



# WAKE COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

## Transit Planning Advisory Committee

**TPAC Regular Monthly Meeting • January 23, 2025 • 9:30am-12:00pm**

**VIRTUAL ONLY MEETING:** <https://campo-nc.webex.com/campo-nc/j.php?MTID=m3dda985bdba912aa6b84329974fbff41>  
**Meeting Code:** 2539 907 5747 **Join by Phone:** 1-650-479-3208

### MEETING AGENDA

**1. Welcome and Introductions** (David Eatman, TPAC Vice-Chair)

David thanked the TPAC attendees for their flexibility as we changed from an in-person meeting to a virtual meeting due to this week’s snow fall and continued freezing weather.

1.23.25 TPAC Attendance & Voting Record		PM= Primary Member, VA= Voting Alternate, OA= Other Alternate, MG= Meeting Guest											
Agency/Org	Name	PM	VA	OA	MG	Agency/Org	Name	PM	VA	OA	MG		
Chair/Cary	Kelly Blazey	1				Raleigh	David Eatman	1					
Vice Chair/Apex	Katie Schwing	1				Raleigh	David Walker				1		
CAMPO	Shelby Powell	1				Raleigh	Het Patel		1				
CAMPO	Ben Howell		1			Raleigh	Andrea Epstein			1			
CAMPO	Stephanie Plancich				1	Raleigh	Dana Smith			1			
CAMPO	Steven Mott				1	Raleigh	Rachel Anderson				1		
CAMPO	Suvir Venkatesh				1	Raleigh	Mason Chamblee				1		
CAMPO	Crystal Odom				1	Raleigh	Melanie Rausch				1		
CAMPO	Sarah Williams				1	Raleigh	Taylor Cooleen				1		
Cary	Christine Sondej	1				Raleigh	Andrew Miller				1		
Cary	Mark MacDougall			1		Raleigh	Tierra Hadley				1		
Cary	Matt Cecil				1	Raleigh	Tracey Chandler				1		
Cary	Fabian Rodriguez				1	Raleigh	Gabe Wilkins				1		
Cary	Sheri Legans				1	Raleigh	Sylvia Greer				1		
Fuquay-Varina	Allison Wylie		1			Raleigh	Reese Berman				1		
Garner	Erin Joseph	1				Rolesville	Austin Keefer	1					
GoTriangle	Paul Black	1				RTF	Travis Crayton	1					
GoTriangle	Steven Schlossberg			1		Wake County	Tim Gardiner	1			1		
GoTriangle	R. Curtis Hayes		1			Wake County	Michael James	1			1		
GoTriangle	Paul Kingman				1	Wake County	Nikki Abija				1		
GoTriangle	Kim Johnson				1	Wake County	Anita Davis-Haywood	1					
GoTriangle	Amber Warren				1	Wake Forest	Emma Linn				1		
GoTriangle	Kelley Smith				1	Wake Forest	Brad West	1					
Holly Springs	Chris Garcia	1				Wendell	Bryan Coates				1		
Knightdale	Andrew Spiliotis	1				Wendell	Ryan Birch		1				
Morrisville	Caleb Allred	1				Zebulon	Matt lower	1					
NC State U.	Andrea Neri	1				STV	Eric Lamb				1		

2. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

Stephanie Plancich noted that the agenda posted last week was edited with updated information on Tuesday, 1/21/25 and was reposted online.

3. **General Public or Agency Comment** \_ None

**TPAC ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

4. **2025 TPAC Chair and Vice Chair Election**

(Action Item: Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator, 5 minutes)

Each January, TPAC members elect a Chair and Vice Chair from amongst its primary voting membership to serve for the new calendar year. The TPAC administrator opened nominations for the 2025 term on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Members will review the nominees and elect their leadership team on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Motion** to elect Kelly Blazey (Town of Cary) as the 2025 TPAC Chair and Katie Schwing (Town of Apex) as the TPAC Vice Chair was made by Paul Black. Second by Caleb Allred. David Eatman was thanked for his years of service on the leadership team. He thanked everyone for their support and confirmed he will still be a primary member attending future meetings. Passed.

