



# Wake County Board of Commissioners

June 10, 2023

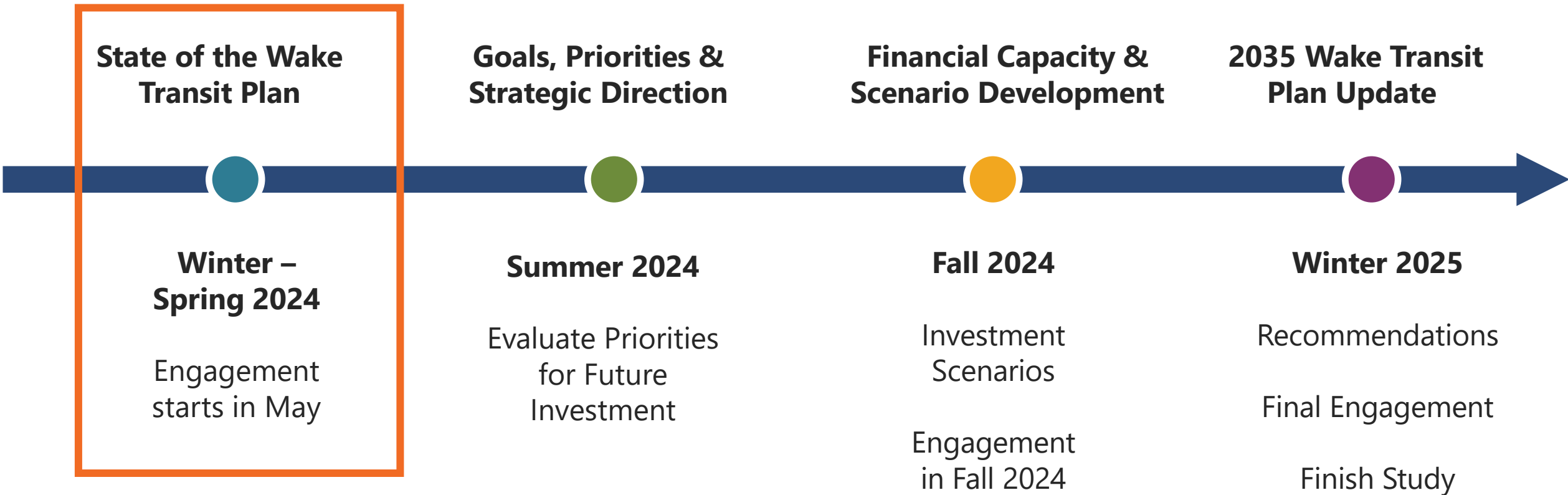
# Agenda

- 1 Overview of the State of Wake Transit Plan Report**
- 2 Wake Transit Plan Update Public Engagement**
- 3 Major Projects Funded in Recommended FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan**
- 4 Next Steps on Rail**

# State of Wake Transit Plan Report



# Wake Transit Plan Update



# Wake Transit Plan

- **Wake Transit Plan is a revenue stream for public transportation investment**
  - Voters approved funding package in 2016
  - Started collecting taxes and fees in April 2017
  - Wake Transit Plan started funding new transit service in August 2017
- **Wake Transit Plan investments are organized around four big moves:**



**Connect  
Regionally**



**Connect All  
Wake County  
Communities**

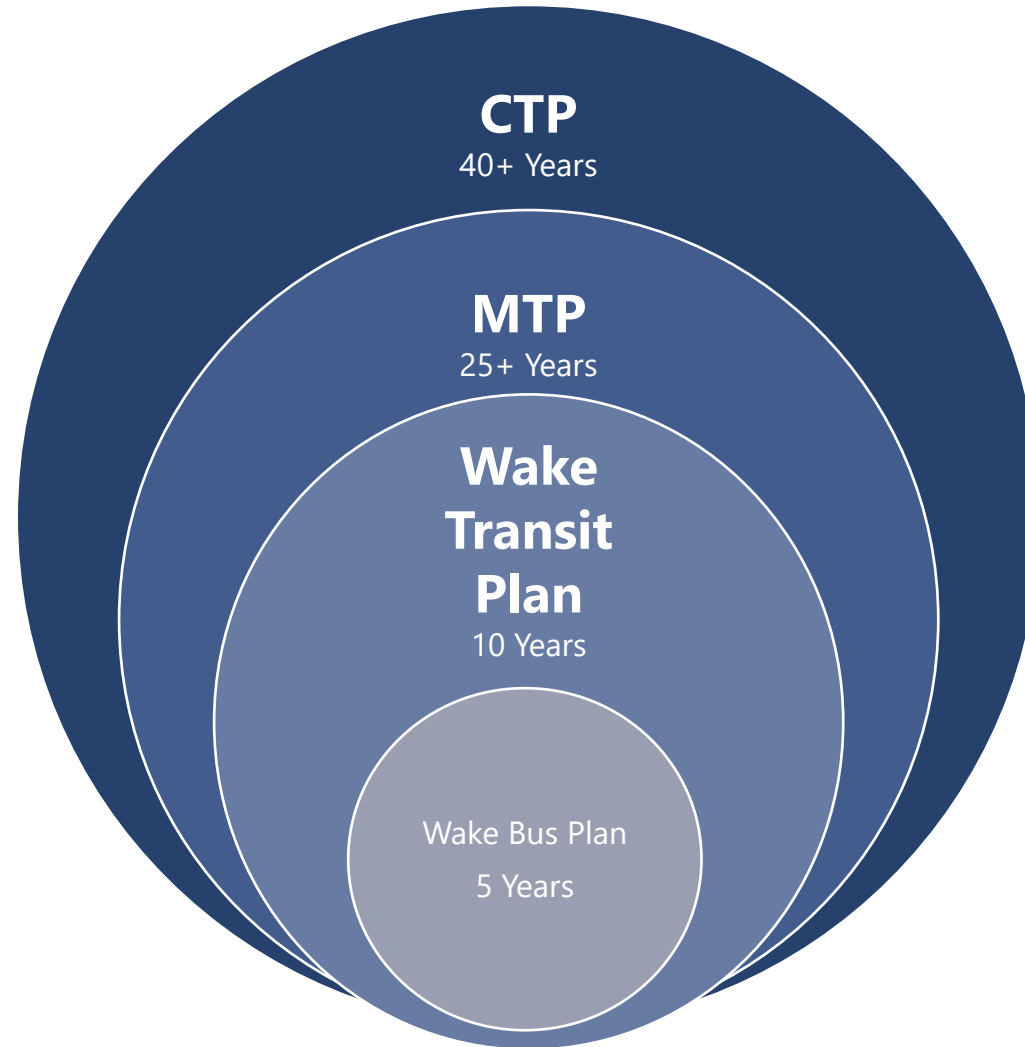


**Create Frequent,  
Reliable,  
Urban Mobility**



**Enhance  
Access to  
Transit**

# Long Range Transit Planning



# Wake Transit Plan

- **Wake Transit Plan is updated every four years**
  - Retains the Four Big Move Structure
  - Establishes priorities and investment direction for 10-year period
  - Built on community and stakeholder input
  - Includes financial and technical data about performance and outcomes



