



Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Monday, April 14, 2025

2:00 PM

Wake County Justice Center

Work Session

Meeting Called to Order: Chair Susan Evans

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chair Susan Evans, Vice-Chair Mial, Commissioner Vickie Adamson, Commissioner Shinica Thomas, Commissioner Cheryl Stallings, Commissioner Tara Waters and Commissioner Safiyah Jackson.

Staff Present: David Ellis, County Manager; Robert Askew, Deputy County Attorney; Duane Holder, Deputy County Manager; Ashley Jacobs, Deputy County Manager; Emily Lucas, Deputy County Manager; Dr. Jose Cabanas, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy County Manager; Michael James, Assistant County Manager; Ben Canada, Chief of Staff; Toni Womack, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Dara Demi, Chief Communications Officer; Morgan Mansa, Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization Director; Alicia Arnold, Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization Deputy Director; Mark Forestieri, Director of Facilities, Design & Construction; Tim Gardnier, Planner III; Ellen Meder, Communications Consultant; Stephanie Mintz, Communications Consultant; Paarth Mehta, Department Business Manager; Molly Marcarelli, Budget and Manager Services (BMS) Manager; Scott Powell, BMS Analyst; Eileen Rosa, Lead Agency Director; Tommy Moorman, Senior Facilities Project Manager; Bailey Ulm, Senior Administrative Coordinator; Erin Flynn, Administrative Coordinator; and Tanika Cooper, Senior Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Ben Howell, NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organizations (CAMPO) WAKE Transit Program Manager; Shelby Powell, CAMPO Deputy Director; Natalya Anissimova, Esse Architects; Eric Sower, Esse Architects; and Joe Milazzo, Raleigh Transit Authority.

1. Agenda

Attachments: [04.14.2025 Work Session Agenda.pdf](#)

2. Proposed Wake Transit Plan Update

Attachments: [4.14.25 Proposed Wake Transit Plan Update.pdf](#)

Michael James, Assistant County Manager, shared an introduction of the Wake Transit Plan update. He shared the BOC's goal regarding transportation.

He shared the Agenda:

1. Proposed Wake Transit Plan Update
2. Hospitality Taxes: Overview and Review of Upcoming Board Decisions
3. White Flag and Second Street Place Updates

Chair Evans shared the update is to assist the Board in deciding the transit priorities for the next 10 years.

Ben Howell, CAMPO, shared the Agenda: Background, Engagement Summary, Wake Transit Plan Revenue Assumptions, Proposed WakeTransit Plan Investment Strategy Upcoming Engagement and Next Steps.

He shared Long Range Transit Planning:

- CTP - Comprehensive Transportation Plan - 40 Years
- MTP - Metropolitan Transportation Plan - 25+ Years
- Wake Transit Plan - 10 Years
- Wake Bus Plan - 5 Years

He shared 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 Communities
 - Create Frequent, Reliable, Urban Mobility
 - Enhance Access to Transit
- 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

He shared 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

He shared 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

He shared Existing Fund 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 system-wide Bus Stop Improvements
8. Fixed-Route Bus Stop Improvements and Infrastructure to support Bus Service Improvements and Expansion

He shared the Community Funding Program is designed to provide funding to municipalities that did not have funding for transit service. He shared as of last year every municipality in the county had access to the Community Funding Program.

Mr. Howell shared Changing Transit Demand in Growing Region.

He shared the Wake Transit Plan (WTP) Update. He discussed the phases from Winter 2024 to Winter 2025.

He shared WTP Update - Engagement Approach:

- Phase 1 (Spring 2024):

- Choices, Trade-Offs and Priorities:

- Online survey that let people - "Design Your Own Transit System"
- Budget that could be spent on different transit projects and programs

- Phase 2 (Winter 2024/2025):

- Focus on Three Questions :

1. Confirm that we are postponing Commuter Rail to invest in Regional Rail, at least for the time being.
2. Develop BRT between Raleigh and Durham to meet regional needs
3. Serve more people or serve more places

He shared both phases provide insights into preferences and priorities.

