



MINUTES

TPAC Chair: Kelly Blazey (Town of Cary)

Vice Chair: Katie Schwing (Town of Apex)

Wake County Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC)

Thursday, January 22, 2026 • 9:00am

In-person at CAMPO: 1 Fenton Main, Ste 201, Cary NC 27511 with Listen ONLY [Webex Link](#) provided.

TPAC MEETING Minutes

- 1. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions** Kelly Blazey, TPAC Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting and conducted introductions.

1/22/26 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 Walker	1			
Vice Chair/Apex	Katie Schwing	1				Raleigh	Het Patel	1			
CAMPO	Shelby Powell	1				Raleigh	Andrew Miller			1	
CAMPO	Ben Howell	1				Raleigh	Taylor Cooleen				1
CAMPO	Stephanie Plancich				1	RTF	Anne Calef		1		
CAMPO	Steven Mott				1	Wake County	Tim Gardiner	1			
CAMPO	Suvir Venkatesh				1	Wake County	Akul Nishawala		1		
CAMPO	Daniel Spruil				1	Wake Forest	Emma Linn	1			
CAMPO	Sarah Keach				1	Wendell	Kevin McCarthy	1			
Cary	Mark Eatman			1		Zebulon	Cate Farrell	1			
Fuquay-Varina	Allison Wylie		1								
Garner	Julien Griffiee		1			Online Guests					
GoTriangle	Paul Black	1				Raleigh	Andrea Epstein				
GoTriangle	Jason Hardin	1				Raleigh	Melanie Rausch				
GoTriangle/TDA	Steve Schlossberg				1	Raleigh	Reese Berman				
GoTriangle/TDA	Paul Kingman				1	Raleigh	Rachel Anderson				
Holly Springs	Chris Garcia	1				Raleigh	Tracy Chandler				
Knightdale	Tucker Fulle	1				Cary	Sheri Legans				
Morrisville	Bret Martin		1			Cary	Christine Sondej				
Morrisville	Phillip Vereen			1		GoTriangle	Kelley Smith				
NC State Univ.	Andrea Neri	1									

- 2. Adjustments to the Agenda** – Austin Stanion asked to change his Regional Technology Plan item from Action to Information. Will return next month for action.

- 3. General Public or Agency Comment** - none

CONSENT AGENDA

- 4. Consent Agenda:**
Items listed on the consent agenda are considered as a single motion. Any voting member of the TPAC may request an item be removed from consent and acted upon as a separate motion in the regular agenda.

a. Adopt the December 18, 2025 TPAC Meeting Minutes

Contact: Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator

Attachments: Summary Report, Draft December TPAC Minutes

~~b. Receive the 2026 Weighted Voting Structure~~ Moved to item #5

Contact: Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator

Attachments: Summary Report, 2026 Weighted Voting Structure

c. Endorse 2026 January-June Subcommittee Work Task Lists and Election Results

Contact: Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator

Attachments: Summary Report, Program Development (PD) Work Task List, and Community Engagement (CE) Subcommittee Work Task List

Action: TPAC requested item B, be moved to agenda item #5 for discussion.

Vote to approve the consent agenda items A and C made by Het Patel. Second by Bret Martin.

Passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Any Items removed from Consent Agenda

Kelly Blazey, TPAC Chair • 1 minute

2026 Weighted Voting Structure - moved from consent to action item by Bret Martin.

Contact: Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator

Attachments: Summary Report, 2026 Weighted Voting Structure

Discussion: TPAC requests correction to vote total in columns for Wake Forest. Stephanie will edit the structure to assign their votes to the population column and remove the vote from the fixed-route funding column. Total vote remains at 2 for the town. Fuquay-Varina commented their number seems low despite it being the published total from OSBM. Allison Wylie confirmed the total was correct after the meeting.

Action: Vote to approve the structure with requested change to Wake Forest vote count made by Bret Martin. Second by David Walker. Passed unanimously.

6. Election of TPAC Chair and Vice Chair

Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator • 5 minutes

Summary: Nominations for the 2026 TPAC Chair and Vice Chair opened at the December 18th TPAC meeting. Kelly Blazey and Katie Schwing have both been nominated to retain their current positions. No other nominations were received.