5. **2025 TPAC Meeting Schedule**

(Action Item: Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator, 5 minutes) **Attachment B**

The TPAC sets its annual meeting schedule at its first meeting of each new year. The recommendation for 2025 is to continue the TPAC's current monthly meeting cycle which is to meet in-person at the CAMPO offices on the third Thursday of each month from 9:30am-12:00pm with notice of any schedule adjustments being made to the membership as soon as possible. The draft 2025 meeting schedule is posted as Attachment B.

**Motion** to adopt continue the current TPAC meeting schedule through 2025 was made by Tim Gardiner. Second by ben Howell. No comments. Passed.

6. **Weighted Voting Structure Update**

(Information Item: Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator, 5 minutes) **Attachment C**

In accordance with the TPAC bylaws, the TPAC's weighted voting structure is updated to reflect state certified population data each year. The 2025 update, Attachment C, reflects the 2023 population estimates published in December by the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM).

**Requested Action:** Receive as information.

7. **Subcommittee Work Task Lists and 2024 Election Results**

(Action Item: Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator, 5 minutes) **Attachment D & E**

The TPAC subcommittees are tasked with electing a Chair and Vice Chair to serve for the upcoming calendar year as well as adopting a 6-month Work Task List. The Community Engagement Subcommittee met on January 16th and the Program Development Subcommittee met on January 21st to review their materials and take action on their 2025 administrative items. Attachment D includes the voting record and summary of the subcommittee action items. Attachment E is the PD January-June Work Task List.

Stephanie Plancich reviewed the discussion and resulting action items with the TPAC. First are the action items taken by the PD Subcommittee.

The Four actions taken by the Program Development Subcommittee are:

1. Elected Caleb Allred (Morrisville) as PD Chair and Tracy Chandler (Raleigh) as Vice Chair.
2. Voted to relax the requirement that members of the PD leadership team must represent a planning background and a budget/Finance background. Instead, any qualified PD member can be eligible to serve so long as both the planning and finance perspectives are represented amongst the membership.
3. Adopted a January-June Work Task List.
4. Adopted a 2025 meeting schedule.

**Motion #1** to endorse the 4 actions taken by the Program Development Subcommittee was made by Andrea Epstein. Second by Austin Keefer. Tim Gardiner commented that the vote to adjust the Chair/Vice Chair eligibility requirements was unanimous but hinged on the membership of the group continuing to have budget and finance representatives to participate in planning and programming discussions.

Stephanie next reviewed the discussion and actions taken by the Community Engagement Subcommittee at its meeting.

1. Elected Tim Gardiner (Wake County) as the CE Chair and Andrew Miller (Raleigh) as Vice Chair.
2. Voted to approve a modified structure, that includes meeting only when there is significant information or action items to be discussed (See Attachment D for more details). The modified structure will continue until a new lead agency for Wake Transit Engagement and Communications activities has been designated and is in place to help lead the subcommittee's activities.

**Motion #2** to endorse the 2 administrative actions taken by the Community Engagement Subcommittee was made by Chris Garcia. Second by Ryan Birch. No comments. Passed

#### **8. Development Progress of the FY2024 Wake Transit Progress Report and ACFR** (Information Item: GoTriangle, 5 minutes)

Paul Black informed TPAC that GoTriangle, especially their finance department, is experiencing significant staff turnover. The hope is that the new CFO, who starts work in February, will take the lead on getting the ACFR and Progress Report finalized and ready for publication. There is no timeline for completion at this time but will include on an upcoming agenda when there is an update to give.

**Requested Action:** Receive as information.

### **PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ITEMS**

#### **9. Application of Vehicle Rental Tax Revenue in Draft FY2026 Work Plan** (Information/Action item: Ben Howell, CAMPO, 15 minutes)

Ben Howell provided the TPAC a brief update on the Wake Transit Conference Committee process and an overview of the budget that has been developed for the draft FY 2026 Work Plan. The draft budget for the Work Plan currently includes no Vehicle Rental Tax Revenue, since there has been no decision from the Wake Transit Conference Committee on the topic, staff are asking the TPAC for guidance.