He shared Phase 2 Approach and Activities:

- Online Survey:
 - 3 questions plus demographics
- 24 Pop-up Outreach Events:
 - 5 Local Partner Presentations
- Advertisements:
 - Social Media
 - Qué Pasa Media
 - Rider App Push

- 4 Focus Groups Meetings:
 - Mobility/Human Service Providers
 - ADA
 - Educational Institutions
 - Transit Riders
- Stakeholder Outreach and Leveraged Engagement

He shared Invest in Regional Rail:

- Typically understood the funding constraints of building new rail
- Excited to learn about S-Line
- Supportive of enhancing existing service but concerned about access and reliability

He shared Connect Raleigh and Durham BRT:

- 70% agreed that BRT between Raleigh and Durham is a good idea.
- Qualitatively:
 - Lack of understanding about BRT (what it is, how it works.
 - Skeptical that taking a bus would ever be faster than driving.
 - Travel between Raleigh and Durham was not a priority

He shared Serve More People or More Places:

- Not everyone liked the trade-off, and preference is to do both
- Desire to expand regional access without transfer in Raleigh
 - *Example: Apex to Chapel Hill*
- Existing bus riders were more interested in serving people first.

He shared Stakeholder Feedback - March 5th:

- Stronger connections to network in Morrisville
- Frequency over large complicated projects (not universal)
 - Do frequency first
 - Postpone new BRT projects, especially I-40
- Interest in more funding to CFA program, plus bus stops, sidewalks and crosswalks
- Want a network redesign
- Some stakeholders wanted to adjust levels of funding for “rail ready” projects

He shared Projected Revenue FY26 - FY35 = \$3.0 billion.

He shared 10-year Revenue - Overview:

- FY26-FY35 Revenue estimated at \$3.0B

- 80% of funds are from two sources:
 - Sales Tax - 54%
 - Long Term Bond Proceeds - 26%
- Remaining 20% of funding equals \$600m (still a lot of funding)
- Potential challenges with funding assumptions ~ \$112M
 - Vehicle Rental Tax revenue = \$58M
 - Wake Transit Fare Box revenue = \$54M

He shared roughly half of estimated revenue has been programmed.

He shared Developing the Investment Strategy:

1. Identify Transit Priorities (community, stakeholders, Wake Transit Plan team)
2. Use Priorities to Select Projects, Programs and Services
3. Estimate Costs and Confirm Revenues
 - Proposed Investment Strategy = \$3.0B (+ excess liquidity)
4. Draft 2035 Investment Strategy
 - Share projects, programs and services (lists and maps)
 - Investment strategy type of investment (spending breakdown)
5. Outcomes and Expected Results

He shared all numbers in the presentation are draft.

He shared Wake Transit Plan Priorities.

He shared the priorities are based upon the Four Big Moves and Community and Stakeholder Priorities:

Invest in the Regional Network:

- Build core BRT network, including I-40
- Strengthen connections to Raleigh or Cary
- Support regional rail network
- Allocate funding for bus stops, crosswalks and sidewalks
- Invest in Community Funding Area

Serve More People:

- Operate more frequent bus routes
- Increase service levels on successful bus routes
- Operate more bus service

Serve More Places:

- Regional transit infrastructure (some BRT, regional rail)
- Strengthen connections to Raleigh or Cary
- Invest in Community Funding Area
- Build Community Transportation Facilities

He shared Invest in the Regional Network:

Rail Ready Projects:

- \$216M over 10 years:
 - ~\$19M per year, each year (funding rolls over)
 - Regional Rail Implementation Plan will be completed in June 2025
 - Potential investments may include:
 - Stations
 - Track Improvements
 - Increased Rail Service
 - Additional study may be needed

Implement and Expand BRT Network:

- \$1.0B in BRT investment (capital only)
 - Core Network (New Bern, Western, Southern and Northern with 2 endpoints)
 - BRT Extensions (Cary to RTP and Garner to Clayton)
 - BRT Development (I-40 Raleigh to TMH)
 - BRT Next Gen (study 5 to 6 corridors)

He shared Serve More People:

