



# WAKE COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

## Transit Planning Advisory Committee

TPAC Regular Monthly Meeting via WebEx • February 20, 2025 • 9:30am

### MEETING MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions (Kelly Blazey, TPAC Chair)

Members and guests were welcomed to the February TPAC meeting which, due to a snowstorm, was changed to a virtual only meeting. Kelly conducted a role call of today's voting members.

2.20.25 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	Andrew Miller	-		1	
CAMPO	Ben Howell		1			Raleigh	Andrea Epstein			1	
CAMPO	Stephanie Plancich				1	Raleigh	Dana Smith			1	
CAMPO	Steven Mott				1	Raleigh	Shavon Tucker			1	
CAMPO	Suvir Venkatesh				1	Raleigh	Tracey Chandler			1	
CAMPO	Crystal Odom				1	Raleigh	Rachel Anderson				1
CAMPO	Sarah Williams				1	Raleigh	Mason Chamblee				1
Cary	Christine Sodej	1				Raleigh	Taylor Cooleen				1
Cary	Mark MacDougall			1		Raleigh	Gabe Wilkins				1
Cary	Matt Cecil				1	Raleigh	Sylvia Greer				1
Cary	Fabian Rodriguez				1	Raleigh	Reese Berman				1
Cary	Sheri Legans				1	Raleigh	Janice Copeland				1
Garner	Erin Joseph	1				Rolesville					
Garner	Jeff Triezenberg			1		RTF	Anne Calef	1			
GoTriangle	Paul Black	1				Wake County	Tim Gardiner	1			
GoTriangle	R. Curtis Hayes		1			Wake County	Michael James	1			
GoTriangle	Meg Scully			1		Wake County	Nikki Abija				1
GoTriangle	Steven Schlossberg			1		Wake County	Anita Davis-Haywood	1			
GoTriangle	Kim Johnson				1	Wake Forest	Emma Linn				1
GoTriangle	Austin Stanion				1	Wake Forest	Brad West	1			
GoTriangle	Paul Kingman				1	Wendell	Bryan Coates				1
Holly Springs	Chris Garcia	1				Guest	Jenn Truman				1
Knightdale	Andrew Spiliotis	1				AECOM	Nathan Spencer				1
Morrisville	Caleb Allred	1				Raleigh TDA	Mark Tiege				1
NC State Univ.	Andrea Neri	1									

#### 2. Adjustments to the Agenda (Kelly Blazey, TPAC Chair) – None

### 3. **General Public or Agency Comment** (Kelly Blazey, TPAC Chair)

Nathan Spencer, AECOM, reported a recent conversation with Congressman Rouser, Chairman of the Transit and Highway Subcommittee for the US House and also a North Carolina congressman from Fayetteville. Members of the House are planning to pursue reauthorization this year instead of waiting for 2026 on the surface bill. There's an interest to reduce discretionary grants and focusing more on formula funding. The topic of limited funding came up quite a bit. Best guess right now is that we're looking at very few grants, maybe a courtesy bump in formula funding to what pre-infrastructure bill amounts and earmarks for us. He did confirm that obligated funds, where you have a contract in place, are expected to be safe. However, if there's no contract, just a promise, those funds are in jeopardy. It is unexpected to have those funds available, so I thought that that's information that this body could use if you want more details or more in depth on that conversation, please reach out to me as always. I appreciate all that the TPAC continues to do.

The group thanked Nathan for the update.

From Chat:

Michael James - Wake County 2/20/2025 9:39 AM •

Thanks Nathan for joining to share.

Nathan Spencer - AECOM 2/20/2025 9:41 AM •

If you want to reach out directly:

Nathan Spencer

919-589-3501

[nathan.spencer@aecom.com](mailto:nathan.spencer@aecom.com)

## TPAC ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### 4. **TPAC Meeting Minutes**

(Action Item: Kelly Blazey, TPAC Chair, 5 minutes) **Attachment A & B**

**Motion** to adopt the December 2024 and January 2025 TPAC meeting minutes made by Caleb Allred. Second by David Walker. No Comments. Passed.

### 5. **Member Survey to Modify TPAC Meeting Time**

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

After discussion of recent and upcoming TPAC meeting agenda needs, it has been recommended that the TPAC meeting period held on member calendars be increased to 3 hours. Stephanie created a menti.com poll to gather feedback from the TPAC members on their preference for the change. Two options were presented; to start 30 minutes early at 9:00am, or extend the meeting to 12:30pm. Over 30 people answered each question.