Ben reminded TPAC that the 2021 Wake Transit adopted financial model does include the Wake County portion of the vehicle rental tax (VRT) revenue. For FY26, that was estimated to be \$5.182M. The Conference Committee agreed to include \$2.258M, about 1/2 of the Wake County portion of VRT revenue in the FY25 Work Plan and agreed to enter mediation to further discuss future year allocations. The first mediation meeting was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>. No agreement was made but an option was presented

that GoTriangle took back to their board for discussion. Since then, 2 of the 7 designated members of the committee are no longer active and need to be replaced. Since no guidance has yet been given by the committee staff is seeking guidance from the TPAC on what to include in the draft FY26 Work Plan.

The question was posed to the Program Development Subcommittee at its meeting, and they discussed the options: include all VRT estimated, provide half as was done in FY25, leave it as \$0 or make some other note. The PD members recommend that staff replace the \$0/zero dollar amounts with a "TBD" reference. Members stated that "Words Matter" and that TBD indicates to the public that a decision has not been made but is forthcoming. They also recognized that the decision made by the PD and TPAC for VRT inclusion in the draft Work Plan is subject to any final decisions made by the Wake Transit Conference Committee.

TPAC members asked if the process changes at all depending on what is recommended today? Ben responded that it does not. If the change is from \$0 to TBD then no change to the model will be needed. It was also asked why we are treating this year different from last year when we are still waiting for more direction from the conference committee. Ben acknowledged that this is part of the reason the question is being asked. The ILA itself is vague, the financial model includes VRT fully, last year we reduced to 50%, so without clear direction the TPAC needs to make a recommendation at least for the draft Work Plan. CAMPO and Wake County believe the funds should stay in the plan until direction is given to remove them. GoTriangle wants the model to reflect \$0, until they are directed to put money back in.

Paul Black let the group know he is busy and has things to do. The PD made a recommendation and unless the TPAC is questioning that recommendation, he doesn't understand why we are having the discussion. Other than it looking ugly in the model, TBD seems to be the middle ground and can save us from wasting working time. Het Patel reiterated his feedback at PD that \$0 says something where TBD informs the public that a decision has yet to be made. He prefers TBD to any number since anything we might write in is subject to change.

Wake County supports, for the Draft Plan, that TBD be included for FY26 and future years, but a number will need to be included in the recommended plan. We expect a conference committee finding before the final recommended budget is published. If the conference committee fails to provide guidance, the TPAC will need to come back and determine a number to include for this year.

Ben shared that the draft Work Plan will go out for public comment on February 25<sup>th</sup> and the recommended would be released in May for Board consideration in June. We have some flexibility with the engagement schedule and can call special TPAC meeting if needed to ensure adoption on time.

**Motion** to endorse the Program Development Subcommittee's recommendation, including notice that the budget will be updated to reflect the findings of the Conference Committee was made by Paul Black. Second by Michael James. No additional discussion. Passed.

## 10. BRT Extensions Concept of Operations Study

(Information item: Ben Howell, CAMPO, 10 minutes)

Ben Howell next provided an update on the BRT Extensions Concept of Operations Study, including background and components of the draft project scope, funded in the FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan. The funding partners have received the draft funding agreement and draft scope for the study, and the CAMPO Executive Board will consider approving the partner funding agreements and project contract and scope at their meeting in February, after which staff will work to execute the partner funding agreements and project contract. The project is expected to kick off in March.

## Background

- BRT Extensions added in to Wake Transit Plan in 2021 Update
- BRT Extensions Major Investment Study (MIS) completed in 2022
- MIS recommended several “next steps” to move BRT Extensions project(s) forward
- Wake Transit funded the BRT Extensions Concept of Operations Study in FY 2025 Work Plan to accomplish the next steps
  - At conclusion of Concept of Operations Study, BRT Extensions will be able to move into Engineering/Design Phase
  - BRT Extensions expected to receive \$100 Million in NCDOT STIP funding
- Staff has been working with NelsonNygaard to develop scope for Concept of Operations Study



At the conclusion of this study the projects would be ready to move into engineering/design phase, have a project sponsor and have more design guidance. We anticipate receiving STIP funding to support these projects. STIP confirmation/adoption will occur later in 2025.

The project has a 9-month timeline for the study. There will be a CTT and Project management team supporting the planning process. First step will be to review and finalize BRT Guidelines originally put together by the City of Raleigh, then we will go into scenario analysis (3 for each corridor), a detailed operating and capital investment plan will be drafted, the funding and implementation plan including the concurrence plan will be produced and a final Concept of Operation Report will be published.