# Wake Transit Plan 2016-2027

- **Developed with significant engagement and participation**

- Phase 1 Interactions = 15,000+
  - Advisory Committee meetings, community meetings, online videos, social media and surveys
- Phase 2 Interactions = 2,000+
  - Statistically valid surveys and polls, focus groups and outreach events



- **Achieve Four Big Moves Built with Strategies and Recommendations**

- Commuter Rail: Durham and Garner
- Bus Rapid Transit: North, South, East, West
- Community Funding Areas Program
- Connections from suburbs to Raleigh/Cary
- Longer hours and more days of bus service
- More frequent bus service
- More regional bus service





# Wake Transit Plan 2021-2030

- **Coordinate schedule of updates to Wake Transit Plan with MTP Schedule**
- **Confirm costs and cost-curves of major and future investments**
- **Continued focus on stakeholder and community input**
  - In-person Interactions = 4,200+
    - Pop-ups, public meetings, presentations and community events
  - Online and Survey Participation = 7,800+
    - Completed surveys, visits to the website and
- **Updates to Strategies and Recommendations**
  - Advance Commuter Rail even with higher costs and potentially lower federal participation
  - Advance Bus Rapid Transit: North, South, East, West
    - Potential expansion to Research Triangle Park
  - Potential of Commuter Rail and Bus Rapid Transit expansions to Johnston County (Clayton)
  - Continued investments in additional routes, increased service spans and frequency, and in the Community Funding Area Program



# Existing Funding Prioritization

1. Community Funding Areas Program
2. Capital Projects with Design or Land Acquisition Already Initiated
3. Facilities/Infrastructure/Resources Needed to Support Future Expansion
4. Project with Time Sensitive External Grant Sources
5. Bus Rapid Transit Projects
6. Commuter Rail Project Design
7. Existing Systemwide Bus Stop Improvements
8. Fixed-Route Bus Stop Improvements and Infrastructure to support Bus Service Improvements and Expansion

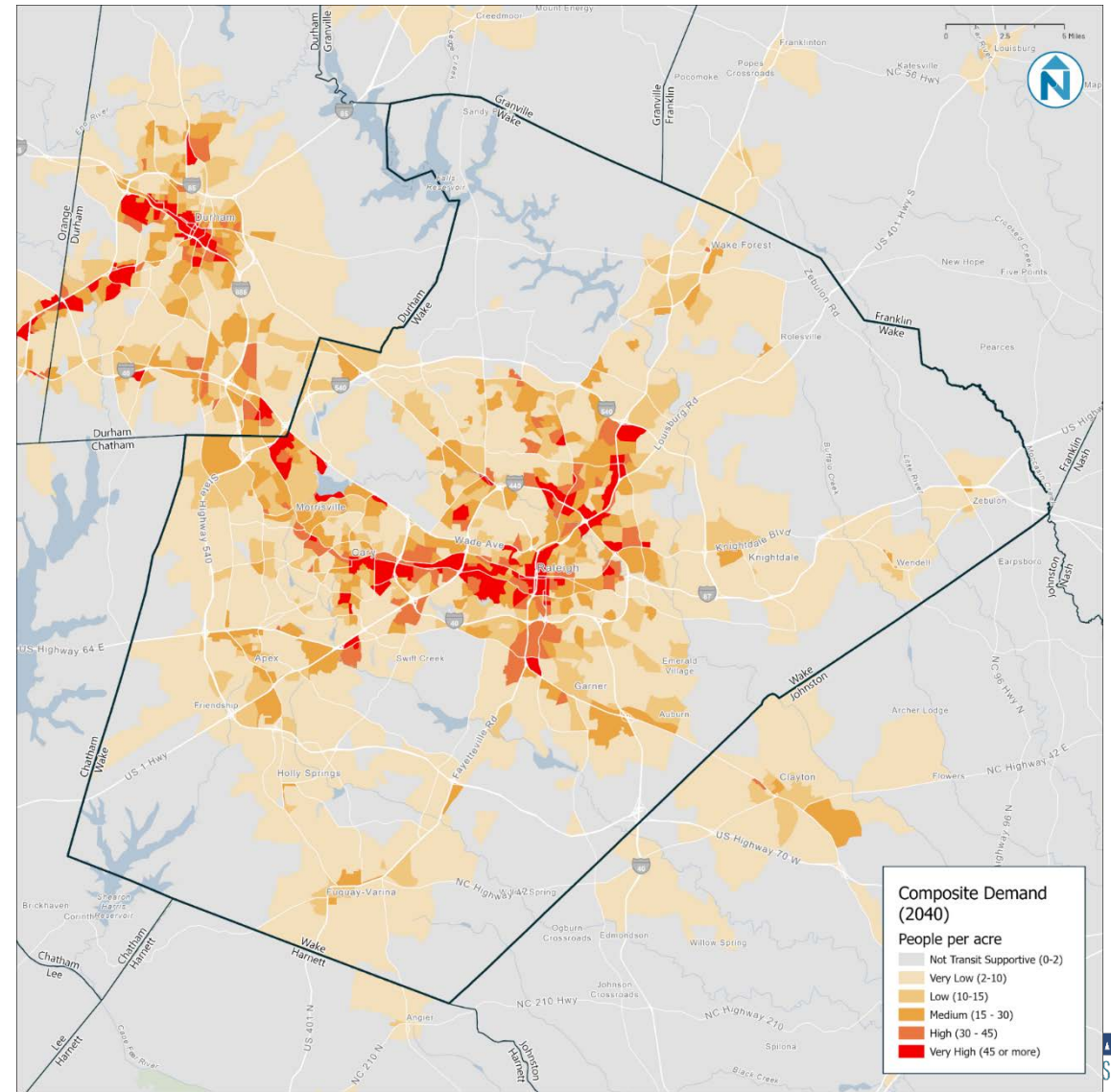
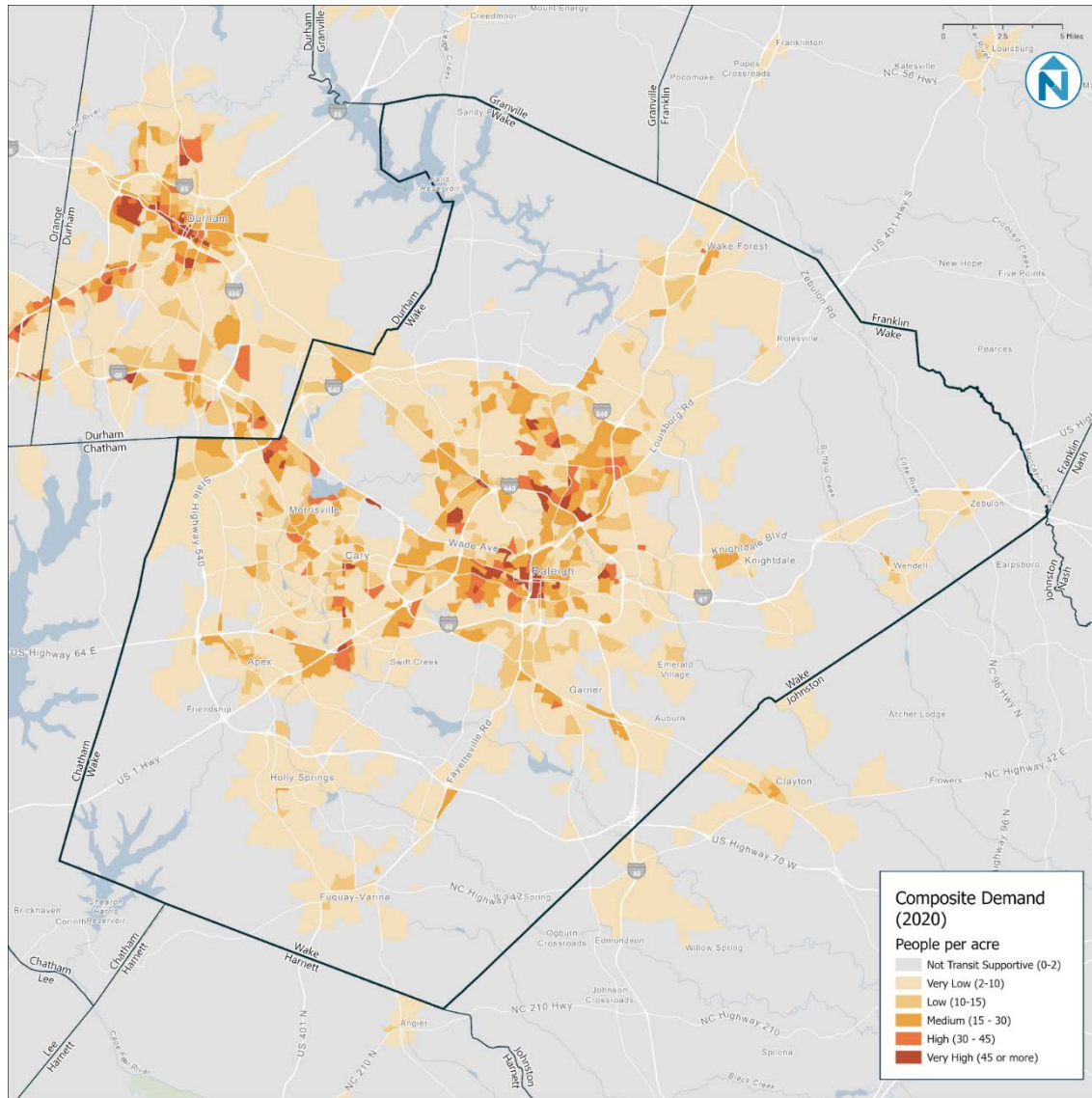