Discussion included a concern that if we extend the time allotted, discussion will be extended to fill the space. Kelly assured the members that this adjustment is for the rare meetings where we may need longer time to facilitate discussion. It is always the goal of the Cabinet to keep meetings short and focused. The Menti poll results from 35 members confirmed a preference to start the meetings at 9:00am. Stephanie will make the change and send out revised TPAC meeting invitations.

Margaret Scully 2/20/2025 9:45 AM •

I encourage the group to reduce need for meetings.

2/20/2025 9:46 AM •

Meetings tend to grow into the time allocated. So minimizing length of meeting time and tightening schedule helps/

Margaret Scully 2/20/2025 10:05 AM •

Steven, in the Expenditures Slide, would it be possible to note which community benefits from the funding? Project sponsor is important but doesn't tell the full story.

2/20/2025 10:05 AM •

For example, GoT receives funding for projects that actually are implemented with some of the jurisdictions.

2/20/2025 10:05 AM •

For example, GoT receives funding for projects that actually are implemented with some of the jurisdictions.

**Requested Action:** Log in to the polling site and participate in a 4-question survey to provide input on options to modify the TPAC meeting schedule.

## **PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ITEMS**

### **6. Draft FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan: Review and Release**

(Action item: Steven Mott, CAMPO & Steve Schlossberg, GoTriangle, 30 minutes) **Attachment C**

TPAC and its assigned lead agencies are responsible for the development of all components of the annual Wake Transit Work Plan. CAMPO staff will provide an overview of the draft FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan, and GoTriangle staff will provide an overview of the supporting financial information. The TPAC review copy of the draft Work Plan was shared three weeks in advance of this meeting and an updated draft is provided as Attachment C. Included in the draft is the proposed Annual Operating Budget, Annual Capital Budget, Multi-Year Operating Program, Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan, as well as an update to the Wake Transit Financial Plan and financial model assumptions. The TPAC will review and discuss the draft FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan and consider authorizing staff to publish it for public review and comment.

Steven Mott opened with an overview of the Work Plan adoption schedule and pointed out that an updated version of the review document was posted and will be archived with the agenda packet and made available for public comment. No major changes were made only minor corrections. Then he introduced Steve Schlossberg with the Tax District to review the financial assumptions reflected in the draft. Steve pointed out that Wake County's revenue assumptions follow the trends reported by the Federal reserve more than most areas, even Mecklenburg County. We tend to match the ups and downs more closely mainly due to lower refunds given to various businesses and non-profit organizations.

The Federal assumptions are released about 2 months before we get Wake Transit actuals in, so the Tax District (TDA) can use the Federal data to help right size our local revenue assumptions. The growth rates seen in the past couple of years of 9+%, are likely over and we are seeing a settling of growth at a more normal range of 3-4%.

FY2024 actuals are coming in around \$137M, the FY2025 budget was at \$135M, and what we are proposing for FY2026 is \$140M. This is conservative but not needlessly so based on recent data. On outstanding

questions is about how much VRT may be allocated to this year's budget. Right now it is listed as TBD, but we hope to have a number before the recommended Work Plan is made public.

Based on current funding request it look like we will be contributing some funds TO fund balance, where last year we pulled FROM fund balance to cover project costs. In general breakdown Operations c=takes the largest percent, followed by infrastructure and then BRT projects. The rest of the expenditures including administration costs make up the balance.

Members asked if there is a way in the budge tot see which community is receiving the benefit of the funding. Answer is not directly, but all of the details for each expenditure with project sheets are in the Work Plan and attached packet for review. It was also noted that project sponsor doesn't tell the whole story. Just because Raleigh and GoTriangle receive the funds, it is likely that one or more communities are actually benefiting from the improved or expanded services. It was asked of staff to consider a way to note the communities serviced or benefited with the allocations in some way. Steven Mott and CAMPO team will look into it.

Next Steven reviewed the drat document by section, discussing the applications proposed to receive funding under both the Operating and Capital budgets. Narrative information was updated to address Commuter Rail (which will not be removed until next year, after the updated Wake Transit Plan is adopted) and explain the VRT notation. He walked members through the components of a project worksheet to increase familiarity and readability of the over 200-page document.

Steven reminded members that request for changes to funding requests and any new requests are due for the recommended no later than March 25<sup>th</sup>. He then asked for approval to release the draft for public review.