- Expand Frequent Bus Service:
 - Increase hours and days of operation for existing bus services
 - Frequent and Local Routes
 - Add at least one New Frequent Route each year
 - Over 10 years, 13 bus routes will provide frequent service
- Support Bus Service Investments:
 - 5% Contingency for Unanticipated projects
 - 15% for ADA
 - +70 Expansion Vehicles and Ongoing Replacement Vehicles
 - \$3m/year Bus Stops, Sidewalks and Crosswalks
 - 10 Connection Points where frequent routes intersect (\$750k per)
 - Maintenance Facility Study

He shared Serve More Places:

- More Community Connections:
 - Increase hours/days of existing regional bus routes
 - Add New Regional Routes:
 1. Apex to RTP/TMH via Davis Drive
 2. Apex to Raleigh Express
 3. Triangle Town Center to Durham via Briar Creek and TMH
 4. Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Apex to RTP/TMH
 5. Southern Connector: Tryon Road
 6. Knightdale to Crabtree
- New Town-to-Town Route

1. Rolesville to Wake Forest

- New Commuter Route to Amazon Facility in Garner

- More Community Facilities:

- Invest in Community Transportation Facilities/Hubs
- Increased Investment in Community Funding Area Program
- Potential Airport Interchange Facility off I-40 with federal participation

He shared Breakdown of Spending by Types.

He shared Breakdown of Operating Spending (\$1.2B).

He shared Breakdown of Capital Spending (\$1.8B).

He shared Benefits and Outcomes.

He discussed a chart that depicted people and jobs within 0.5 mile walking distance of a bus stop or station with **transit** service.

He discussed a chart that depicted people and jobs within 0.5 mile walking distance of a bus stop or station with **frequent** service.

He shared Connect Regionally.

He shared Connect All Wake County Communities:

- More Community Connections

- Faster, more reliable, more available connections between more places, including to Cary and Raleigh and between towns.

- More Community Transit Facilities

- Wake Transit Plan will invest in multiple community transportation centers around Wake County.

He shared Frequent Reliable Urban Network:

- Proposed Investments:

- Invest in existing frequent bus network so there are more hours and days (weekends) of frequent bus service.
- Expand frequent network substantially.
- Increase miles of frequent bus routes to over 300.

- Transit Plan Updates:

- Frequent bus network will expand, making it more convenient and easier to travel more places.
- Capital investments include new transfer / connection points where bus routes meet.

- Key Benefits:

- Faster, more reliable bus service
- Increase ridership
- Support increased development and more dense development.

- Wake Transit Plan Update

He shared Upcoming Engagement.

He shared Phase 3 Engagement Purpose:

- Collect feedback on draft 2035 WTP Update recommendations and supporting documents + the FY2026 WTP Workplan
 - The WTP 2035 Vision outlines what investments we'll make over the next ten years
 - The FY2026 WTP Workplan outlines what actions Wake Transit will take over the next year
 - Messaging organized around the Four Big Moves
- Increase awareness around Wake Transit
- Remind people about ongoing projects and investments

He shared Phase 3 Engagement Strategy.

He shared Next Steps.

He shared the WTP Schedule.

Commissioner Adamson asked for clarity on the plan and the need for staff and personnel.

Mr. Howell shared the WTP is focused on funding services and relies upon partners to provide the services. It is incumbent upon the municipalities to provide the personnel.

Commissioner Adamson asked for additional information regarding the planning for bike corridor beside I-40.

He shared that it is referred to as the Triangle Bikeway Project and it is included in the Regional Plan.

Vice-Chair Mial asked has the team been successful in having the community understand Wake County's goals when considering the WTP process.

Mr. Howell shared the WTP is trying to address the issue of lack of awareness by increasing engagement. He shared they will complete a major investment study when the BRT plan is adopted. He shared this study will explain how BRT will be quicker than driving.

Commissioner Stallings asked how confident is CAMPO in the funding strategy.

Mr. Howell shared they are confident and in the final phases. He shared they do not expect any investments will be changed. They are confident in the revenue and costs assumptions. The plan is updated every four

years. He shared the one area of uncertainty is the vehicle rental tax revenue and the fare box revenue.

