



Wake County

301 South McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC

Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Monday, August 21, 2023

2:00 PM

Wake County Justice Center

Regular Meeting

Meeting Called to Order: Chair Shinica Thomas

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: 6 - Chair Shinica Thomas, Vice-Chair Susan Evans, Commissioner Vickie Adamson, Commissioner Matt Calabria, Commissioner Don Mial, and Commissioner Cheryl Stallings

Staff present: David Ellis, County Manager; Scott Warren, County Attorney; Duane Holder, Deputy County Manager; Ashley Jacobs, Deputy County Manager; Denise Foreman, Assistant County Manager; Emily Lucas, Deputy County Manager; Ben Canada, Chief of Staff; Yvonne Gilyard, Clerk to the Board; Toni Womack, Deputy Clerk; Portia Johnson, Senior Executive Assistant; Tanika Cooper, Senior Executive Assistant; Dara Demi, Chief Communications Director; Jason Horton, Strategic Initiatives Director and Ellen Meder, Communications Consultant.

Others present: Keith Fishbourne, President & CEO, Special Olympics North Carolina; Erin Cagle, Special Olympian; Lucious Jones, ABC Board member; Ike Wheeler, ABC Board member; Ann Rollins, Executive Director, Poe Center; Bryan Hicks, General Manager Wake County ABC; Jeff Carter, Vice President, Facilities Operations, Wake Technical Community College; Jeffrey Brooks, Director of the Broadband Infrastructure and Loren Henderson, Farmland Preservation Coordinator.

Invocation: Vice-Chair Susan Evans

Items of Business

1. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Calabria, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Evans, Commissioner Adamson, Commissioner Calabria, Commissioner Mial, and Commissioner Stallings

Excused: 1 - West

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2023

Commissioner Mial moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Evans, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Evans, Commissioner Adamson, Commissioner Calabria, Commissioner Mial, and Commissioner Stallings

Excused: 1 - West

3. Recognition of Special Olympics Athlete

Chair Thomas shared that she attended a Special Olympics dinner in June and had an opportunity to meet an athlete that had been invited to attend and participate in the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin. She shared that there were 7000 Special Olympic athletes from 190 delegations and that included Erin Cagle from Wake County who participated in gymnastics. She shared Erin's accomplishments as an athlete.

Mr. Keith Fishbourne, President and CEO, Special Olympics North Carolina, shared that Wake County is home to the summer games each year for athletes that come from all over the state. He shared that Wake County hosted the world games in 1999 for Special Olympics. He thanked the Board for their continued support.

Ms. Cagle thanked the Board for inviting her to the meeting today. She shared that she is a Special Olympics athlete and lives and works in Raleigh. She shared that she was one of the six gymnasts chosen to represent the United States in the 2023 Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany. She shared that there were more than 8000 athletes from 174 different countries. She shared that she was only one of two chosen from North Carolina. She shared how proud she was to win a silver medal for one of her events and medals for the other events. She placed fourth in autistic gymnastics. She shared that it was an experience of a lifetime.

4. Presentation of Additional Funds from the Wake County Board of Alcoholic Control

Mr. Lucious Jones, ABC Board member, shared that the check in the amount of \$17.5M was from fiscal year 22-23 revenues. He shared that funds that have been given to Wake County over the last five years totals \$64.9M. He shared that funds given to the 12 municipalities over the last five years was \$36.2M. Funds for 17 non-profits totaled \$28.1M. He shared that the store on Creedmor Road has been remodeled. He shared that the new store in North Hills will have the grand opening ribbon cutting in September and that the Board of Commissioners will be invited. He shared that a new store will open downtown next year. He shared that the ABC Board expects over \$233M in sales this year.

Mr. Ike Wheeler thanked the Board for his appointment to the ABC Board effective August 1, 2023.

Mr. Jones shared that Mr. Jason Joyner is a lobbyist for the North Carolina Association of the ABC Board.

Vice Chair Evans shared that the general statute states how the ABC Board shares the revenues with Wake County and the funds are used for citizens that suffer from addiction and other various services.

Commissioner Adamson thanked Ms. Cagle for her accomplishments. She shared that her favorite agenda item is the ABC Board and thanked them for their service to the community. She thanked Mr. Hicks for having such great customer service.

5. National Senior Citizens Day Proclamation

Commissioner Mial read the proclamation aloud.

