative fuel)

Timeline

- Fall 2021 – Began preliminary design
- Summer 2022 – 10% design
- August 2022 – FTA CIG Small Starts Ratings Submission
- March 2023 – FTA CIG Ratings – “Medium-High” with full funding recommendation in FY24 President’s Budget Proposal (\$85.9M)

Next Steps

- Spring/Summer 2023 – 30% design & final design consultant selection



Southern Corridor was recommended in President’s Budget Proposal for \$85.5M. Once congress has appropriated those funds, we will be in position to move through the federal process to get to FFGA with FTA. Had multi-jurisdictional and multi-departmental selection committee to select HNTB as final designers. Will go to City Council this summer for approval.

WESTERN CORRIDOR | CAPITAL PROJECTS

NCDOT Projects

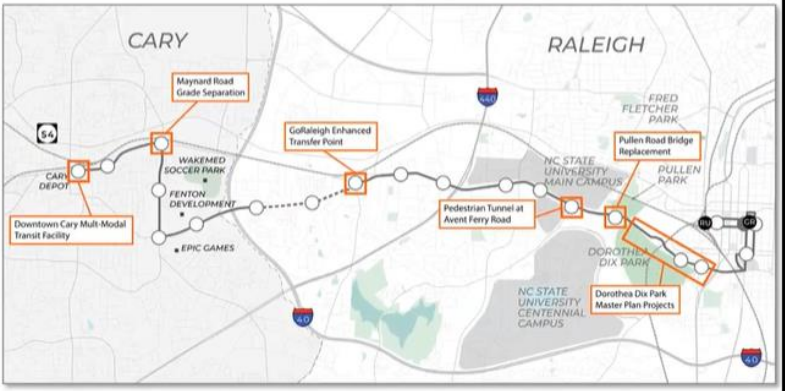
- Pullen Bridge Replacement
- Avent Ferry Pedestrian Tunnel
- Maynard Grade Separation

COR Projects

- Dix Park Master Plan Projects
- GoRaleigh Enhanced Transfer Point

Town of Cary Project

- Downtown Cary Multi-Modal Center



Western Corridor has been at 10% design for the last year or so. Several large projects from COR and NCDOT will impact this corridor. Some NCDOT projects were put on hold during pandemic, and some City projects wer

delayed. The BRT planning team has been waiting to get more certainty on those projects to get accurate cost estimates for the Western BRT corridor in order to prepare the federal ratings application. Plan is to submit a Small Starts application in August 2024. To get there, advertisement of the final design RFQ will be posted in May/June 2023. With Notice to proceed (NTP) anticipated to occur this fall.

NEXT STEPS

New Bern <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select Construction Administrator / Construction Engineering and Inspection consultant• Final approvals for design• Advertise for construction bid	Western Corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advertise final design RFQ• Continue coordination with Cary, NCDOT and FTA
Southern Corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select final design consultant• Continue coordination with Garner, NCDOT and FTA	Northern Corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public engagement on alignment alternatives• Detailed screening of remaining alternatives

GO+

Tim Gardiner commented appreciation for the presentation. He noted that the acceleration of the project has no impact on the Work Plan or TPAC involved and aware of process and timeline of the Western Corridor is important.

Received as information.

VI. Fare Workgroup Update

(Information Item: Steve Schlossberg, GoTriangle)

Steve Schlossberg noted that the Fare Workgroup, reassembled earlier this year, was organized to discuss FY24 fare impact and future year impact to Wake Transit as transit partners are in the process of evaluating the possible reinstatement of fares. Members of the group met several times over the last couple of months to discuss farebox revenue as it relates to the FY24 Wake Transit Work Plan. The group collectively decided to omit farebox revenue for the year. As transit partners continue discussions of the possible reinstatement of fares for the future, the workgroup will meet to discuss farebox revenue for the FY25 Wake Transit Work Plan.

At the April 14, 2023 Fare Workgroup meeting, members discussed the importance of establishing a low-income fare pilot program for Wake Transit. The cost of transportation can present challenges for Wake County residents, making it harder to access employment, healthcare and care for families. Building on the Four Big Moves of Wake Transit, a low-income fare program would enhance access to transit. The idea of a low-income fare pilot program, funded by Wake Transit, would provide transit rides to qualified individuals. The workgroup members will continue to meet and develop this concept. The group will provide future updates to the TPAC as work progresses. If you would like to participate in the workgroup, contact Michelle at mpeelee@gotriangle.org. GoTriangle staff thanked everyone who has been participating in the workgroup, with particular thanks to GoWake Access staff for their support.

Received as information.

VII. Subcommittees

Subcommittee meeting agendas and materials are posted online at least 3 days before each meeting at <https://www.campos-nc.us/about-us/committees/wake-county-transit-planning-advisory-committee-tpac/subcommittee>.