# Understanding Trade-Offs

- Wake Transit Plan is ambitious and is taking on several major projects at the same time
  - Commuter Rail
  - Bus Rapid Transit
  - New vehicles and clean fuel technology
  - Operating and maintenance facilities
  - Transit centers
  - Bus stops, sidewalks, bike paths
  - Regional fare systems
  - New technology



# Changing Transit Demand in a Growing Region



# Wake Transit Plan

- Wake Transit Plan revenues have **been consistently strong**
  - Nearly \$750 million raised to date (2017 – 2023)
- Expected to **raise another \$700 million to \$1 billion** over next ten years (2026 – 2035)
- **We are now asking the Community:**

**What are your transit priorities for the next ten years?**



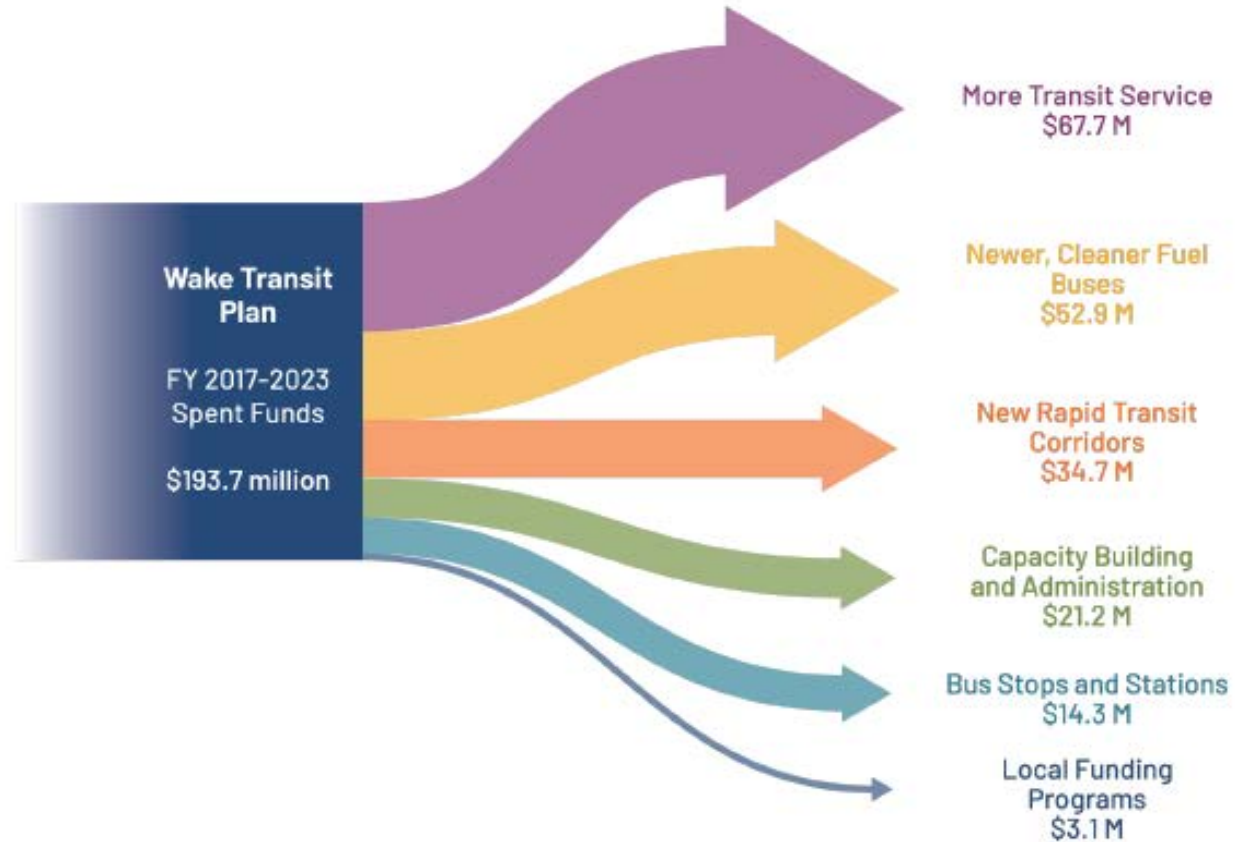
**What is the State of the Plan?**

# Wake Transit Plan

**\$200 million invested since 2017.**

Funds invested in **more bus service, new buses, Bus Rapid Transit, more stops and stations,** and local funding programs.