Ms. Ann Rollins, Director, Poe Center, shared that they come as community and NC is recognized as the best state to retire. She shared that North Carolina ranks eighth in the number of people 65 and older. Older Americans are contributing to the community, ageism is an impressive form of inequity and is identified as prejudice and discrimination towards older Americans and has a negative impact on mental and physical well-being. She shared that the Wake County Health and Human Services Board is taking this as one of their five initiatives for the next three years to look at senior services.

Commissioner Mial moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Evans, That the Board of Commissioners adopt the proclamation requested by Commissioners. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Evans, Commissioner Adamson, Commissioner Calabria, Commissioner Mial, Commissioner Stallings, and West

6. Retiree Recognition

Manager Ellis shared retirees.

The following employee will retire on July 1, 2023:

Kimberly Riley, Health & Human Services

- 26 years of service
- Kim Riley began her Wake County career in 1997 in the Revenue/Tax Administration Department as an Accounting Technician

The following employees will retire on August 1, 2023:

Gina Cornick, Health & Human Services

- 39 years of service
- Gina Cornick began her Wake County career as a public health nurse in 1984.

Jam Gourley, Health & Human Services

- 39 years of service
- Jam Gourley began her career at Wake County in 1984 as a WIC nutritionist, certifying clients and teaching client nutrition classes. An interest in breastfeeding support led to Jam achieving the International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) credential in 1996.

Reba Hamm, Health & Human Services

- 34 years of service

Sheila Jones, Wake County Soil and Water

- 35 years of service
- Sheila B. Jones began her Wake County career in 1988 as the Environmental Education Specialist for Wake Soil and Water Conservation District. In this position she taught students hands-on lessons about environmental science, trained classroom teachers and taught a course on the art of teaching and best education practices.

Richard Whitlow, Wake County Sheriff's Office

- 26 years of service
- Lieutenant Richard Whitlow began his career with the Sheriff's Office 26 years ago and has more than 27 years of service in law enforcement.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Stallings moved, seconded by Commissioner Mial, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Evans, Commissioner Adamson, Commissioner Calabria, Commissioner Mial, and Commissioner Stallings

Excused: 1 - West

7. Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
8. Acceptance of 2023 DEI Grant from the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association
9. Appropriation from Fund Balance to the Health and Human Services Food and Nutrition Services Program
10. Three-Year Agreement with Dell Inc. for Microsoft Licensing
11. Wake County Public School System FY 2024 Annual Capital Improvement Program Appropriations
12. Wake County Public School System FY 2024 Capital Reallocation for Parkside Middle
13. Award a Construction Contract in the Amount of \$607,000 for the Wake County Courthouse Condenser Water System Repair Project
14. Affordable Housing Funds for Parkside Apartments in Raleigh, NC
15. Additional Affordable Housing Funds for The Terrace at Rock Quarry in Raleigh, NC
16. Request from the Town of Morrisville for an Encroachment within a Wake County Watershed Improvement Easement at Crabtree Creek Flood Control Structure Site# 23 Lake Crabtree
17. Approval of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Funds for the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority (RDU)
18. Settlement of 2022-2023 Property Tax Collections by the Tax Administrator, Charge of 2023-2024 Tax Collections to the Tax Administrator
19. Tax Committee Recommendations for Gross Receipts Penalty, Refund Requests and Various Reports

General Public Comments

20. General Public Comments

Mr. Johnnie Thomas, Capital Blvd, Raleigh, shared comments about the 1600 homeless people in Wake County. He shared that the most vulnerable are the ones sufferings with mental health issues. He shared there should be wrap around services for the citizens that need housing support. He shared that services should be multi-disciplinary. He shared that he spent 35 years being homeless in different states. He has been a consumer and an employee of housing services. He shared that housing is not a right but an entitlement. He shared that he has lived in a tent.

Regular Agenda

21. Wake Technical Community College Capital Improvement Program FY 2024 Plan Appropriations

Dr. Jeff Carter, VP, Wake Tech, Facilities Operations, shared the Wake Tech overview and locations map.

He shared the Previous Bond Work Update.

