

WAKE TRANSIT TALKING POINTS SPRING 2020

- In November 2016, Wake County voters approved a transit-dedicated half-cent sales tax to expand and better connect the county's public transit network.
- This revenue is the largest source of funding dedicated to implementing the Wake Transit Plan, which seeks to connect the region, connect all Wake County communities, provide frequent and reliable urban mobility and enhance access to transit.
- Each year, the Wake County Transit Planning Advisory Committee or TPAC produces a Wake Transit Work Plan, which details the transit projects and services scheduled to be funded in the upcoming fiscal year (July-June). The draft work plan is released for public comment, which is used to shape the final plan that the Wake Transit governing boards vote to approve.
- In January, the TPAC held a public review and comment period on the draft 2021 Work Plan and received feedback from partners and members of the community.
- Since then, the coronavirus pandemic has led to a statewide stay-at-home order, which understandably has decreased the sales that generate the tax revenue expected to pay for new transit investments.
- In response, the TPAC has modified the draft and is recommending a revised FY21 Work Plan that places most new transit investments into unbudgeted reserve until the pandemic's effect on tax collections can be assessed later this year.
- No existing transit services will be affected. Programs such as the free Youth GoPass for those ages 13 to 18 and free fare for seniors as well as any previously expanded routes will continue to operate and connect riders in Wake County to jobs, education and health care.
- In deciding what would still move forward July 1, planners relied on strict criteria including a project's time sensitivity, transit riders' most pressing needs and public comments received in January.
- The projects recommended to proceed include the next steps in developing the New Bern Avenue bus rapid transit corridor, additional bus service on GoRaleigh's Route 21 and two projects associated with the [Community Funding Area program](#).
- The investments put on hold include a GoRaleigh route package serving Glenwood Avenue, GoTriangle expansion of Route 305 to all-day service and planning and construction of transit centers, bus stops and park and ride lots.
- Review the entire recommended FY21 Wake Transit Work Plan and access fact sheets and other materials about the revised plan [here](#).