

Item Title: GoWake Access FY 2025 NCDOT Rural Operating Assistance Grant

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners approves and appropriates the FY 2025 allocation of \$751,185 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) into the Transportation Fund.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve agreements with local and state governmental entities and all grant sources.

Background: On October 1, 2024, the Wake County Manager approved the submission of the FY2025 ROAP Application and signed the FY2025 The Rural Assistance Operating Program ROAP Certified Statement. ROAP is a state-funded public transportation program administered by The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). County governments or regional public transportation authorities are the only eligible applicants for ROAP funds.

These funds will allow Wake County GoWake Access to purchase trips for individuals living in Wake County who are qualifying: elderly and disabled, human services clients/employment, and citizens whose trip origin or destination is in the rural area. For FY 2025, GoWake Access has been allocated \$751,185 in total ROAP funding from NCDOT.

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

Fiscal Impact: NCDOT has allocated \$751,185 in revenues and expenditures to Wake County (GoWake Access) in the Health and Human Services Transportation Fund for qualified trips. There is no matching funds requirement.

Additional Information:

Wake County (GoWake Access) operates under multiple grant programs through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The ROAP grant program was created to provide operating assistance for trips serving the elderly, disabled, employment, and rural public purposes.

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP) funds can be utilized to purchase trips for qualifying elderly and disabled individuals living in Wake County.

Employment (EMP) funds can be utilized to purchase trips to assist human services clients that transitioned off Work First or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the previous 12 months or Workforce Development Program participants. EMP funds are also intended to help the transportation of the disadvantaged public and/or the general public to travel to work, employment training and/or other employment related destinations.

Rural General Public (RGP) funds transportation to citizens whose trip origin or destination are in the rural area.

ROAP Funds	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025*
EDTAP	\$311,839	\$338,559	\$338,937	\$369,139
EMP	\$226,931	\$246,380	\$246,653	\$263,179
RGP	\$111,621	\$121,182	\$121,498	\$118,867
TOTAL	\$650,391	\$706,121	\$707,088	\$751,185

GoWake Access provided 70,782 non-Medicaid transportation trips funded by ROAP in FY 2024.

Attachments:

1. FY2025 NCDOT Rural Operating Assistance Program:
 - a. Approved Grant Application
 - b. Signed Certified Statement
 - c. Agency Sub-Allocations
2. Budget Memo - FY2025 Human Services Transportation Fund