Previous Bond Work Update

Ready Hall Labs Renovation

\$6.8 million

- 10,000 gsf
- Phase I - Spring 2022
- Phase II - Spring 2023
- Welding
- Electrical
- Refrigeration
- CAD
- Maker Space

Hendrick Center for Automotive Excellence

\$42 million

- 100,000 gsf
- Opened - Spring 2021
- Collision repair
- Automotive repair
- Paint booth
- Welding

Central Energy Plant & Infrastructure

\$64 mil

- 60 acres

- 15,700 square feet
- New central energy plant
- Roads, piping, wiring
- Geothermal well field
- Campus-wide distribution
- Opened May 2023

Public Safety Simulation Complex**\$60 million**

- 80,126 square feet
- Opening - Spring 2024
- Law enforcement
- EMS training
- UAV programs
- Driver training pad
- Fire & rescue training
- Burn and drill training towers

Gen Ed and Student Services - \$72 million

- 115,283 square feet
- Opening - Spring 2024
- Classrooms
- Physics, chemistry, biology labs
- Advising
- Library
- Food services
- Faculty offices

Technology 4.0**\$60 million**

- 78,948 square feet
- Opening - Fall 2025
- Classrooms
- Maker space
- Mechatronics
- Robotics
- Biopharma
- Digital/systems tech

He shared R&R Infrastructure projects.

He shared Workforce 2022 Bond Projects

Workforce Forward Bond

FY24-27 | PROJECTS

2022 Bond projects

\$353.2 million

- **\$105 mil - New Health Sciences Building & Parking Deck,**
Perry Health Sciences Campus
- **\$75.5 mil - Relocation of Existing Western Wake Campus Facility,** Western Wake Campus
- **\$54.0 mil - Western Wake Workforce Center,** Western Wake Campus
- **\$65.0 mil - Cyber Science Building & Parking Deck,** RTP Campus
- **\$38.0 mil - Renovate Various Facilities,** Southern Wake Campus
- **\$15.6 mil - Campuswide R&R and Infrastructure Upgrades,** All Campuses

Building 1 and Parking Deck

(FY23/24)

\$105 million

- 120,000 sq. ft. building
- Classrooms
- Labs & simulation hospital
- 500 space parking deck
- Programs
- Nursing
- Imaging
- Mental health
- Physical, occupational, respiratory therapy

Permanent Western Wake Campus

- Replaces current leased facility
- 34 acres
- Cary/Apex/Holly Springs
- Near US 1, NC 55, and NC 540 Triangle Expressway

Building 1 (FY24/25)

- Relocation of existing Western Wake Campus

\$75.5 million

- 100,000 sq. ft.
- Classrooms
- Labs

- Support spaces
- Programs
 - Business
 - Entrepreneurship
 - University Transfer

Building 2 (FY25/26)

- Western Wake Workforce Center

\$54 million

- 80,000 sq. ft.
- Classrooms
- Labs
- Support spaces
- Programs
 - Workforce Education Center
 - Biotech
 - Industrial Training Labs
 - Simulation/Game Development

RTP Campus | Expansion**Building 3 and Parking Deck (FY26/27)****\$65 million**

- 80,000 sq. ft.
- Classrooms/labs
- Programs
 - Cybersecurity
 - STEM programs

Renovations to multiple buildings (ongoing)**\$38 million**

- Alterations to meet program needs
- Upgrades to building systems
- Renovations
 - Classrooms
 - Labs
 - Administrative spaces
 - Student services areas

R&R and Infrastructure Projects (ongoing)**\$15.6 million**

- HVAC equipment
- Building automation
- Elevator modernization

- Electrical upgrades
- Life safety improvements
- Security
- Wayfinding
- Accessibility
- Roads & parking

2023 CIP Appropriations**\$96,755,000**

- Cash funded
 - IT Infrastructure - \$4,550,000
 - Minor Capital - \$1,000,000
 - Facilities Alt - \$1,000,000
- Campus-wide R&R
 - \$3,050,000
- Campus-wide Infrastructure
 - \$655,000
- Strategic Expansion
 - \$86,500,000

Commissioner Stallings thanked Wake Tech for their work on these projects. She asked for additional information on the project with Elizabeth City.

Commissioner Mial thanked Wake Tech for the projects.

Commissioner Adamson shared this ask is a foundation for students careers. She thanked citizens for approving the bond.

Vice-Chair Evans thanked the voters. She thanked Wake Tech for the vision. She thanked them for reaching the entire county and she is excited for the west region that is forthcoming.