Received as information.

### 11. FY2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Wake Transit Work Plan Amendment Requests

(Action Item: Steven Mott, CAMPO, 15 minutes) **Attachment G**

Eight (8) Wake Transit Work Plan amendment requests were submitted for consideration in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY2025. Documentation, including more information on the nature of each request, is provided in the FY 2025 Q3 Wake Transit Work Plan Amendments Request Packet (Attachment G).

Per the Wake Transit Work Plan Amendment Policy, the TPAC’s Program Development (PD) Subcommittee met on December 17<sup>th</sup> to review the amendment requests, to determine the appropriateness of changes in scope, the scope of new projects and potential financial impacts. Members unanimously voted to move the eight (8) requested amendments forward for TPAC consideration. Since the PD meeting, Wake County has requested to amend one of their amendment requests for vehicle replacements, lessening the amount of the request by \$29,239 with the removal of a non-revenue vehicle. Information on this requested modification is included in the packet, along with an updated and original financial disposition showing the difference between the requests, as well as the financial impact from all of the collective amendment requests.

A memo and disposition that details the action taken by the PD Subcommittee for these amendment requests and the engagement summary from the December 9, 2024 to January 10, 2025 public comment period is included in Attachment G.

**Motion** to recommend approval of the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Wake Transit Work Plan amendment requests to the Wake Transit governing boards was made by Shelby Powell. Second by Paul Black. No comments. Passed.

## 12. BRT Construction Contracts Update

(Information item: Het Patel, Raleigh, 10 minutes)

On January 7, 2025, Raleigh City Council took action to reject a single bid received for construction of the linear horizontal component of Wake BRT New Bern Avenue project. This advertisement focused on the linear horizontal roadway component of the project after the City of Raleigh decided to separate the linear work from the vertical station work of construction activities in the fall of 2024. The single bid received was approximately 60% over the engineer's estimate.

City staff are hosting another industry day event for interested contractors on January 27, 2025. They want to vet their plan for re-advertising the project to hear from contractors about their concerns and suggestions on how the City can make the project more attractive. Increasing staff understanding and ultimately mitigating the perceived risk they have is the purpose of the event. Ultimately, they are working to get some construction activities underway this year.

**Requested Action:** Receive as information.

## 13. Wake Transit Supported Microtransit Services Update

(Informational Item: 10-15 minutes each presentation)

The archived TPAC presentation includes the information presented by each of the 4 service providers/partners with contact information as needed.

a. **Morrisville Smart Shuttle** (Caleb Allred, Morrisville)

- i. Launched in October 2021, it is an on-demand, app based, microtransit service connecting 18 nodes. They operate 7 days week. They track extensive performance data. View trends and ridership data in the meeting slides. Ridership is strong but can fluctuate, average time to pick up is 28 minutes, vehicles are always moving, adjustments to the service have improved efficiency, and they find that shopping centers and public facilities are more popular transit drivers than business centers and office parks.

b. **NE Wake Smart Ride** (Bryan Coates, Wendell)

- i. Operated by GoWake in partnership with the NE Wake County communities of Wendell, Zebulon and Knightdale. It is a real-time, on-demand, M-F service that operates within a geofence zone. The service was first piloted using Federal grant funds, and Wake Transit later was asked to support continued service in NE Wake County. The original service has evolved and has been adjusted to best meet community needs. Rolesville is now served with a new GoRaleigh "Microlink" service and Knightdale has been added to the Smart Ride service. Extensive community engagement was conducted to establish the current service parameters. Early challenges providing service to students was resolved by working with local high schools and implementing an application process. View the slides to see ridership and other performance information. It was presented that app use amongst riders was low, 30%. When asked, Bryan explained that a majority of riders are seniors who call in their ride requests. To wrap up, Bryan shared that staff are already considering options to add vehicles and serving more places due to the high ridership.

c. **GoWake Forest** (Emma Linn, Wake Forest)

