

Item Title: FY2026 Wake Transit General Operating and Capital Agreements for GoWake Access

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Approves the FY2026 Wake Transit General Operating and Capital Agreement between Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority (GoTriangle), Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and Wake County (GoWake Access); and**
- 2. Accepts \$1,942,000 in Wake Transit funding for transit operations which is already appropriated in the FY2026 Human Services Transportation Fund and General Fund; and**
- 3. Accepts and appropriates \$6,303 in additional Wake Transit funding for GoWake Access Call Center operations in the FY2026 General Fund.**

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: The Wake Transit program is a taxpayer-supported investment approved by voters in 2016 to optimize public transportation in Wake County. The program's objective is to maximize connectivity between all local communities and the Greater Triangle Region. This regional vision focuses on creating more frequent and reliable opportunities for all people to access centers of commerce, education, employment, entertainment, healthcare, and recreation. By fulfilling its mission, the Wake Transit program helps enhance the quality of life for all residents by providing bus and transit opportunities and helping reduce traffic congestion.

In FY2026, the Wake Transit Work Plan allocated funding to provide more trips to support transportation services for elderly and disabled individuals, as well as those living in rural communities. The allocation also provides funding to support the GoWake Access Call Center, which will facilitate the coordination of transportation services and capital funding to replace (9) vehicles that have reached their useful life. This is a standard annual operating agreement to provide funding.

GoWake Access has continued to experience demand that exceeds its current funding levels. In FY2025, approximately 3,000 requested trips could not be fulfilled. This figure reflects only the individuals who

contacted the call center and were denied service due to limited capacity, not the entire population of potential riders in need of transportation support. The additional FY2026 Wake Transit operating funds will help close this gap and better meet demand for elderly, disabled, and rural riders who rely on GoWake Access for essential trips.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Growth, Land Use and Environment Goal 2: By 2029, increase public transit ridership by 10%.

Fiscal Impact: \$1,908,000 of the total \$1,948,303 in Wake Transit funding is included in the FY26 Human Services Transportation Fund. The Wake Transit Agreement allocates \$40,303 for Call Center operations; however, the FY26 General Fund currently includes \$34,000 for this purpose. An additional \$6,303 General Fund appropriation is required. There is no County matching requirement.

Additional Information:

The Wake Transit Work Plan funds service investments and capital projects that will improve Wake County's transit network in the upcoming fiscal year, July 1-June 30. Funding for Wake Transit is made possible through a half-cent sales tax, portions of vehicle registration fees and vehicle rental tax revenues, federal and state contributions, existing local revenues that fund current transit services, and fares paid by bus and potentially future commuter rail customers.

The FY2026 Wake Transit Funding will be allocated accordingly within the GoWake Access Transportation Program.

Funding Year	FY 2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	*FY2026
Administrative	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,157	\$0
Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,173,047	\$1,080,000
Operating	\$559,512	\$644,425	\$1,125,361	\$800,320	\$868,303
Total Award Amount	\$559,512	\$644,425	\$1,125,361	\$4,033,524	\$1,948,303

Attachments:

1. Budget Memo - FY2026 Human Services