Also invested in staff, leadership and financial management.

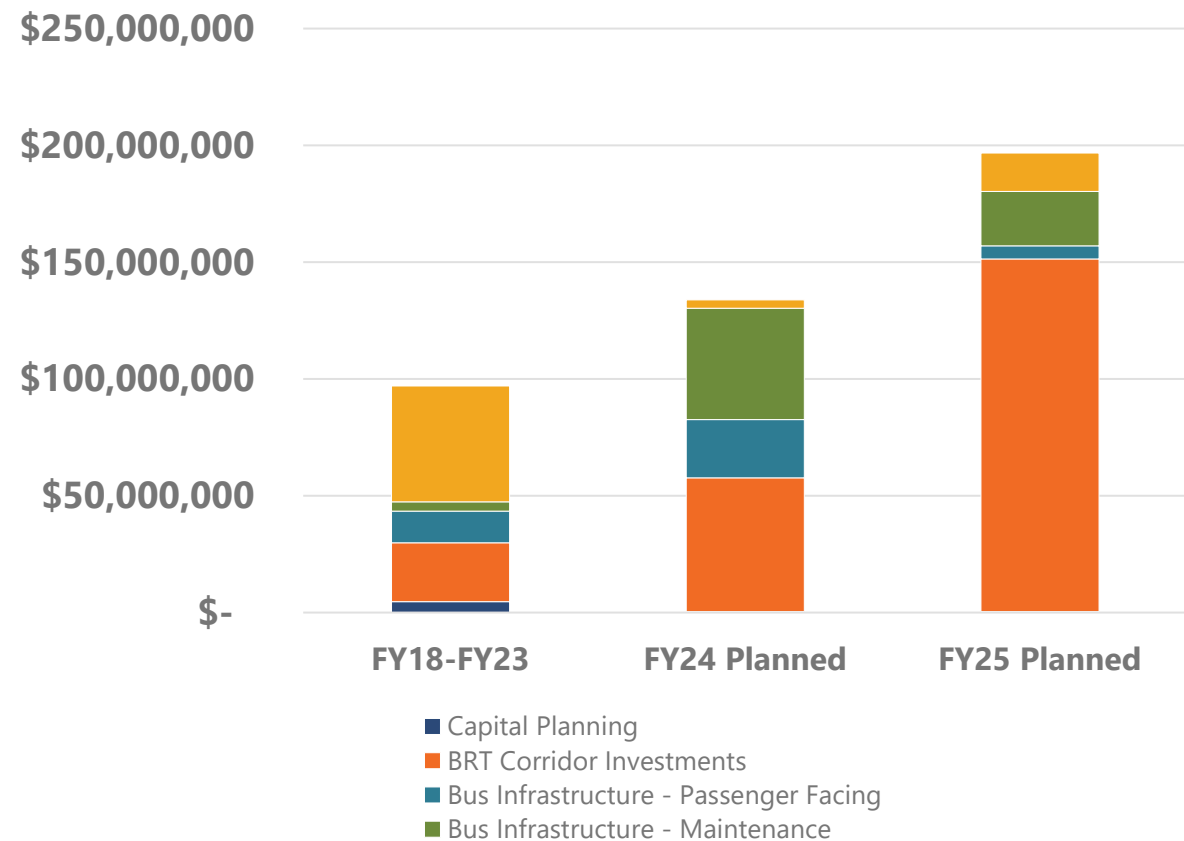


# Wake Transit Plan

Scheduled to spend \$350 million in next 2-3 years.

## Major projects include:

- Build New Bern BRT
- Design and Build Southern BRT
- Design Western BRT
- GoRaleigh/GoWake Access ADA Maintenance Facility and Call Center
- Cary Multimodal Center
- RUS Bus

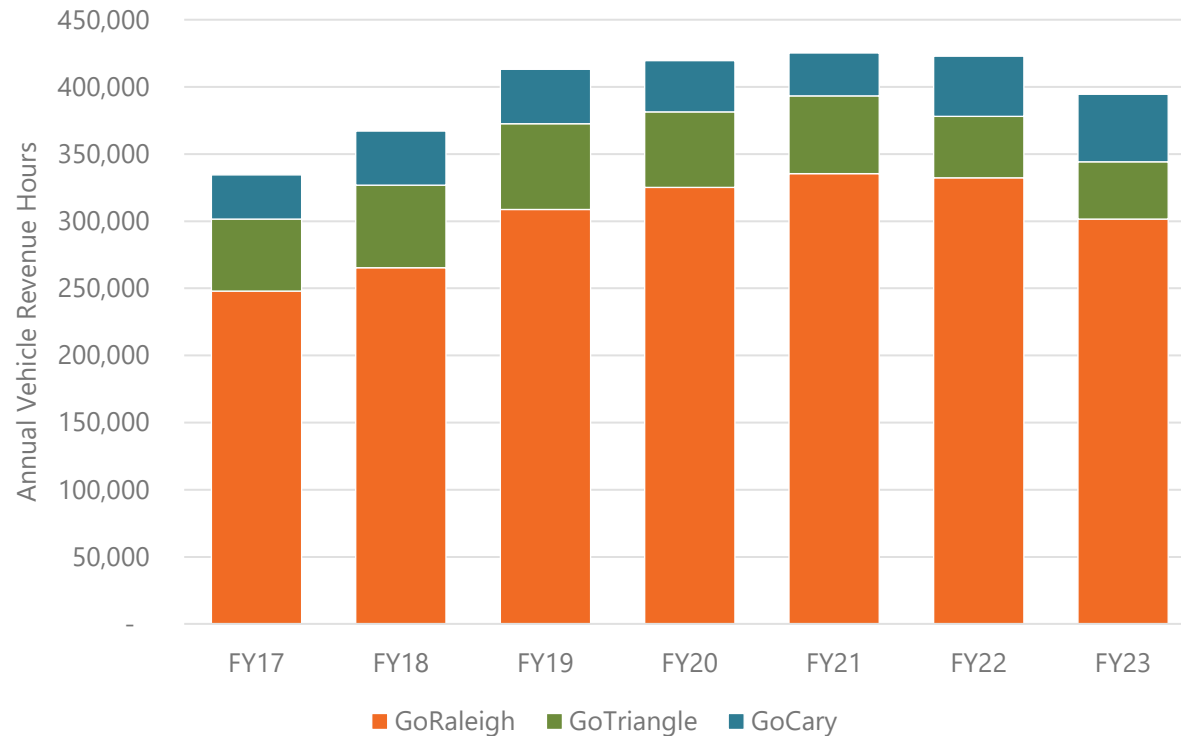




# Wake Transit Plan

## Strengths and Success: **Bigger, more convenient bus network**

- More weekend service
- More evening service
- More frequent routes
- New bus routes
- New transit service models