Chair Thomas echoed her colleagues. She shared that Wake Tech is a go to partner. She shared that she is excited about the public safety program.

Commissioner Stallings moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Evans, that the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Appropriates a total of \$90,205,000 for design and construction of new buildings at the new Health Sciences Campus; relocation of the Western Wake Campus; and ongoing capital program support for information technology infrastructure, campus infrastructure,**

renovations, and repairs; and

2. Appropriates \$3,603,815.18 within the Wake Tech Seven-Year Capital Improvement Program received from the sale of land in the Morrisville/RTP area to the Wake County Public School System for construction in the Eastern Wake Campus Public Safety Simulation capital project. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Evans, Commissioner Adamson, Commissioner Calabria, Commissioner Mial, and Commissioner Stallings

Excused: 1 - West

- 22.** Approval of Funding Commitments between Wake County and the City of Raleigh Regarding Implementation of Countywide Room Occupancy and Prepared Food and Beverage Tax

Ms. Denise Foreman, Assistant County Manager, shared 2023 Hospitality Tax Review Recommendations.

2023 Hospitality Tax Review Recommendations

Wake County Hospitality Taxes

- State legislation approved in 1991 and amended in 1995 levies 6% on occupancy stays and 1% on prepared food and beverage countywide
- Revenues may only be used for projects supporting arts, cultural, sports or convention
- Wake County and City of Raleigh are responsible for oversight and approval for uses of revenues
 - Managers make recommendations on uses
 - Raleigh City Council and Wake County Commissioners vote on uses

Goals for 2023 Review

- Review operating principles for alignment with community goals and values
- Maintain fiscally responsible planning
 - Consider new long term financial commitments
 - Maximize cash position
 - Address cost increases associated with capital projects
- Support existing large, regional facilities
 - Enhance PNC Arena
 - Advance downtown hotel to support Convention Center complex
 - Expand convention center and relocate amphitheater

- Seek opportunities for smaller scale investment with impact
 - Advance indoor sports facility in Cary
 - Support smaller projects

Recap of the Process to date**Jan**

City Council / County Commissioners Process Update

Feb 15

Stakeholder Meeting #1 - Hospitality Tax Primer and Revenue Review

Feb 29

Stakeholder Meeting #2 Receive presentations on PNC Enhancements and Cary Indoor Sports Complex

Mar 15

Stakeholder Meeting #3

Receive presentation on Raleigh Convention Center Complex - Hotel, Amphitheater and Expansion

August 11

Stakeholder Meeting #4 - Managers Recommendations

Aug 14

Briefing for Board of Commissioners

Aug 15

Briefing and Vote Raleigh City Council

Aug 21

Vote by Board of Commissioners

Operating Principles

- Operating Principles articulate the values of the community and stakeholders as it relates to the uses and governance of hospitality taxes in Wake County.
- Updated Operating Principles to reflect City, County and community goals related to supporting diversity, equity and inclusion.

She shared charts showing the Recommendations.

Next Review**Review Team**

- Annual review of revenue trends
- Update short term growth for each budget year

Full Review

- Complete no later than June 30, 2026
- Include evaluation of operating and capital maintenance requirements for new/expanded facilities

Funding Recommendations in Summary

- ✓ Adjust revenue to acknowledge long-term financing goals
- ✓ Continue current commitments
- ✓ Support significant enhancement of PNC Arena
- ✓ Support increased costs associated with new Indoor Sports Facility
- ✓ Support downtown Raleigh hotel and provide for expansion of Convention Center
- ✓ Support larger investment for competitive projects countywide

Next Steps

- September Commissioners to vote on 23rd Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with City of Raleigh
- Fall Commissioners to vote on 7th Amendment to the Tri-Party Agreement with Centennial Authority and City of Raleigh

Vice-Chair Evans thanked Denise and staff for the dedicated work to this project. She shared that tax payers will not be paying for this project. She shared that this funding is coming from hotel tax funds and food and beverage taxes. The largest of these is the hotel tax contributing 6%.

Commissioner Adamson shared her excitement for the item. She shared that there are various exciting projects under this recommendation.

Commissioner Mial shared that Wake County is fortunate to have such a strong resource team working to bring this together. He shared comments on a destination location that will bring more people to Wake County and grow the economy.