Commissioner Stallings asked will there be federal funding in other areas besides transit to the airport.

He shared the primary area of federal funding is on big projects such as the BRT project and airport transit. He shared the City of Raleigh has received federal funding for the New Bern, Southern, and Western corridors.

Commissioner Stallings asked for clarity on the energy efficiency of fleet vehicles.

He shared they have developed policies towards clean energy buses. He shared over 70% of new vehicles are on the clean energy spectrum.

Commissioner Waters asked if community engagement will include impact to property owners.

Mr. Howell shared they have not identified any consequences and they have worked hard to build a strategy that includes everyone. He discussed their marketing and communications strategy.

Commissioner Waters asked if other benefits or resources have been identified.

Mr. Howell shared they have tried to stay away from identifying specific resources or benefits. He shared they are relying on the community and partners to identify transportation hubs and how they should look like.

Chair Evans shared GoTriangle is in the process of building a mobility hub that is connected to Union Station.

Commissioner Jackson asked for clarity on the shift of culture to increase ridership.

Mr. Howell shared they are increasing the network so that transit will be a first thought. He shared the goal is to expand transit frequency.

Commissioner Jackson asked what are they learning about the priorities of the community partners.

Mr. Howell shared the community funding program is successful. He shared they have approximately \$2-\$3M in operating projects. He discussed the different projects available in different municipalities. He shared most municipalities want to start micro-transit.

Commissioner Jackson asked is there any opposition for the plan.

Mr. Howell shared they have not received any formalized opposition. He shared they have received some negative comments regarding funding. He shared most comments received are positive.

Commissioner Thomas asked for clarity on micro-transit versus circulators and how community input is captured.

Mr. Howell shared they rely on community partners on how to utilize the funding. He shared micro-transit is a good way to start, however, once a municipality learns how the community utilizes transit, it can be changed to meet the community needs.

Commissioner Thomas asked for an overlay map that shows housing, recreation, retail, and etc.

Mr. Howell shared a community market analysis is provided to municipalities. This includes maps. He shared they provide additional resources to the partners.

Commissioner Thomas asked for website address for public engagement.

Mr. Howell shared publicinput.com/waketransit2035 is the plan update webpage. Links are also available the CAMPO and GoTriangle websites. The community market analysis is available on the websites.

Chair Evans shared CAMPO has the responsibility of working with partners and approving the WTP. She discussed how each municipality is part of the WTP. She shared an update on the BRT and the City of Raleigh.

Commissioner Jackson asked for follow up from staff as to how WTP relates to Wake County Strategic plan.

Chair Evans recognized Shelby Powell, CAMPO Executive Director.

3. Hospitality Taxes: Overview and Review of Upcoming Board Decisions

Attachments: [Hospitality Tax Overview 2025 Process & Cary Indoor Sports.pdf](#)

Mr. Michael James, Assistant County Manager, shared context regarding projects in Wake County related to the 23rd amendment, the hospitality tax and the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Raleigh. The 23rd amendment includes projects such as the Lenovo

Center renovation, the Raleigh Convention Center expansion and the relocation of the Red Hat Amphitheater.

He shared Today's Agenda:

- History & Background
 - Enabling legislation
 - Governance
 - Staff and stakeholder involvement
- Budget Overview
- Recap Major 23rd Amendment Provisions
- Review Upcoming Board Decisions:
 - Indoor Sports Facility Funding
 - 2025 Competitive Funding Process
 - 2026 Stakeholder Review

He shared Enabling Legislation:

- The NC General Assembly passed enabling acts in the 1990s authorizing the Board of Commissioners to levy two hospitality taxes including:
 - Up to 6% Occupancy Tax
 - Up to 1% Prepared Food and Beverage Tax
 - 1991: Authorized the taxes, required the Raleigh/Wake Interlocal Agreement, and established funding distributions for Wake County, Raleigh, Cary, and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitor's Bureau.
 - 1995: Created the Centennial Authority, directed initial funds for construction of a regional facility (now Lenovo Center), and set the Authority's funding distribution.

County Manager Ellis asked if the taxes have been the same since the 1990s.