- i. Wake Forest formerly had a circulator, fixed-route, bus service. In 2023, the Town adopted an updated transit plan which led to the shift from fixed-route service to a door-to-door, on-

demand microtransit service operating Monday-Saturday. The entire town and some surrounding areas are in the service zone. They provide an interactive map to help riders trip plan. The service is only a few months old and is considered a pilot but ridership, cost and other performance data is very positive and shows consistent improvement over the old service. Is running the service until 10pm+ proving to be needed? There are riders, but we expect overall usage to grow as the service becomes more well known. Busy times seem to be mornings and around the lunch hour, ridership drops in afternoon peak period but then rebounds some in the evening. What is your current cost per hour? Around \$19, but the loop was costing nearly \$80, so there is a significant drop in cost. We anticipate the cost dropping further when another vehicle is added and more rider requests can be met.

d. **GoRaleigh Microlink** (Melanie Rausch, Raleigh)

- i. Also a new service, launched in September 2024 with a “maiden voyage” event with town leadership and key stakeholders in the planning process. Like GoWake Forest, they use the Via ride booking system. This service runs M-F, 7am-6pm. It connects with GoWake Forest and the WRX route. It is a curb-to-curb service, which is a level of accommodation between door-to-door and Node-to-node. They are running 2 vehicles right now. There is significant overlap of the Rolesville and Wake Forest service areas. To date, over 70% of Microlink rides either start or end in the Wake Forest zone. Staff are watching and will see if there are future opportunities for enhanced service coordination. Raleigh has been pushing digital and print marketing for the service with targeted effort to reach people in the geofence service zone. To date, 100% on time performance, just over 1000 rides given, average wait is only 10 minutes.

Question for Raleigh and Wake Forest, what is the pilot period that Via proposes for new microtransit services? Melanie noted that she believes that the standard 18-month period is adequate to let the service mature and to evaluate it for overall effectiveness. She noted that they are referring to it as a pilot less to let it mature and more because it is being offered as a free service until it can be integrated in with the rest of GoRaleigh’s service structure.

Emma responded that they are using the pilot period to build the service and to make any necessary adjustments that may be needed. She did not think they had a set time period in mind, but thinks 18-months is a good guide.

**14. TPAC Subcommittee Update**

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

Subcommittee	Program Development	Community Engagement
Chair	Caleb Allred, Morrisville	Tim Gardiner, Wake County
Vice Chair	Tracy Chandler, City of Raleigh	Andrew Miller, City of Raleigh
Next Meeting	Tues. 2/25, 1:30-3:30pm	Thurs. 2/27, 1:30-3:00pm

Caleb and Tim both noted that Stephanie covered their business items in the earlier agenda item. Caleb thanked Shavon Tucker for her years of service to PD and other TPAC subcommittee leadership teams. Similarly, Tim recognized Curtis and Andrea, the outgoing CE leadership team and noted that the February meeting listed will be kept or cancelled based on this month’s needs of the group.

**15. Workgroup Updates**

## 15. Workgroup Updates

Stephanie Plancich and Kelly Blazey noted that updated ID worksheets are needed for some of the longest standing workgroups. The Cabinet will be discussing what is needed shortly and any new materials will be presented to the TPAC.

- Fare Workgroup ([sschlossberg@gotriangle.org](mailto:sschlossberg@gotriangle.org))
  - Next meeting TBD
- Technology Workgroup ([astanion@gotriangle.org](mailto:astanion@gotriangle.org))
  - Next meeting Thursday 2/6 @ 10:00am
- Financial Policies Workgroup ([pkingman@gotriangle.org](mailto:pkingman@gotriangle.org))
  - Next Meeting TBD
- Baseline Funding Workgroup ([ben.howell@campo-nc.us](mailto:ben.howell@campo-nc.us))
  - Next meeting on 1/29 @ 2:00pm
- Safety & Security Workgroup ([steven.mott@campo-nc.us](mailto:steven.mott@campo-nc.us))
  - Next meeting on 1/29 @ 3:00pm

## 16. Other Business

- CAMPO staff are requesting that partners help push the 2035 Wake Transit Plan Update, Phase 2 survey out through the end of the month. 4 video reels have been made available on the project webpage. Please share through your department channels, ask your board members to share it out to constituents, etc. Active engagement ends on January 31<sup>st</sup>. <https://publicinput.com/WakeTransit2035>
- Raleigh staff provided an overview of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of GoRaleigh transit services.
- Any other news or business to share?

## 17. Adjourn

The next TPAC meeting is scheduled to be held IN-PERSON at CAMPO Wednesday, February 20, 2025.

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