

New Bern Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Concurrence Meeting for Points 1-4

July 12, 2019 (1:00-2:30pm)
WSP-434 Fayetteville Street, Ste. 1500, Raleigh NC 27601

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Name(s)</u>
Raleigh	Project Sponsor	Mila Vega, Het Patel
CAMPO	Cooperating Agency	Bret Martin, Stephanie Plancich
GoTriangle	Participating Agency	Patrick McDonough, Kaitlin Hughes
Wake County	Participating Agency	Nicole Kreiser
Cary	Participating Agency	Kelly Blazey
WSP	Consultant	Rachel Gaylord-Miles, Greg Saur, Nancy Skinner

2. Project Background/Explanation

- a. Bret Martin discussed the purpose of the Concurrence Process adopted for Wake County Transit Plan funded projects. He explained the benefit of the process, that it was modeled after the NC DOT merger process, that it is well supported at both the state and federal levels and that New Bern Avenue BRT is the first applicable capital project to be subject to the concurrence requirements.
- b. He spent time explaining the three levels of team members and ensured the people in the room knew their respective roles.
- c. The complete statement of purpose and background was provided to attendees in the informational packet (attached) distributed at this meeting.

3. Review of Concurrence Points 1-4

Due to this project only having one design option, the Concurrence team was able to combine the discussion of points 1-4 into a single meeting. It was noted that for larger and more complex projects, this may not be an option.

Rachel Gaylord-Miles led the discussion of each concurrence point.

- a. CP1 – Project Purpose and Need
 - i. Team agreed that the provided description was accurate and reflective of this project.
 - ii. One change requested is to remove “and local routes” and instead add a line similar to “and other approved transit services.”

- b. CP2 – Identification of Alternatives
 - i. Team noted that the New Bern BRT project was listed specifically as a need in the Wake Transit Plan and was further refined in the Wake Transit Major Investment Study, which identified only one alternative for this project.
MODE = Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
ALIGNMENT = Dedicated transit lane from Blount Street to Sunnybrook Road, then shared lane service in mixed traffic to New Hope Road. All segments to be supported with signal prioritization.
TERMINI - Blount Street/GoRaleigh Station – to New Hope Road
- c. CP3 –Alternatives Analysis
 - i. With only one alternative, this step is unnecessary
- d. CP4 – Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Recommendation
 - i. The timeline for board approvals and for inclusion of the project in relevant planning documents like the STIP, TIP and MTP was reviewed and received by the Team.
 - ii. It was requested that the opening statement of CP4 be expanded to include not only the date the Raleigh City Council approved the LPA, but also a summarized description of the alternative(s) as brought before the project sponsor’s Board and to be considered under concurrence point #4.

4. Other Discussion Notes

- a. There was a general comment about the need for a regional branding effort for BRT services across the region. It was noted that this should be discussed, and a lead should be identified soon since this project is expected to move quickly, and others are starting.
- b. The corridor map was discussed and WSP staff will adjust the header to specify that the map reflects Mode, Alignment and Termini for CPs 1-4. The stations shown now are only preliminary so the legend will be adjusted to note that stations are “potential.” Station locations are not part of consideration of the LPA (Concurrence Point #4).
- c. A question about process was raised since only 1 of the 3 listed Cooperating Agencies who will sign the concurrence form were physically present at the meeting. It was explained that in the future, meetings will be set at times when the Cooperating Agencies who sign off on the concurrence forms are most likely to be available. It was also explained that after any concurrence meeting, the Cooperating Agencies have five (5) business days to submit a letter of non-concurrence to Stephanie, the Concurrence Administrator, otherwise concurrence is assumed. However, it is the goal to get an email or other form of written concurrence from each project sponsor/cooperating agency.

5. Next Steps

- a. Stephanie will produce meeting minutes and send to WSP staff Monday 7.15.19. A final version will be sent to all Concurrence Team members, and special effort will be made to ensure that the remaining cooperating agency representatives get a copy with supporting materials for response within the 5-day review period.