Attachments: Summary Report

Discussion: None

Action: Vote to elect Kelly Blazey(Cary) as TPAC Chair and Katie Schwing (Apex) Vice Chair for the 2026 term made by David Walker. Second by Paul Black. Passed unanimously.

7. Set the 2026 TPAC Meeting Schedule

Stephanie Plancich, TPAC Administrator • 5 minutes

Summary: The current schedule is to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 9:00am. It has been proposed and is recommended to shift the start time to 9:30am.

Attachments: Summary Report, 2026 TPAC Meeting Schedule

Discussion: Members supported moving to the new start time of 9:30 and prefer that the calendar invitation still hold a 3 hour time slot for planning purposes. Stephanie will cancel current calendar invitation and create a new one for 9:30-12:30 on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Action: Vote to set the TPAC's 2026 meeting schedule on 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:30am-12:30pm with understanding that staff and chairs will make effort to keep meetings as short as is possible for materials that need to be presented made by Paul Black. Second by Emma Linn. Passed unanimously.

8. Consideration of GoRaleigh's Route 10 Funding Request

Steven Mott, CAMPO • 15 minutes

Summary: The City of Raleigh presented on their FY27 Work Plan funding requests to PD in December. One project, funding for Rt. 10 frequency improvements, was removed from the project list but is being requested to be re-added.

Attachments: Summary Report, SRTP Project Sheet, FY27 Funding Request Form, Request Letter to TPAC, Slide deck from 12/16/25 PD presentation

Discussion: There was some discussion and concern about the proposed route alignment changes shared as part of the presentation and the TPAC asked for clarification about what frequency changes are being planned and what is expected for FY27 implementation.

The GoRaleigh Short Range Transit Plan recommends implementing the planned alignment change (in red) and some service improvement and expansion in FY27. Current and proposed service changes are included on the slide.

Members who ride the route commented that the proposed realignment is making a "weird change" that "makes no sense" due to high ridership locations

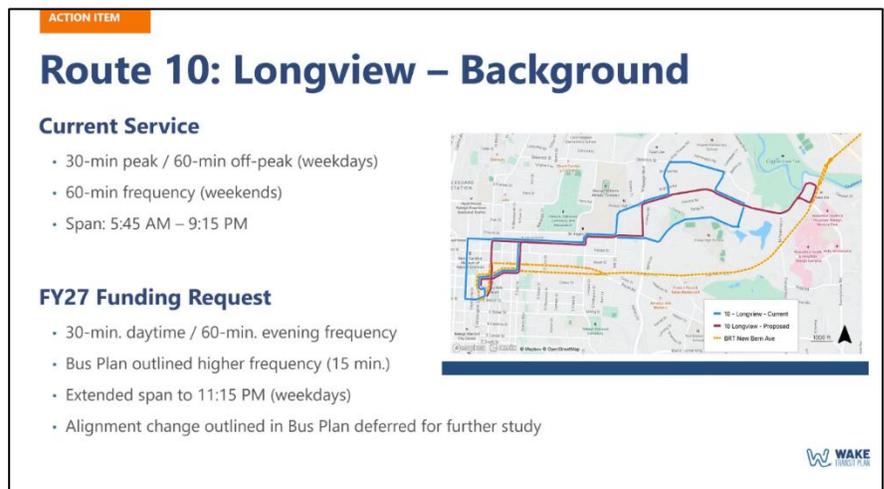
and no BRT in place. TPAC members are interested in being kept in the loop on where the final alignment ends up. David replied that in the past agencies have had the flexibility to be responsive to current conditions when finalizing their route alignments. That they did not have to come back to PD or TPAC for any type of approval unless there was a major change. TPAC members were ok with allowing those minor changes to happen at the agency level, especially since service changes go through an FTA approved public engagement process. This change doesn't have a Wake Transit cost impact.

Action: Vote to recommend inclusion of the funding requested for Route 10 service frequency expansion in the FY27 Wake Transit Work Plan as shown on the slide above made by Paul Black. Second by Bret Martin. Passed unanimously.