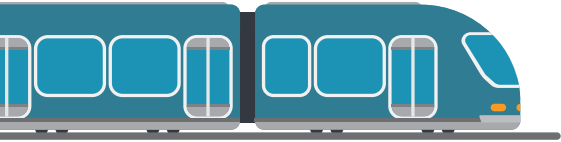
# Wake Transit Plan

## Strengths and Success: **Leveraging Federal Funds**

Transit agencies and municipalities have earned nearly **\$182 million in federal funds**

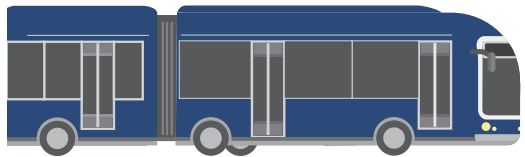
- Grants to support clean fuel vehicles
- Build RUS-BUS
- Support BRT
- Build operating and maintenance facilities
- Build park and ride

# Connect Regionally



## Commuter Rail

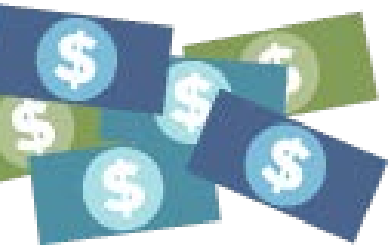
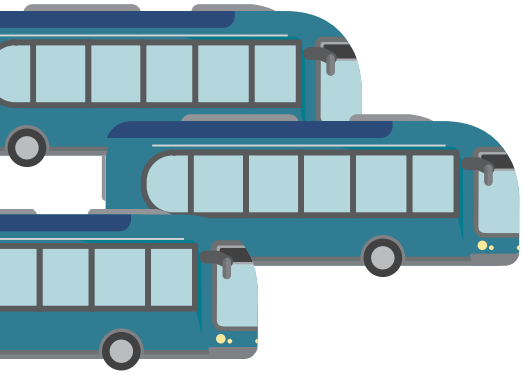
- Connect Durham, RTP, Cary, Raleigh, and Garner.
- Completed feasibility studies help better understand costs and implementation.
- ***Findings suggest higher costs, less federal funding, and longer time to finish.***



## Bus Rapid Transit

- Advancing **over 20 miles of corridor service** that begins/ends in Raleigh
  - **New Bern Corridor (East) to WakeMed Campus and New Hope Road**
  - **Southern Corridor to Garner**
  - Western Corridor to Cary
  - Northern Corridor along Capital
- ***Costs and timelines are extending, but projects are advancing with federal funds.***
- ***Potential extensions to Johnston County and Research Triangle Park***

# Connect all Wake County Communities



## New/Expanded Bus Service completed in 2020

- Garner, Fuquay-Varina, Knightdale, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon have (or had) connections to Raleigh.
- Apex, Holly Springs, and Morrisville have connections to Cary.
- ***Post-COVID low ridership is leading to new service ideas (microtransit).***

## Established Community Funding Area Program

- 11 communities have received funding.
- ***Major Questions we're asking:***
  - *How do we create a path for projects to "graduate" to Wake Transit Plan?*
  - *How do we support local autonomy and create a seamless rider experience?*

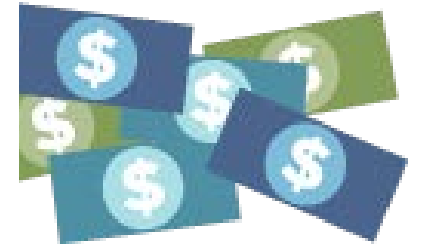
# Community Funding Area Program

## Program Successes

- Three Operating Projects
  - Wake Forest Circulator – 2<sup>nd</sup> Bus added through CFAP
  - Morrisville Smart Shuttle – App-based on-demand microtransit service started in 2021; over 11,000 riders in 2022
  - GoApex Route 1 – New local bus route serving the Town of Apex, connecting various destinations throughout Town
- Capital and Planning Projects
- Morrisville, Apex, Knightdale, Garner, Fuquay-Varina, RTP, Wendell, Zebulon

## Program Management Plan Update

- Community Funding Area Program Management Plan is being updated
  - Provide clarity on application eligibility, scoring, funding
  - Update will be complete for FY 2026 CFAP Funding Cycle



# Create Frequent, Reliable, Urban Mobility



## Advancing Bus Rapid Transit

### Investments in frequent service

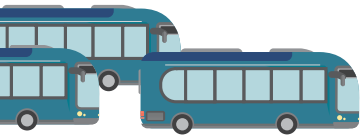
- 51.5 miles of frequent transit service (2023)
- +12 miles in 2024

### Added evening and weekend service

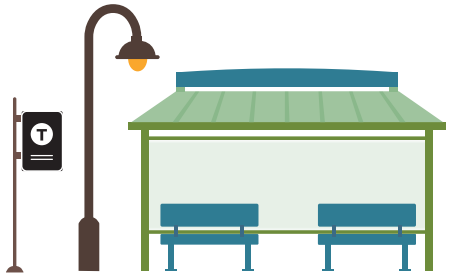
### Purchased more buses

- 80% of new buses are cleaner fuel vehicles

### Invested in maintenance facilities to accommodate larger and clean fuel fleet



# Enhance Access to Transit



## Improving Bus Stops, Building Transfer Points and Transit Centers

- Improvements to over 500 bus stops, park and rides, and enhanced transit centers
- Raleigh Union Station Bus Facility
- Downtown Cary Multimodal Center
- Regional Transit Center