Mr. James shared he will confirm if that is correct.

He shared revenues must be used for projects supporting arts, cultural, sports, or convention facilities.

Mr. James shared Governance:

- The 1991 law made levy of the taxes contingent upon adoption of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the City of Raleigh and Wake County.
- The ILA was adopted in November 1991. The ILA, along with 23 amendments, articulate oversight and use of the revenues.
- Raleigh City Council and the Board of Commissioners approve all ILA amendments.

He shared Stakeholder Reviews:

- A process is created to include stakeholders in the review of revenues, planned expenditures and future opportunities every few years
- Stakeholders include:
 - Municipalities, Centennial Authority, Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitor's Bureau (GRCVB), Wake County Hospitality Alliance, and others
- Stakeholders established principles in 2017 to articulate values of values of community stakeholders related to use of the revenues

He shared Staff Review Team:

- Operating Principles and Practices established a staff review team to assist City and County managers to help plan, review model scenarios and advise on the distribution of tax revenues. Staff review team includes reps from:
 - Centennial Authority
 - Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau
 - City of Raleigh
 - Wake County Hospitality Alliance
 - Wake County
 - Town of Cary
 - Town of Morrisville
 - Town of Wendell (Rotating Municipal Rep
- Staff reviews held at least annually

He shared Financial Planning and Modeling:

- County serves as fiscal agent
- Financial models jointly maintained by City and County:
 - Major Facilities Cash Flow Model: Wake County
 - Convention Center Complex Financing Plan: Raleigh
- Consider long-term expenditure commitments within a model sensitivity analysis to minimize project and financing risk with debt repayment the highest priority
- Maintain fund balance targets that provide adequate margin of error to minimize financing risk should revenue estimates fall short of projections

Commissioner Waters asked for clarity on the Coastal Credit Union Music Park.

Mr. James shared the Coastal Credit Union Music Park is a city venue and not funded through the hospitality tax.

Mr. Ben Canada, Chief of Staff, shared the Music Park is a city owned and operated facility.

Commissioner Stallings asked if the funding is spent on facilities; not operational expenses.

Mr. James shared there are some exceptions where the hospitality tax is used for operation. However, it is mostly a debt service for capital projects.

He shared occupancy revenues are out pacing the 23rd Amendment projections.

He shared food and beverage revenues are tracking below the 23rd Amendment projections.

He shared FY 2025 Adopted Budget: Wake Hospitality Taxes.

He shared Funding Distribution Details. He explained how the funding for projects were distributed based upon three sections:

- Section 1 Expenditures: \$31,127,000 - Statutory Distributions and Debt Service Commitments
- Section 2 (85% Funds): \$47,653,000 - Raleigh Convention Center Complex Projects
- Section 3 (15% Funds): \$9,250,000 - Cary Sports Facilities Maintenance
- Competitive Project Funding

There was discussion regarding how the sections for certain debt service was determined.

Commissioner Jackson asked which section has grown in need thus creating a greater burden.

Mr. James shared Section 1 is tied with collections. He shared a large portion of the amendments are geared towards adding funding for the convention center.

He shared 23rd Amendment: Major Provisions:

- Lenovo Center Renovation/ Enhancement Project
- Convention Center Complex Expansion, Amphitheater Relocation, & Hotel Parking/Infrastructure
- Indoor Sports Facility
- Competitive Projects

Commissioner Thomas asked for examples of projects funded by the

Small project funds that is noted under Competitive Projects.

Mr. James shared examples of a few projects in the last several years include the Wendell athletic field, Knightdale soccer fields, Fleming Park in Fuquay-Varina and the Wake Forest Renaissance Theatre.

Commissioner Waters asked for clarity on the Competitive Projects process.

Mr. James shared, historically, it is a application process which includes submitting a RFP, staff review, and submitting recommendations to the Board.

County Manager Ellis shared staff from other municipalities are included in the process as well.

Mr. Canada asked if the purpose of the Competitive Projects is to ensure funds are allocated to the other 10 municipalities.