Commissioner Calabria echoed his appreciation for everyone who has worked on this project. He shared that there are many stakeholders and requires planning and prediction of revenues. He shared that this is a huge effort and huge advancement for the community. He shared that there is also a 2M annual appropriation for competitive projects that all 12 municipalities can vie for to promote their cultural arts, tourism and facilities in their areas. He shared huge step for economic/eco-system in the county.

Commissioner Stallings shared it's good when the hard work pays off. She shared she is also excited about the affordable housing that was negotiated as well as the development that will be occurring around the PNC arena, which will also help with making Raleigh a destination city. She added that Wake County will be hosting the NC Association of County Commissioners at the Convention Center.

Chair Thomas shared that staff has worked tirelessly. She shared that

this is a monumental day for Wake County and she is proud of the outcome.

Commissioner Adamson moved, seconded by Chair Thomas, that the Board of Commissioners approve the recommended funding commitments of the Wake County Room Occupancy and Prepared Food and Beverage Taxes as outlined below to be further codified in the 23rd Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement governing the use of these taxes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Evans, Commissioner Adamson, Commissioner Calabria, Commissioner Mial, and Commissioner Stallings

Excused: 1 - West

23. Approval of the Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in Partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture and North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on the Oaky Grove Property in Wendell through the County's Farmland Preservation Program

Mr. Loren Henderson, Farmland Preservation Coordinator, shared the prior actions to support the acquisition.

Prior Actions to Support the Acquisition

- In June of 2022, the BOC approved the Wake County Farmland Preservation Ordinance, establishing the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) and Conservation Easement Programs.
- In March of 2023, the BOC approved the appropriation of rollback tax funds to the Deferred Agricultural, Horticultural, and Forestlands Tax fund, to be used for Agricultural Conservation Easements.
- Since the ordinance was established, more than 1,000 acres have been added to the VAD program and there have been numerous conservation easement applications submitted.

He shared the Farmland Preservation Program.

Prior Actions to Support the Acquisition

- In June of 2022, the BOC approved the Wake County Farmland Preservation Ordinance, establishing the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) and Conservation Easement Programs.
- In March of 2023, the BOC approved the appropriation of rollback tax funds to the Deferred Agricultural, Horticultural, and

Forestlands Tax fund, to be used for Agricultural Conservation Easements.

- Since the ordinance was established, more than 1,000 acres have been added to the VAD program and there have been numerous conservation easement applications submitted.

He shared the Oakey Grove Farm and Forest.

Oaky Grove Farm & Forest

- First project to utilize new Deferred Agricultural, Horticultural, and Forestlands Tax program for the purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement.
- The land is owned by Talmage and Carol Brown.
- Part of the Mark's Creek Rural Landscape, a protected conservation corridor.
- 117-acre farm; roughly 100 acres of forestry 17 acres of open crop land.
- The forestland is under active timber management.
- The open land is being utilized for a mixture of traditional row crop production and small produce.
- The produce operation is run by the Karen Community Farmers, a group of refugee farmers from Myanmar.
- The property is divided into two conservation easements.
- 48 acres under USDA ALE/NCADFP/Wake County easement.
- 65 acre under NCADFP/Wake County easement.
- 5 building envelopes - 1 primary residence and 1 farm worker house per easement.
- Soils are >97% prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance.

He shared the Oakey Grove Farm and Forest-Budget

Oaky Grove Farm & Forest - Budget

Wake County funding share is roughly 8% of total cost.

Landowner Land Value Contribution and TLC 3,751,550

North Carolina's Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (NCADFP) \$497,700

Wake County

\$400,000

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation

Service \$500,000

TOTAL

\$5,149,250

Commissioner Mial thanked the Brown family for allowing for this project to move forward.

Commissioner Adamson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mial, that the Board of Commissioners:

1. Authorizes the County Manager to execute a funding agreement (along with any other supporting documentation) to purchase a conservation easement on the Oaky Grove property owned by Talmage and Carol Brown at 5800 Turnipseed Rd in Wendell, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney; and

2. Authorizes the Chair to execute said deed of conservation easement document (along with any other supporting documentation), subject to the terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney; and

3. Reallocates \$400,000 of appropriated Deferred Agricultural, Horticultural, and Forestlands Tax reserve funding for contribution to the Open Space purchase. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Evans, Commissioner Adamson, Commissioner Calabria, Commissioner Mial, and Commissioner Stallings

Excused: 1 - West

Manager's Report

24. Update on Broadband Grant Programs

Mr. Jeffrey Brooks, Director of the Broadband Infrastructure, shared a presentation on Broadband in North Carolina. He shared that he is a resource for the Board and for the county.