**Expanded bus network is bringing more people closer to transit**

***Potential to bring them closer with sidewalks, crosswalks and bike paths***

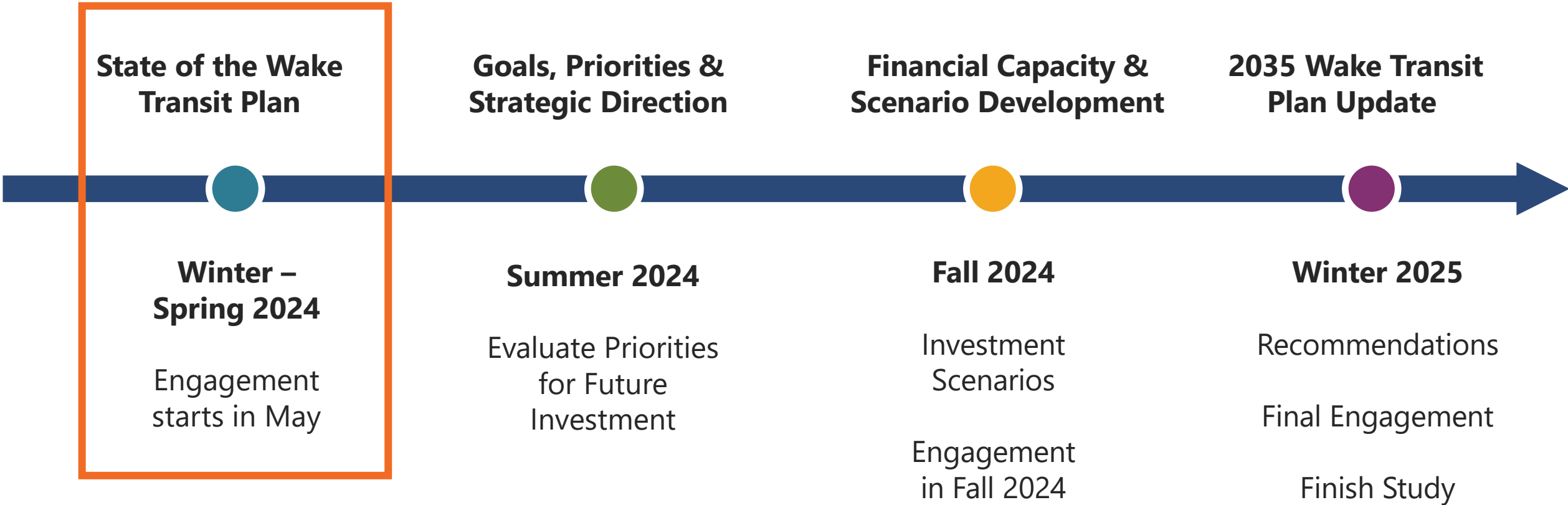


**Wake Transit Plan  
Update Public  
Engagement**





# Wake Transit Plan Update



# Wake Transit Plan Opportunities



## Connect Regionally

- Commuter Rail
- Work with Existing and Planned Train Service
- More Regional Bus Service



## Connect All Wake County Communities

- More Connections to Raleigh, Cary, and RTP
- More Town to Town Bus Service
- Funding to Towns



## Create Frequent, Reliable, Urban Mobility

- Bus Only Lanes
- More Night and Weekend Service
- More Frequent Bus Service



## Enhance Access to Transit

- Improve Amenities at Bus Stops
- More Sidewalks, Crosswalks, and Bike Lanes
- Expand On-Demand Transit

# Public Meeting & Pop-Up Events

**Use:** Provides an opportunity to meet with the project team in person and discuss similar themes as the online survey.

## Flyer Types:

- Informational Boards
- Activities



# Materials

**Use:** Provides more detailed information for specific event or engagement activity.

## Flyer Types:

- Public meeting
- Online survey
- Pop-up event

<https://www.goforwardnc.org/templates-media-kits/>



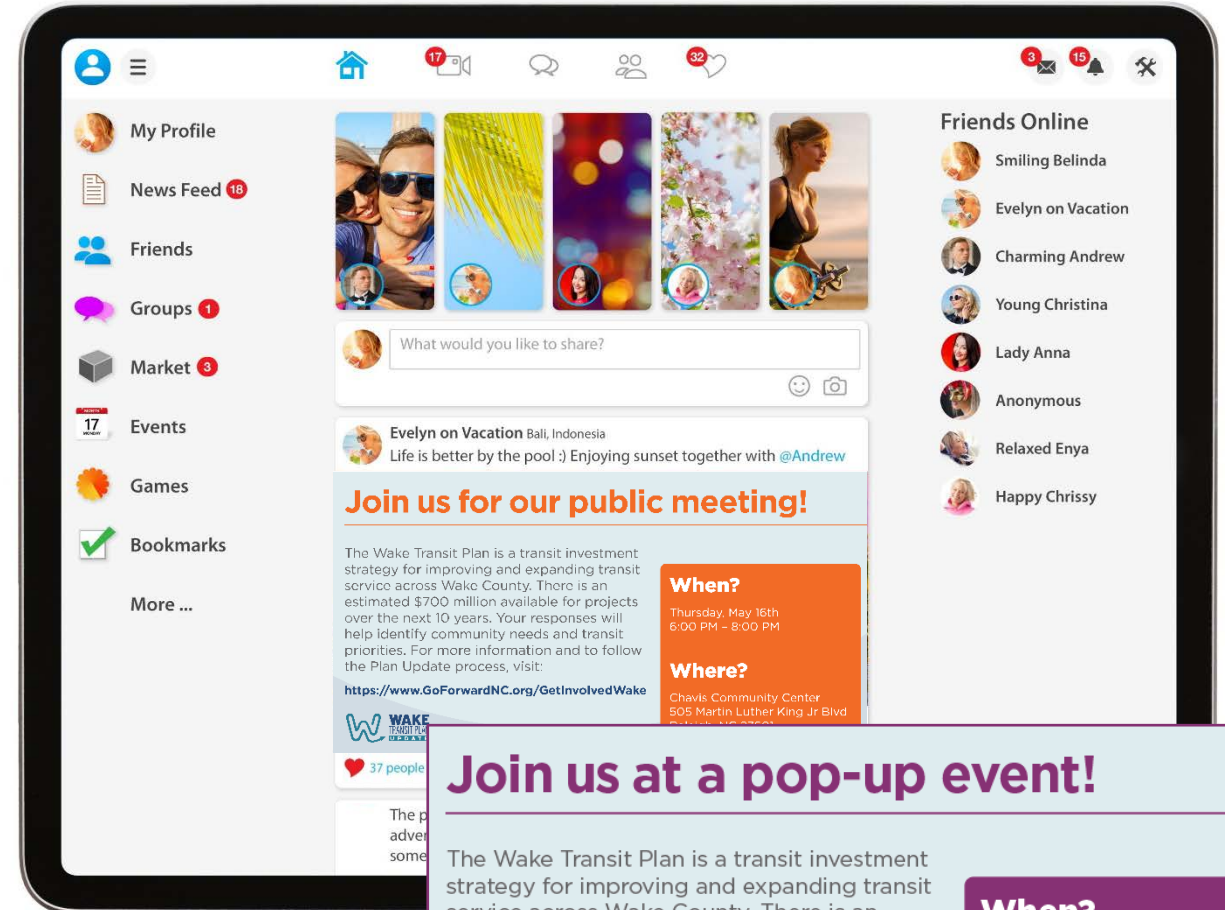
# Social Media Posts

**Use:** Boost engagement for meetings, surveys, or other project related information.

**Types:**

- Facebook
- X or Twitter
- Instagram

<https://www.goforwardnc.org/templates-media-kits/>



**Join us at a pop-up event!**

The Wake Transit Plan is a transit investment strategy for improving and expanding transit service across Wake County. There is an estimated \$700 million available for projects over the next 10 years. Your responses will help identify community needs and transit priorities. For more information and to follow the Plan Update process, visit:

<https://www.GoForwardNC.org/GetInvolvedWake>

**When?**  
INSERT DATE  
INSERT TIME

**Where?**  
INSERT LOCATION

# Interactive Survey

## Survey Goals:

- Gauge awareness/understanding of the Wake Transit Plan
- Understand attitudes about existing Wake Transit Plan progress
- Explore priorities for future transit investments
- Identify differences in priorities based on key demographics



# Wake Transit Plan Website

- One stop shop for background materials, access to the survey and engagement materials

[www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035](http://www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035)




2035 Wake Transit Plan Update

The process to update the Wake Transit Plan - our investment strategy to improve and expand Wake County's transit network - is underway. Community participation is a critical component of the development process. With an estimated \$700 million to \$1 billion in new revenue being forecasted for the 10-year period between FY2026-2035, it's important that planning staff understand the community's transit needs and priorities. The Wake Transit Plan Update will reassess the transit investment priorities associated with the Plan's "Four Big Moves" established in 2016 when the Plan was first adopted.