Mr. James shared Indoor Sports Facility Funding Process:

- In 2018, Visit Raleigh worked with a consultant to develop a 10 -Year Tourism Plan for Wake County (*Destination 2028 Strategic Plan*)
- The plan recommended a new indoor multi-sport facility to elevate Wake County's profile as a competitive sport tourism destination
- The 21st Amendment to the ILA established funding for a facility, and required City and County to select, through competitive process, an entity to construct, operate and maintain the facility
- In 2019, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was initiated to identify a partner for the facility
 - Town of Cary was selected for the project
- The 23rd Amendment added planned funding to allow Cary to leverage \$75 million in financing over a 25-year term
 - \$4.7 million in previous appropriations (plus \$630,000 in FY 26)
 - \$5.35 million/annually in starting in FY27

He shared Indoor Sports Facility Status:

- Cary's planned source of funds for their share of the project funding was General Obligation Bonds placed on the 2024 ballot
 - The Bond referendum failed in November 2024
 - Cary has indicated the project is no longer viable to move forward
 - Cary has requested these funds be reallocated to support updates and enhancements to WakeMed Soccer Park

He shared Indoor Sports Funding Considerations:

- Any change to the planned use of funds requires an ILA amendment with approval from Commissioners and Raleigh City Council
- Funds appropriated and available to date total just \$4.7M:
 - Most of the funding was based on future capacity starting in FY27
 - No funds have been transferred to the Town of Cary for the project
- Award of funds for the Indoor Sports Facility was the result of a thorough process to identify and address a specific unmet need in the market

Commissioner Adamson asked if the Indoor Sports Facility project is paused or is approved.

Mr. James shared there is no plan to advance to project.

There was continued discussion regarding the Indoor Sports Facility project.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there was a recommendation to shift the funding for the Indoor Sports Facility.

Mr. James shared it would require reallocation of the funds and there has not been any further discussion with the Town of Cary regarding the Indoor Sports Facility.

Chair Evans shared this would not be considered until the plan is reviewed again in 2026.

County Manager Ellis confirmed the Board and City of Raleigh would have to be in agreement if there are any changes.

Mr. James shared Competitive Process History:

- First process held in 2013, with subsequent processes in 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2022
- Funding started as part of a “2-for-1” agreement with City of Raleigh, and dedicated small project funding was later added in the 20th Amendment
- Award decisions for competitive processes have been at the sole discretion of the Commissioners
 - 2019 process would have been a city/county process, but it was canceled
- Since 2013 \$20.1 Million awarded for 18 Projects located in 10

municipalities

- Supporting a variety of sports, arts, and cultural facilities projects led by municipalities, nonprofits, and educational institutions

He shared 2025 Funding Process Considerations:

- The 23rd Amendment says the next funding process will be held by “late 2025”
- Staff will develop the process for presentation to the BOC in late summer/early fall
- Language allows for a joint City/County process awarding a total of \$23.5 million, OR a split process including:
 - County only process to award \$8 million
 - Joint City/County process to award \$15.5 million
 - Amendment says City and County Manager will jointly decide whether to hold a joint process

Commissioner Waters asked for the funding process for projects in Raleigh.

Mr. James shared that the project recommendation would answer how funding is determined when staff presents the Board with projects.

There was continued discussion regarding the process for funding projects in Raleigh.

County Manager Ellis shared the projects are determined to encourage tourism.

Commissioner Jackson asked for clarity on the funding of projects noted in 23rd Amendment: Major Provisions for Competitive Projects (\$2M and \$15.5M).

Mr. James shared \$2M and the \$15.5M are four years worth of fiscal year contributions. Over time, \$23M would have been accumulated.

Commissioner Jackson asked for clarity of education institutions that have received funds.

Mr. James shared NC State and Marbles received funding.

County Manager Ellis shared St. Augustine's University has received funding as well.

Commissioner Adamson shared it is not only hotel nights but the amount of money that the hotel commands. She shared there is a shortage of hotels in downtown. She shared the Greater Raleigh

Convention and Visitors Bureau has an incentive plan to draw large events to Wake County. She shared a popular request is to have a shuttle service that transports visitors from the Convention Center to their hotel.