9. FY 2026 3rd Quarter Wake Transit Work Plan Amendment Requests

Suvir Venkatesh, CAMPO • 30 minutes

Summary: The TPAC will review the PD recommended, 3rd quarter amendment requests as well as any new information and feedback collected during the 30-day engagement period (Dec. 10-Jan. 10) and will make a final recommendation for approval to the governing boards.



Attachments: Summary Report, 2026 TPAC Meeting Schedule

Discussion: TPAC is worried that the Knightdale amendment request is setting a precedent that is unfair to other CFAP partners and defeats protections put in place for the Wake Transit program. Their funding increase is significantly over the established 50% cap. Suvir noted that the Town applied for a funding increase first in FY25, prior to new 50% cap rule being in place. The timing was perfect and their action is not against policy, but TPAC questions the ethics of it within the scope of the Wake Transit program. TPAC suggests that PD Subcommittee look at this situation and discuss fairness and to look at ways to manage piecemealed funding requests. Example, request 49.99% now, then another 30% later, etc. May need to look at total budget increase limits through life of project. Members noted that this would be a good PD discussion for recommendation since the updated CFA PMP doesn't cover these issues completely.

Action: Vote to recommend governing board approval of requested FY 2026 3rd quarter Wake Transit Work Plan amendment requests made by Het Patel. Second by Paul Black. Passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Regional Transit Technology Plan

Austin Stanion, GoTriangle • 30 minutes

Summary: The Regional Transit Technology Plan completed public engagement in September 2025. The draft has been edited and a final draft prepared. In January, TPAC will receive a presentation of the compiled report and will be asked to recommend adoption to the Wake Transit governing boards so results of the study can start to be implemented in FY27.

Attachments: Summary Report, Draft Regional Technology Plan

Discussion: Regional Technology Plan consultant work has been completed. Each of the 6 project topic areas have been built out with information about challenges, opportunities and recommendations. Budget implications are published for the investment topics. Austin shared a table of cost breakdown by the 6 topics areas/chapters as well as by potential funding partner. Total 5-year cost to Wake Transit if all recommendations are completed would range from \$11.8-15.6M.

Staff comment deadline has closed but if partners have any last-minute questions or concerns please reach out to Austin right away. TPAC will vote to recommend the Plan in February and the Wake Transit and other transit plan governing boards will consider adoption in March.

Underway now too, is implementation planning. How can the plan be incorporated into the FY27 and future Work Plans.

Members concurred that the Plan, as it is, is a recommendation and reference document to inform future technology investments. There is much more to figure out before projects get funded. The Technology Plan is not a year by year or other specific strategy for funding any specific investments, the implementation plan will help get us to that point. It was made clear that adopting the plan does not mean we are recommending any financials or investment decisions, just the Plan itself. Essentially, The Technology Plan and implementation plan would act similarly to the Wake Transit Plan and Bus Plan. One provides guidance, sets goals and prioritizes investments and the subsequent planning effort details specific projects/platform and budgets to be funded in the Work Plan.

Members asked what the strategy for developing an implementation plan is. Austin responded that the planning group will largely be the project management team from the plan development process but if others are interested, reach out to him directly. He noted that some of the recommendations will take more effort than others to figure out funding and timing for. The process will help identify low-hanging fruit and provide a roadmap for project selection as well as funds in the model over the 5-year period. Austin will focus on the project selection and prioritization part and let the funding decisions follow.

Overall, members support the draft Regional Technology Plan as a reference document to inform further planning discussions. They find the new budget info hard to digest. It was requested that a “cheat sheet” of some kind be provided that details what investments make up the total amount of costs presented. Ex. Breakdown the GoCary estimate under each of the 6 chapters into the specific types of projects that make up the total. Austin will bring that to the February meeting.

11. FY 2025 Unaudited Progress Report

Steve Schlossberg, TDA • 10 minutes

Summary: GoTriangle/TDA staff have compiled the FY25 end of year unaudited financial report, that will be considered this year’s annual progress report. Staff will share the results noting that the audited final report is anticipated in Spring 2026.

Attachments: Summary Report, FY25 ACFR Schedule

Discussion: Previous years, the financials were due to be submitted for audit by October 31st. Due to the 2025 43-day government shut down, the NCLGC has extended the deadline out 43 days to February 12, 2026. GoTriangle/TDA is on track to submit by that date. It moves the timeline for annual report submission to Wake Transit partners out from the December 15th date to the Spring. FY25 budget was \$153.4M, actuals came in at \$186.4M, ~ \$33M variance. Was a good year for the program.