He shared the BIO Infrastructure Solutions Team.

He shared a slide showing the North Carolina Broadband Goals.

About | NC BIO Infrastructure Solutions Team

- Our team is responsible for the development and initialization of the CAB, Stop Gap and Pole Replacement programs in the North Carolina Broadband Office.
- We provide support to the Legislative and Executive branches in responding to citizen and other inquiries.

- We actively promote the work of the GREAT Grant and Office of Literacy & Digital Equity teams.
- Our team represents a resource in North Carolina with a singular focus on direct engagement with, and support of, all 100 counties.
- We are engaged with the Councils of Government, Cooperatives, Service Providers Manufacturers and Community Groups.

He shared a slide showing the North Carolina Broadband Investment 2022-2024.

He shared the Adoption State Office of Digital Equity and Literacy (ODEL).

Adoption | State Office of Digital Equity & Literacy (ODEL)

- Local focus
 - ODEL team works with counties, municipalities, school districts, service provides and community groups.
- ODEL **solicits information** regarding programs, ideas and outreach activities that are proven to work.
- ODEL **shares feedback** from multiple locations and projects to help NC communities create viable legacy programs to support access to broadband.
- One area of focus is to ensure all eligible citizens are **informed** about the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program.
- ODEL supports the creation of community-centric solutions and provides resources to **local** organizations to help create and scale digital literacy programs
- Projects are used to share best practices and show successful models of State and **local** partnerships
- Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment in North Carolina is 690,170 as of May 2023 - we rank fourth in nationwide ACP enrollment percentage

He shared Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Funding.

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment [BEAD] Funding | State Funding

- North Carolina | estimated \$1.5B

Uses

- Infrastructure
 - GREAT
 - CAB
 - Stop Gap
- Digital Literacy Support

- Adoption Support

Timing

- Final plan submission 2023
- NTIA Review 2023-2024
- Awards announced 2024
- Funds availability late 2024-2029

[dates approximate and subject to change]

NTIA Expects BEAD Implementation to take roughly four years.

He shared the Availability, Broadband Federal Funding.

Availability | Broadband Funding - Federal**USDA Rural Utilities Service Reconnect**

- Initiated 2019-20 | Annual availability ~ \$550M to \$650M
- Grant, Grant/Loan, Loan | Prior Year Maximums were
- \$25M grant, \$25M loan
- Census Block Based
- Complex application process
- Grant matching funds requirement 25%
- Competitive

FCC Regional Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)

- Initiated 2021 | Total of \$16B allocated Phase 1 / \$4B Phase 2
- Grants resulting from Reverse auction | No Maximums
- Census block based
- Complex two step application process
- Matching funds represented by difference between cost and subsidy
- Construction period 72 months
- Subsidy period 120 months
- Competitive

He shared the New Programs.

Availability | Broadband Funding - New Programs**Completing Access to Broadband program - Fall 2023 - Winter 2024**

- \$400M with max award of \$8M per county. Can have multiple projects in single county.
- Currently completing the CAB > GREAT award process
- Standard CAB Process
- State procurement with county investment
- Active engagement with county managers/commissioners in all 100 counties on programs, process, mapping
- CAB is two step process

- Issue RFP in June 2023 to pre-qualify internet providers in each county - increased levels of due diligence
- Define unserved/underserved scopes of work with initial counties beginning after GREAT grant awards
- Develop standard RFR with specific focus on county requirements

Broadband Pole Replacement Program - Fall 2023

- Publish draft program guidance for public feedback in April
- Support for partial reimbursement for pole replacement for eligible RDOF projects

Line Extension / Stopgap - Winter 2023

- \$90M to address "hard to reach" locations
- Active engagement with counties, providers and citizen input

Programs | Broadband Qualification RFP - June - September 2023

Shared a slide showing the Required submission from Service Providers for Grant program participation in NC.

He shared the Program Qualifications RFR.