Subcommittee	Program Development	Community Engagement
Chair(s)	Kevin Wyrauch, Town of Cary	R Curtis Hayes, GoTriangle
Vice Chair(s)	Shavon Tucker, City of Raleigh	Bonnie Parker, CAMPO
Next Meeting	Tues. 5/23, 1:30-3:30pm	Thurs. 5/25, 1:30-3:00pm

- Subcommittee Report – agendas and materials are posted online at least 3 days before each scheduled meeting.
- Kevin Wyrauch noted that the PD committee will not meet in May, but a draft August-January Work Task List will be emailed to members for review and comment prior to the June meeting.
- Curtis Hayes informed the group that GoTriangle will be finalizing materials for the launch of the revised FY24 Work Plan and confirmed that CE will be meeting on May 25.

VIII. Other Business

- Future TPAC Meeting Format: David Eatman discussed a desire and option to begin holding in-person and hybrid meetings at CAMPO. It was noted that Hybrid meetings are a challenge to host and facilitate. Shelby noted that CAMPO meetings the last to months have been held in-person for participation but anyone can tune in and listen. We would have to work through a process to provide a meaningful hybrid option. David suggested 2-4 times per year meeting in person. Tim agreed that in-person meetings aligned with the TPAC activity schedule makes a lot of sense. We don't want to call people together for short, info only agendas. Bryan (Knightdale) likes the number of meetings limited to 2-4 or quarterly, but prefers virtual as the rule to ensure travel time and staff time are not a barrier. Akul (Wake County) echoed Bryan's comment, pointing out that CAMPO's new location makes it harder for some people to drive in. Mike (Zebulon) mirrors Bryan's comments which led to a suggestion to look at moving the meeting around in the future. Curtis echoes a desire to maintain mostly virtual events, he suggests meeting 2x per year to start and making those events strategic to vital TPAC discussions, and then look into adding more meeting in future years. CAMPO staff will look into initial options and we will revisit the topic.
- Tim Gardiner thanked everyone for participating in the vehicle rental fee discussion. The County still has issues with transparency of removal of the Wake Transit regional funds. Plan to continue working with partners on the issue.

IX. Adjourn

The next TPAC meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on June 14th, 2023.

CHAT NOTES:

from Kevin Wyrauch to everyone: 9:34 AM

Kevin Wyrauch, Town of Cary

from Andrew Spiliotis to everyone: 9:34 AM

Andrew Spiliotis, Town of Knightdale

from Nathan Spencer to everyone: 9:38 AM

My email: nathan@wakeupwakecounty.org

from Nathan Spencer to everyone: 9:38 AM

I appreciate that

from Nathan Spencer to everyone: 10:37 AM

There's a lot of support for the BRT project from the FTA thanks to Het and his team!

from Michelle Peele to everyone: 10:45 AM

Fare Workgroup. I can add you Nikki if you would like

from David Walker to everyone: 10:46 AM

Once a quarter sounds good to me for in person meetings.

from Bryan Coates to everyone: 10:46 AM

quarterly in person and then remaining meetings virtual

from Paul Black to everyone: 10:49 AM

And don't forget that VMT reduction is an MTP goal. Virtual meetings have an impact. Lead by example. Just saying.

from Akul Nishawala, AICP to everyone: 10:50 AM

Paul, exactly.

from Jennifer Hayden to everyone: 10:52 AM

Agreed, Paul.

Voting Record:

5/17/23 TPAC Voting Record		Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
Agency/Org	Action Item	Approve the April Minutes	Recommend revised FY24 Revised Wake Transit Work Plan to Governing Boards	Project Groupings & Deliverables	Wake Bus Plan Recommendation of approval
	Motion -> Second ->	Michelle Peele; Jennifer Hayden	Michael Clark; Jennifer Hayden	Shelby Powell; Jennifer Hayden	Jennifer Hayden; David Walker
Apex	Katie Schwing	Y	Y	Y	Y
CAMPO	Chris Lukasina	Y	Y	Y	Y
CAMPO	Shelby Powell	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cary	Christine Sondej	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cary	Kevin Wyrauch	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fuquay-Varina	Alison Wylie	Y	Y	Y	Y
Garner	Jeff Triezenberg	Y	Y	Y	Y
GoTriangle	Michelle Peele	Y	Y	Y	Y
GoTriangle	Jennifer Hayden	Y	Y	Y	Y
Holly Springs					
Knightdale	Andrew Spiliotis	Y	Y	Y	Y
Morrisville	Caleb Allred	Y	Y	Y	Y
NC State University	Andrea Neri	Y	Y	Y	Y
Raleigh	David Eatman	Y	Y	Y	Y
Raleigh	David Walker	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rolesville					
RTP Foundation	Travis Crayton	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wake County	Akul Nishawala	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wake County	Tim Gardiner	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wake Forest	Brad West	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wendell	Bryan Coates	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zebulon	Michael Clark	Y	Y	Y	Y