Mr. James shared 2026 Stakeholder Review:

- The last review was held in 2023 to inform development of the 23rd Amendment and major projects funded
- The 23rd Amendment calls for the next major review process to occur no later than June 30, 2026, and include:
 - Public process led by Raleigh City Manager and Wake County Manager
 - Evaluation of operating/capital maintenance requirements for new/expanded facilities
 - In-depth review of the financial model, projections, and future capacity

He shared Next Steps:

- Spring/Summer 2025: City/County staff begin planning 2025 Competitive Funding Process
- Late Summer 2025: Staff presents process to elected boards
- Later Summer 2025: Request for Proposals Released
- Fall 2025: Applicants development and submit proposals
- Late 2025: Review/evaluation of proposals
- Late 2025: Staff recommendations to elected boards
- Late 2025/Early 2026: Award decisions made by elected boards
- Early 2026: Initiate stakeholder review process

4. White Flag and Second Street Place Updates

Attachments: [White Flag and Second Street Presentation.pdf](#)

Ms. Eillen Rosa, COC Director, shared Today's Agenda:

- White Flag Overview:
 - 2024-2025 Season
 - White Flag Future Vision
- Second Street Place - Operational Update:
 - Shelter programming expectations
 - Shelter operator selection process
 - Facility renovation benefits
- Second Street Place - Renovation Update:
 - Site & floor plan overview
 - Project schedule

She shared 2024 - 2025 Cold Weather Season:

- Alert Activations:
 - 61 White Flag Alert Nights during the 2024-25 season

- Longest number of consecutive alerts days: 26 from 01/01 - 01/26/25.
 - For reference, there were 67 White Flag Alert Nights in the 2023-24 season
- Criteria for Declaring White Flag Status:
 - Based on National Weather Service (NWS) 3 - 7-day outlooks.
 - Excessive Cold Watch at 35 degrees or lower
 - Wind Chill Warning at 35 degrees or lower
 - CoC Homeless Emergency Response Committee Chair (Pastor Haywood of St. Johns Metropolitan Community Church) makes official declarations based on these criteria.

She shared Shelter Capacity:

- Shelter capacity expands seasonally and flexes on White Flag Alert Nights by site, generally about:
 - ~110-190 additional beds for Single Adults
 - ~20 capacity for Families based on household size
 - Faith Community Partners provide the majority of shelter space during White Flag.

She shared Vision for the future of White Flag:

- Wake County and CoC MOU includes responsibility to:
 - “Establish a White Flag annual response plan in collaboration with the Wake CoC Governing Board, to include notification of declared White Flag nights and Cooling Centers and the creation of a community-wide plan for severe weather.”
- Planning Efforts:
 - Soliciting community feedback on 2024-25 season via 03/24/25 CoC Membership Meeting and survey.
 - CoC to crosswalk feedback and response plan to:
 - Itemize changes for 2025-26 response plan
 - Proactively coordinate with service providers and partner agencies
 - Develop comprehensive communications plan

Commissioner Stallings asked for clarity on the communications plan.

Ms. Rosa shared the initial feedback received from the community is "This is the best season yet." This suggests staff has done a better job with communication. She shared this was the first season staff used text messages and listserves. The White Flags alerts were called twice a week. She shared feedback was received that indicated it was difficult

having multiple shelters available. It would be easier to have a more consolidated location.

Commissioner Adamson shared that she would like to see the White Flag temperature increase as the capacity is increased.

Ms. Rosa shared they will also look at thresholds that consider precipitation.

Ms. Waters asked if families are able to stay together.

Ms. Rosa shared she is still learning the system. However, she has seen that families are able to stay together.

Ms. Morgan Mansa, Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization Director, shared her appreciation of the staff's hard work and dedication on the Second Street Place project in a four month window.

