

Item Title: Additional Funding for GoWake Access Transportation Program

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$120,000 in additional funding from Triangle Disability & Autism Services to the Transportation Fund for FY 2026 to continue transportation services provided by GoWake Access.

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Board of Commissioners must approve all amendments that increase the budget for a fund.

Background: Triangle Disability & Autism Service, formerly known as ARC of Triangle, has been a long-standing sponsor agency contracted with Wake County/GoWake Access for over a decade to provide transportation services to program-eligible participants attending life-enrichment programs that help adults secure permanent employment in the community.

In FY 2026, Wake County/GoWake Access renewed its annual agreement for transportation services. Due to increased operational costs, Triangle Disability and Autism Services is increasing its revenue contract amount with Wake County from \$92,000 to \$212,000. This is a standard annual operating agreement to provide appropriate funding to sustain transportation services.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Growth, Land Use and Environment Goal 2: By 2029, increase public transit ridership by 10%; and Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 4: By 2029, three out of four residents asked will indicate low barriers to accessing benefits and assistance programs and resources, such as food and utilities, childcare, employment services, housing, etc.

Fiscal Impact: This agreement provides \$120,000 in additional funding from Triangle Disability & Autism Services, to be appropriated in the Transportation Fund, bringing the total FY 2026 agreement amount to \$212,000. There is no County match requirement.

Additional Information:

GoWake Access Transportation provides services to vulnerable populations across Wake County. GoWake Access provides a subsidized, door-to-door transportation service customer cost of \$4 per trip. It allows residents with limited or no transportation options to be able to access basic accommodations such as medical services, employment, and groceries. This funding will help close the funding gap of approximately 3,000 trips that we were unable to meet in FY 2025. This is not an all-inclusive list of everyone who may

need the service, but of those who call in to request service. Funds received from Triangle Disability and Autism Services allows GoWake to perform the following trips:

Funding Year	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026*
Agreement Amount	\$92,000	\$92,000	\$92,000	\$212,000
# of Trips	228	171	174	281

Attachments:

1. Budget Memo – FY2026 Human Service Transportation Fund