There are five (5) planned engagement phases to support the Wake Transit Plan Update project to ensure everyone will have the opportunity for ongoing and active involvement. Click the buttons below to visit the project webpage, to share your thoughts and ideas, to sign up for Wake Transit Plan updates, view materials, and learn more about the Wake Transit Program.

**Get Involved Today!**  
Click the links below or follow the QR code to take the survey.

Wake Transit Plan Update  
Presentation

More Wake Transit Info

Transit Priorities Survey



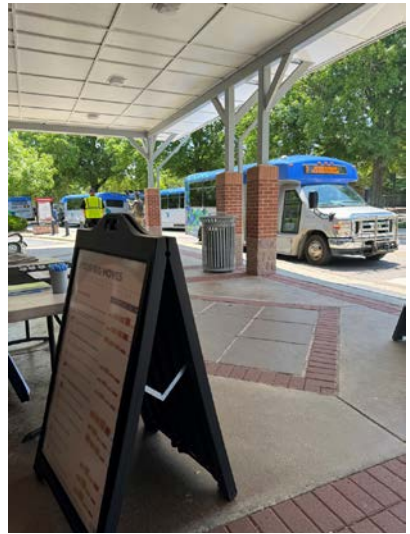
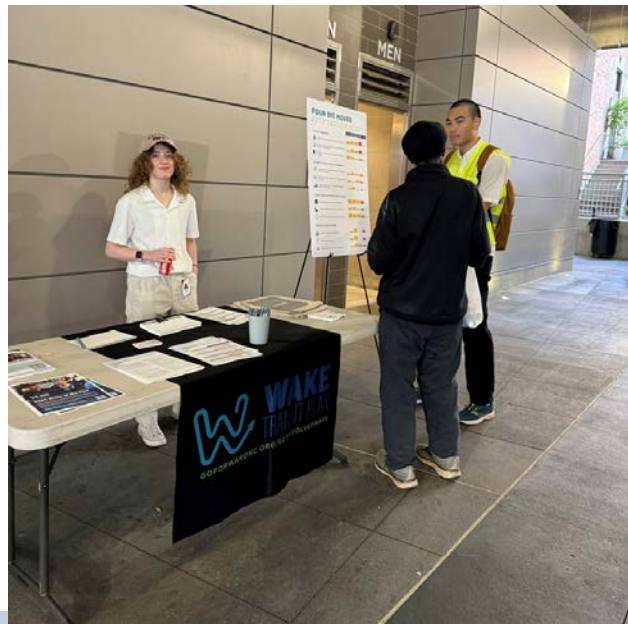
## Documents

- State of the Plan Summary
- State of the Plan Summary Spanish
- State of the Plan Report
- 2030 Wake Transit Plan

## Events

- Event Calendar
- Event Calendar Spanish
- Public Meeting Flyer
- Public Meeting Flyer Spanish
- Transit Survey Flyer

# ENGAGEMENT





# Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

- Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>: Zebulon Juneteenth Kickoff Concert
  - 6:00pm – 9:00pm at Zebulon Town Hall
- Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>: Knightdale African American Festival
  - 4:00pm – 9:00pm at Knightdale Station Park
- Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>: Rolesville Freedom in the Park Juneteenth Celebration
  - 10:00am – 2:00pm at Mill Bridge Nature Park
- Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>: Holly Springs Community Library Pop-Up
  - 4:00pm – 6:00pm at the Holly Springs Community Library



# Survey Response (*as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>*)

## Transit Priorities Survey Engagement

670 Total Participants

2,009 Total Website Views

What do you know about the Wake Transit Program?



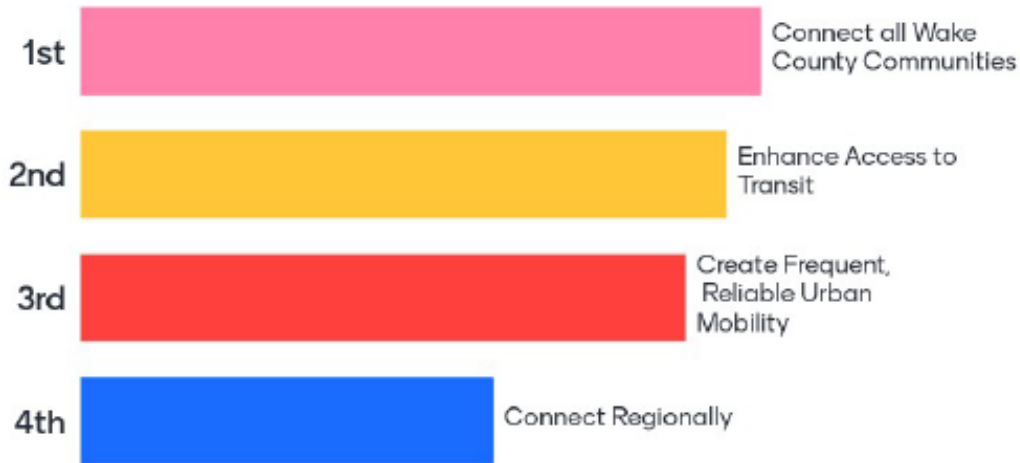
## What we're hearing...

Top Three Transit Priorities:

1. Investment in infrastructure – 34% of Survey Respondents
2. Connections to Raleigh and Town-to-Town Connections – 20% of Survey Respondents
3. Commuter or Regional Rail – 16% of Survey Respondents

# Stakeholder Feedback (from 5/22 Meeting)

Where has the Plan made the most progress?



What are the biggest challenges facing the Plan?



# Future Board of Commissioners Engagement

- Fall 2024 – Phase I Engagement Recap & Investment Scenarios (Phase II)
- Winter 2025 – Phase II Engagement Recap & Overview of Draft Wake Transit Plan (Phase III)
- Spring 2025 – Phase III Engagement Recap & Overview of Wake Transit Plan (Adoption Version)

**Recommended FY 2025  
Wake Transit Work  
Plan**



# Key Dates

ACTION	DATE
<i>TPAC Considers Draft Work Plan for Public Release</i>	<i>February 21, 2024</i>
<i>30-Day Public Comment Period</i>	<i>February 26 – March 26, 2024</i>
<i>Updated/Modified Work Plan Funding Requests Due</i>	<i>March 15, 2024</i>
<i>TPAC Program Development Subcommittee Discussion on Changes to Draft Work Plan</i>	<i>March 26, 2024</i>
<i>Distribute Recommended Work Plan to TPAC</i>	<i>May 22-24, 2024</i>
<i>TPAC Reviews Engagement &amp; Considers Recommending Work Plan for Adoption</i>	<i>May 29, 2024</i>
<b>14-day public review and comment period for the recommended Work Plan</b>	<b>May 30 – June 12, 2024</b>
<b>CAMPO and GoTriangle Boards Consider Work Plan Adoption</b>	<b>By June 30, 2024</b>