She shared History of Drop-In Shelter in Wake:

- 2019 - 2023: Unsheltered homelessness doubled
- Reduction of shelter capacity due to COVID-19
- 2019 - 2024: County searched for adequate building for permanent drop-in shelter
- 2023 - 2025: County funds temporary Drop-in via St. John's MCC
 - 12/31/24: St. John's Temporary Shelter on Cabarrus St. closed
 - 12/31/24: Healing Transitions reduced men's shelter capacity in preparation for new building
 - 01/01/25: 5010 Second St. became temporary drop-in shelter

She shared Second Street Place Overview:

- Permanent space offering same-day emergency beds
- Low barrier access on a night-by-night basis
- Bridge to Home model comprehensive services
- Guests prioritized for Emergency Shelter Programs

She shared Second Street Place Programming Bridge to Home Model:

- Efficiently move people into permanent housing
- Fills gaps within the homeless system
- Comprehensive services → more successful outcomes
- 50% increase of exits with more income
- 124% increase in access to benefits
- 31-day decrease in the average length of time a household experiences homelessness, from 124 to 93 days

She shared Second Street Steering Committee.

She shared Additional Service Provider Expectations:

- Neighborhood Impact
- Financial Leverage
- Health Care & Behavioral Health
- Food Security
- Community Partnerships

She shared Second Street Place Milestones: Shelter Operator Selection.

She shared Second Street Place Programming During Renovation:

- Renovation period April 2026 - November 2026
- Community committed to providing shelter services during this period
 - Option A: Identify another facility to temporarily relocate Second Street Place operations
 - Option B: CoC members collaboratively fill temporary shelter gaps

She shared Second Street Place Shelter Renovation Benefits:

- Improve overall quality of the facility
- Expand building bathroom capacity
- Add showers to the facility for guests
- Designated security space
- Designated programmatic space

Commissioner Stallings asked will there be laundry facilities.

Ms. Mansa shared there is a service that is used for laundry. She shared they are exploring adding laundry space onsite.

Commissioner Stallings asked if faith communities are offering assistance.

Ms. Mansa shared they are organically partnering with the facility. She shared there is a lot of interest.

Commissioner Stallings asked for clarity on community outreach and engagement.

Ms. Mansa shared staff was very intentional in choosing partners. The partners were very helpful in shaping the RFP and provider expectations. She shared staff makes updates based upon the feedback received from the community.

Vice-Chair Mial shared his appreciation of the staff's hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Jackson asked if the RFP allows applicants to offer more or envision beyond the expectations.

Ms. Mansa shared additional improvements or elements are encouraged.

County Manager Ellis shared through the work and leadership of the partners and staff, a lot has been done.

Commissioner Adamson shared her experience of speaking to the community regarding the shelter.

Mr. Tommy Moorman, Senior Facilities Project Manager, introduced project team members: Mark Forestieri, Director of Facilities, Design & Construction, Scott Powell, BMS Analyst and Natalya Anissimova, Esse Architects.

He shared the Second Street Place - Area Location.

He shared the Second Street Place - Area Map.

He shared the Second Street Place - Neighborhood Map.

He shared Second Street Place - Site Plan.

He shared Second Street Place - Existing versus Proposed.

He shared Second Street Place - Floor Plan.

He shared Second Street Place - Project Schedule. He shared construction will be April 1, 2026 to November 1, 2026.

Ms. Mansa shared Capital: Renovation Costs Expected - \$5,150,000:
Funding Opportunities:

- Wake County has formally requested the City of Raleigh contribute 50% of capital and operating costs
- Second Street RFP requires the shelter operator to secure additional financial leverage
- Furniture to be provided by Operator

She shared Operating: Annual Costs Expected, \$1,699,508.

Mr. Moorman shared staff anticipates placing the schematic design on a May meeting agenda for approval.

Chair Evans shared her appreciation to staff and community partners in developing this facility.

Commissioner Stallings asked if staff has received feedback from

guests of the facility.

Ms. Mansa shared the feedback from residents during commission meetings was used in creating the RFP. She shared once an operator is on line, a formal focus group can be utilized.

Chair Evans shared there will be a Growth and Economic Strength Committee meeting and has asked that CAMPOs proposal on the Capital Boulevard toll be added to the agenda. She shared at the end of May, CAMPO will be ready to vote on the topic.

Adjourn

Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tanika D. Cooper
Wake County Board of Commissioners