**Motion** to release the draft FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan for a 30-day public comment period made by Tim Gardiner. Second by Caleb Allred. No additional comments. Passed

**Stephanie conducted the roll call vote** – both items passed unanimously.

## **7. Draft FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan: Engagement Strategy** (Information item: Curtis Hayes, GoTriangle, 10 minutes) **Attachment D**

Curtis Hayes provided an overview of the communications materials, survey, and engagement strategy for the Draft FY 2026 Wake Transit Work Plan community review and public comment period, which is scheduled for February 25 – March 28, 2025. Wake Transit partners will be asked to participate in helping spread the word in their communities to promote overall saturation of the message throughout Wake County. Please contact [rhayes@gotriangle.org](mailto:rhayes@gotriangle.org) with any questions or concerns.

The primary message for the draft is a review of what Wake transit is – an investment strategy and the Work Plan is our annual budget for transit projects and planning efforts. The materials drafted for use will pique community interest, increase awareness and hopefully lead to engagement with the draft plan. All materials are being placed in the partner toolkit and members are encouraged to use them to create their own social posts, news releases, or notices in council member agenda packets. We need partner help to get the word out. GoTriangle is trying a new social media strategy with 2-3 posts per week, targeted advertising and a budget of \$5500 for the draft review period. They report on how it goes in the summary report. CE members will receive the materials via email in the next couple of days. Another thing being tried this time is a feedback form instead of a comment box. The form includes a cope of questions related to the draft plan. We are looking forward to seeing how it is received and used. Curtis asked members to help him finalize the

list if in-person tabling events noting which communities he has yet to hear from. He will be reaching out asap.

Members asked about the timing of the materials creation and draft review opportunities. Curits confirmed that the typical schedule where CE reviews and signs off before the TPAC receives the drafts was disrupted this year. The materials were not ready early enough to make that happen, but there was a lot of vetting done between CAMPO and GoTriangle in putting them together.

Members also commented that they see several things that would need to be adjusted before the materials are ready to go public and the 1-day turnaround time is not adequate. More review and editing is needed so more time is needed. Curits referred to Stephanie, TPAC Administrator, who confirmed that the engagement could be pushed out a few more days to allow GoTriangle enough time to process comments received from TPAC members, but it could not be extended by weeks or the time line to get the recommended out for review on the back end would become a significant challenge.

TPAC members were asked to submit feedback by end of day Friday, tomorrow. Members were asked to focus on the flyers, social media plan and press release. The start date of the comment period would be pushed to accommodate this request. The action above to release the Work Plan for public review stands since it did not specify a date, just that it would go out for 30-days in alignment with our engagement policy.

Received as information.

#### 8. 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, Town of 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

The PD Subcommittee Monthly Report is attached and Attachment S.

The CE meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> will include discussion of the Work Plan materials. That is where they'll be finalized for release, based on today's discussion, so all TPAC members are encouraged to attend.

#### 9. Workgroup Updates

- Technology Workgroup ([astanion@gotriangle.org](mailto:astanion@gotriangle.org))
  - Next meeting Thursday 2/21 @ 1:00pm
- Fare Workgroup ([sschlossberg@gotriangle.org](mailto:sschlossberg@gotriangle.org))
  - Next meeting TBD
- 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 TBD
- Safety & Security Workgroup ([steven.mott@campo-nc.us](mailto:steven.mott@campo-nc.us))
  - Next meeting on 3/26 @ 3:00pm

## **10. Lead Agency Updates and Other Business**

- Two Wake Transit Work Plan deadlines are coming soon. Contact [steven.mott@campo-nc.us](mailto:steven.mott@campo-nc.us) with any questions and for submission support.
  - Deadline for FY25/4<sup>th</sup> quarter amendment requests is tomorrow, February 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Deadline for FY26 Work Plan request modifications is March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- TPAC partners are encouraged to join the February 27<sup>th</sup> CE meeting to hear an overview of Wake Transit Plan Update Phase 2 engagement results and to receive the draft engagement strategy for Phase 3.
- Wake Transit Conference Committee progress update. Ben Howell notified the TPAC that the GoTriangle Board of Trustees, at its January meeting, suggested that the conference committee be paused and instead meetings between the executives of Wake County (David Ellis), CAMPO (Chris Lukasina) and GoTriangle (Interim, Byron Smith) meet to discuss VRT resolution options. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting has been scheduled.
- GoTriangle has hired their Chief Financial Officer, Michelle Jeng.
- Save the date: **Wake Transit 101** for TPAC members, Boards and Councils, April 30, 2025 (1:30-4:30pm).
- The FY25/2<sup>nd</sup> quarter progress report has been posted to the Wake Transit SharePoint site.

## **11. Adjourn**

The next TPAC meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025.