# Revisions from Draft Work Plan

## Operations Budget

- Draft Work Plan: \$45,591,851
- **Recommended Work Plan: \$49,008,005**
  - Key Changes: GoTriangle Bus Route Improvements, Addition of GoWake Access SmartRide NE Microtransit service (funded through CFAP)

## Capital Budget

- Draft Work Plan: \$196,780,083
- **Recommended Work Plan: \$203,147,110**
  - Key Changes: Additional funding for Vehicle Acquisition, Addition of BRT Concept of Operations Study, Split of Northern Corridor BRT into two corridors: Midtown and Triangle Town Center

# Financial Assumptions - Revenues

## Recommended Budget – VRT Revenue Included

½ Cent Sales Tax: \$140M

\$7.00 Vehicle Registration Fee: \$7.075M

\$3.00 Vehicle Registration Fee: \$3.025M

Vehicle Rental Tax: \$5.056M

Federal Funds: \$86.554M

Fund Balance Transfer: \$10.3M



# Commuter Rail Placeholder Scenario

**Commuter Rail Process and Assumptions:** As of the publication of the Recommended FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan, the technical analysis for the Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR) Phase 2 Feasibility Study had concluded. This study reported significantly higher costs and larger technical challenges associated with completing the full commuter rail corridor than anticipated and programmed in previous Adopted Wake Transit Work Plans. The Study also noted challenges, based on expected costs and anticipated ridership, with the 50% federal match assumption. While the Study recommended that no matching federal grants be programmed for the commuter rail project, there is potential for federal funding in subsequent phases of the project or a different regional rail project. To reflect that no decision has been made on how (or if) the project should move forward, and that decision-makers wished to explore potential options for implementation, the FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan includes capital and operating “place-holder scenarios” for rail funding.

Financials included in the FY25 Recommended Work Plan include the similar metrics included in the Adopted FY24 Wake Transit Work Plan. The Greater Triangle Commuter Rail (GTCR) Phase 2 Feasibility Study introduced the potential need for a phased approach for implementing the full ~38 miles from West Durham to Garner. The Study presented the following potential segments with the following track length and costs. This assumption is the current basis of the “place-holder scenario”:

- Western (End Points: West Durham to RTP | Miles: ~12 | Capital Cost: \$1.6B);
- Central (End Points: Ellis Road or RTP to Raleigh Union Station | Miles: ~20 | Capital Cost: \$800M - \$1B); and
- Eastern (End Points: Raleigh Union Station to Auburn Station in Garner | Miles: ~10 | Capital Cost: \$600 - \$700M)

The FY 2025 Wake Transit Work Plan commuter rail “place-holder scenario” allocates funding for two segments, anticipating a build out of approximately 80% of the corridor by 2037 at a total cost of \$2.1B, \$1.4B of which is assumed to be the Wake County Share of the project. The operating regional rail “place-holder scenario” allocates \$16.1 million for the Wake County share of the first full year of annual operations in FY 2033. It is expected that the capital and operating “place-holder scenarios” will be updated in the Wake Transit Financial Model after key decisions are made.

COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS: FY2024 Adopted vs. FY2025 Recommended Work Plans		
	FY 2024 Adopted Wake Transit Work Plan	FY 2025 Recommended Wake Transit Work Plan “place-holder scenario”
<b>Total Project Mileage</b>	30 miles*	30 miles*
<b>Total Wake Transit Project Cost</b>	\$2.1B	\$2.1B*
<b>Wake County Share</b>	\$1.4B	\$1.4B*
<b>Federal Participation Share</b>	\$0.7B	\$0.7B*
<b>Projected Debt</b>	\$0.9B	\$1.0B*
<b>Projected Debt Term &amp; Pay-Off Date</b>	35-year term, final payment FY 2072	35-year term, final payment FY 2072
<b>Assumed Federal Support</b>	RRIF Loan (Both Phases), FFGA Match (Phase 2)	RRIF Loan (Both Phases), FFGA Match (Phase 2)
<b>Projected Completion Date</b>	FY 2033 (Phase 1), FY 2037 (Phase 2)	FY 2033 (Phase 1), FY 2037 (Phase 2)

\* Assumed in the FY 25 WTWP is the completion of two of the three segments, but which two remains undetermined. Exact mileage and cost will depend upon which segments are selected to move forward. Amounts rounded to the nearest billion.

# Operating Budget Overview

# Operating Highlights

The Draft FY25 Work Plan allocates \$49 million to the Wake Operating Budget. \$38.6 million of that would be designated for the continuation of services that were funded in previous years. New projects include:

- Service Improvements to the following Raleigh routes:
  - Avent Ferry Route 11
  - Glascokk Route 3
  - Method Road Route 12
  - Carolina Pines Route 7L
- Replace Raleigh Route 401X with the Rolesville Microtransit Connector
- Funding for implementation of a Low Income Fare Pass Program for GoTriangle and Raleigh



# Operating Highlights

- Add a new East Cary Route 11 (1/2 Year Operation)
- Convert Apex-Cary Express Route from ACX to Route 12 (1/2 Year Operation)
- Provide funds to GoWake Access to initiate a Youth Pass Program for the SmartRide NE service
- Improvements to GoTriangle Routes 305 and 300
- Continue Wake Transit Community Funding Area Program contributions to Apex Route 1, Morrisville's Smart Shuttle, and the Wake Forest Circulator
- Allocate CFAP funds to continue GoWake Access SmartRide NE Microtransit service serving Wendell, Knightdale, Zebulon and Wake County



# Capital Budget Overview

# Capital Highlights

The Draft FY25 Work Plan allocates \$203.1 million to the Wake Capital Budget. \$85.9 million of the total comes from federal funding allocated for the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor, and up to \$10 million may be allocated from the Wake Capital Fund balance. Capital funds will be used to support:

- Construction phase of the new shared GoRaleigh Access and GoWake Access paratransit operations and maintenance facility
- Wake County's share of GoTriangle's expansion of the bus operations and maintenance facility
- Phase II (land acquisition, design and construction) of the new Regional Transit Center
- Improvements to GoTriangle's park-and-ride facilities



# Capital Highlights

- Design and construction of new bus stops / improvement of amenities and access to existing stops
- Maintenance at GoRaleigh's transit facilities including bus stops, park-and-rides, stations and centers
- Repowering buses & purchasing paratransit vehicles and/or buses to support transit expansion & replacement
- Funding to finalize design and begin Right-of-Way and construction activities for the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor
- Funding to complete the Wake Transit Plan Update
- Funding for a BRT Concept of Operations Study for the Western and Southern BRT Extensions



# Next Steps on Rail





# Triangle Strategic Rail Infrastructure Investments Study (Joint MPO Study)

- Conduct a regional visioning discussion for desired future passenger rail services and validate the study geography
- Assess funded and non-funded projects to identify needed/desired rail infrastructure projects
- Develop a logical project implementation strategy (critical path projects, funding eligibility, project sponsors, etc.)
- Recommend a decision-making framework to advance the region's strategic rail program
- Identify and recommend additional planning studies necessary to refine recommendations or advance projects
- Develop mapping/visualization to explain recommended implementation strategy



# Thank You!

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