Programs | CAB Individual County RFR (Request for Response)

- Scope: \$400 M Infrastructure Program
- Individual County Request for Response (RFR)
 - Specifications focused on County requirements.
 - County input is the most critical component of RFR process
 - Competitively bid
- Current Sample weighting:
 - 30.0% County input (eligible areas, specific areas of focus et al
 - 30.0% Technical (solution, project risk mitigation)
 - 20.0% Financial (budget, financial risk mitigation)
 - 7.5% Marketing (ACP and affordability)
 - 5.0% Throughput
 - 5.0% Overall project scope
 - 2.5% Provider requirements
- CAB > GREAT

He shared a chart showing the Programs, CAB Project Funding Tiers.

Chair Thomas referenced providers. She asked for clarification on what "anything" encompasses. She stated that the maps are inaccurate and she regularly experiences "dead spots" so asked that these areas be evaluated more closely.

Mr. Brooks shared that he is all infrastructure. This program is designed to bring facilities to within 350 feet of a residence and that resident can have service installed within 10 days at no cost. He shared that they are working diligently to identify the areas that do not have coverage.

He also stated that they work to notify residents who may not have heard from other sources.

Mr. Brooks shared the Stop Gap. No contribution from the county.

Programs | Stop Gap

- Scope: Stretching \$90M across NC to address certain last mile issues
- Current process June 2023:
 - Requesting county management & providers to create a list of known problems in each county
 - Submit suggestions/recommendations for problem areas to Infrastructure team
 - Consider Stop Gap vs. CAB vs. GREAT to maximize value of each
- Infrastructure team will review with service providers and counties
 - Review budget and proposed projects
 - With minimal leverage, how to maximize results!
- Will request County signoff per project

Programs | Broadband Pole Replacement

- Scope: \$100M oriented towards pole owners & service providers
- Aerial (pole mounted) Installation
 - Electric providers generally install 17-28 poles per mile
 - Telcos generally install 15-18 poles per mile
- Pole Issues
 - Decay / deterioration
 - Load
 - Height
 - Relocation
 - Ownership
- Generally identified by service providers, but also by engineering & outside plant reviews, pruning activities or make ready work
- Poles owned by IOU's are ineligible for reimbursement (Duke, Dominion, SCANA, etc.)

He shared maps showing: Unserved and underserved locations, GREAT Grant Awards: \$380M awarded in five rounds in 2022-2023,

Mapping of Wake County and Resource links.

Commissioner Mial shared comments on the importance of broadband. He shared that it will be vital moving forward.

Vice-Chair Evans thanked Mr. Brooks for his dedication to broadband.

Chair Thomas thanked Mr. Brooks for the survey. She shared that Wake County wants a solution and to be able to share with citizens that there will be broadband help. Educate senior citizens due to scams.

That the Board of Commissioners receives the information presented.

25. Strategic Plan Update and Stakeholder Engagement

Mr. Jason Horton, Strategic Initiatives Director, shared Why a Strategic Plan, the four phases.

Why a strategic plan?

- Engagement
- Focus
- Alignment
- Outcomes

He shared the preparation and kickoff.

Preparation and Kickoff - April - May

- Commissioners signed off on the approach in April
- Staff developed and gathered the materials
- www.wake.gov/strategic-plan <<http://www.wake.gov/strategic-plan>>
- Created six staff teams made up of subject matter experts

Six staff teams made up of subject matter experts were created to guide and inform the development of our plan.

Materials include:

- Website
- FAQs
- Engagement materials

He shared the BOC focus areas.

Internal Strategy Teams

Community Health and Vitality

Jose Cabanas

Duane Holder

Denise Foreman

Andrew Godfrey
Chris Colangelo (alternate)
Rebecca Kaufman
Lechelle Wardell (alternate)
Lorena McDowell
Alicia Arnold (alternate)
Sydney Mierop
Antonia Pedroza
Tomiko Hicks (alternate)
Emerson Barker
Stephanie Harris

Economic Strength

Denise Foreman
Michael James
Barbara Brothers
Pat Sturdivant (alternate)
Christal Carmichael
Danya Perry (alternate)
Trevor Hyde
Toney Thompson
Stephanie Harris

Education

Emily Lucas
Molly Berkoff
Lindsey Davis
Matt Jeffreys
Albert McMillian
Katherine Williams
Thomas Ray (alternate)
Michelle Venditto
Emerson Barker

Great Government

Ben Canada
Michelle Burgess
Angela Crawford
Trinija Martin (alternate)
Heather Drennan
Jonathan Feldman
Mary Hutchings
Danya Perry
Molly Marcotte (alternate)
Toni Womack