After reviewing FY25 expenditure totals, TPAC asked to see more historical data on how capital projects/project types over time have been funded and how those funds are being expended over time. Bus stops was used as an example. They want to see what has been allocated in previous years, to determine if there is a need to allocate more in the next year. If funds are not being spent, or are taking longer to spend, we may not want to keep contributing funds to the project annually.

Steven Mott noted that at PD on 1/27, the annual review processes, including the expenditure review, are scheduled to be discussed for process improvements that get at these comments made by TPAC today. That will be a good venue for continuing this discussion.

12. FY 2026, Quarter 1 Unaudited Financial Results

Steve Schlossberg, TDA • 10 minutes

Summary: Starting with the 1st quarter of FY26, TDA staff will provide TPAC with quarterly overview information regarding Wake Transit’s financial status in the form of an unaudited results summary.

Attachments: Summary Report

Discussion: Cash balance is \$791M, \$550 of which is allocated or programmed to projects. TPAC asked if any reimbursement requests are still waiting to be submitted and/pr approved. Steve responded that all Q1 requests have been processed.

13. Update on Strategic Regional Rail Infrastructure Investment Study

Daniel Spruil, CAMPO • 30 minutes

Summary: TPAC will receive the results from the Triangle Strategic Regional Rail Infrastructure Investment Study meant to guide rail ready investments funded through the Wake Transit program.

Attachments: Summary Report, CAMPO TWTPO Triangle Rail Study Compiled, Triangle Rail Project Attribute Matrix, and TSC Comment Resolution Matix

Discussion: TPAC asked if the decision tree presented is more about federal and state funding competitiveness and less about local network prioritization. Members noted that new stations seem to be ranked high, where sidings are low even though local/regional study to date has identified sidings as a major barrier to any rail system growth. Daniel noted that is a fair statement and commented that grade crossings are much easier to get funded through SPOT than a sidings project. The decision tree is very much focused on ways in which we can leverage state and local funds to attract the most federal money to our community. That does not mean that

It was also noted that Wake Transit was considered in the study, but what Wake Transit wants and needs was not a priority. What the region needs to improve rail services was the focus. Wake Transit now needs to have more discussion about how to invest its rail set aside funds to meet more local rail ready objectives, at least with what hasn't been allocated to NCDOT in previous action. TPAC noted that some lead agency, maybe CAMPO, should request Wake Transit funding to do the additional study that is needed to set Wake Transit rail investment priorities and address other rail questions outstanding from this broad regional rail information. TPAC asked if the additional study is included in the CAMPO FY27 UPWP. Shelby Powell responded that nothing is included currently.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. Subcommittee Chair Report

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>

Emma – Thanked everyone for attending and participating in the last, long meeting

Tim – Meeting on 1/29 will include discussion of Work Plan engagement funding requests.

Next Program Development (PD) Meeting: Tuesday, 1/27/26 at 1:30pm

Next Community Engagement (CE) Meeting: Thursday, 1/29/26 at 1:30pm

15. Workgroup Updates

Regional Technology | Fares Workgroup | Financial Policies | Baseline Funding

Fare Workgroup meets tomorrow, Financial Policies Workgroup will be setting up a meeting in February/March

16. CAMPO Lead Agency Updates

- a. CAMPO board has reviewed the Wake Bus Plan consultant contract for execution. Project kickoff with TPAC is anticipated to be at the February meeting.
- b. Process to renew the Wake Transit On-Call Consultant Program will begin in early 2026.
- c. Hiring a new Senior Planner-Transit Focus. Application deadline is February 24th.

17. GoTriangle Lead Agency Updates

- a. GoTriangle staffing Update: Gary Tober is Chief Development Officer, Katharine Eggleston is Deputy CEO, and Matthew Clark is Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives.

18. TPAC Partner News and Business

- a. Fuquay-Varina MicroLink service has been running above expectations and Town is very pleased and looking for expansion.
- b. Similarly, Holly Springs Hopper has been well received and public is happy.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.