Emerson Barker
Stephanie Harris

Growth and Sustainability

Michael James

Kelli Braunbach

Mark Hamlett (alternate)

Kevin Witchger (alternate)

Mark Forestieri

Tim Ashby (alternate)

Eric Staehle (alternate)

Teresa Furr

Mikayla Renn (alternate)

Caroline Loop

Nancy Daly (alternate)

Tim Maloney

Lorena McDowell

Alicia Arnold (alternate)

Matt Roylance

Emerson Barker

Stephanie Harris

Public Safety

Ashley Jacobs

Jose Cabanas

Chris Creech

Kelli Braunbach

Ryan Davidson (alternate)

Don Garner

Jason Jones (alternate)

Melvin Lee

Molly Marcotte

Christal Carmichael (alternate)

Joe Vindigni

Jasmine Volkel

Malinda Todd (alternate)

Emerson Barker

He shared Environmental Scanning and Research.

Environmental Scanning & Research, May - July

- Identified existing plans and resources
- Where are we?
 - Community Surveys
 - Demographics and Social Trends

- Existing Key Indicators
- Identify stakeholders

He shared Engagement.

Engagement, August - October

- 210+ stakeholder groups identified by County staff
 - Engagement and outreach efforts through October
 - Soliciting feedback from community stakeholders and partners to seven questions
1. In an ideal world, how should Wake County look and feel five years from now? What might residents/community members be experiencing in their daily lives?
 2. In late 2022, Wake County surveyed the community and asked them to identify their top priorities. The following are some of the issues and topics mentioned most often.
 - Affordable housing
 - Crime, violence, and public safety
 - Development, construction, and growth
 - Education
 - Homelessness
 - Infrastructure
 - Jobs and the economy
 - Public health
 - Roads and traffic
 - Teacher and staff pay/support
 - Transit services (including bus & rail)

What are your top priorities for Wake County for the next five years?

Is anything missing from the list above?

3. Name a few things that Wake County government does well. Who benefits most from the things Wake County does well?
4. Wake County Government strives to be an organization that solves community-wide issues or problems. How can we improve our ability to address the challenges facing our community? What can we do better?
5. Wake County Government values me as a community stakeholder. (Select only one)
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree

- Not sure
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
6. As a community stakeholder, what are your preferred ways of receiving communications from Wake County Government?
(Select all that apply)
- Annual or quarterly progress reports
 - Newsletters
 - Emails
 - Social media
 - Presentations (i.e., in-person or virtual mtgs)
 - County websites
 - Press releases
 - Text messages
 - Phone calls
 - Informal meetings, including face-to-face communication or word of mouth
7. Do you want to share other thoughts or comments?

He shared Plan Development.

Plan Development, October - Early 2024

- Board of Commissioners creates the vision (Oct 20 retreat)
- Staff drafts the plan
 - Mission and Values
 - Strategies and tactics
- Targeting a completed draft by January 2024
- Another public engagement opportunity anticipated

He shared the Move from Planning to Implementation.

Move from Planning to Implementation

- Strategic Plan will provide direction and guidance for
 - Future department business plans, and
 - Some individual work plans
- We will track, measure, and report our progress
- We will maintain and update our strategic plan to tackle new and emerging issues

Appointments

26. Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee

1 Resignation

* Linda Fuller

27. Agricultural Advisory Board

Ms. Brittany Marshburn was approved to serve on the Agricultural Board.

28. Capital Area Workforce Development

Ms. Nicole Jarvis Miller reappointed.

Ms. Nancy Coston appointed to fill the Social Services (Orange County) vacancy.

29. Durham and Wake Counties Research and Production Service District Advisory Committee (SDAC)

2 Promotion Recommendations by SDAC:

Mr. Greg Luberecki, promoted to fill vacant Primary seat (held by Benjamin Parker)

Ms. Daisy Magnus-Aryitey, promoted to fill vacant Primary seat (held by Michael McBrierty)

Ms. Tamara Terry, appointed to fill vacant Secondary seat (previously held by Greg Luberecki)

30. GoTriangle Transit Citizen Advisory Committee

1 Resignation: Mr. Jerome Brown, Chair

31. Housing Authority

1 Resignation: Ms. Keemia Shaw

Ms. Michelle Edelen appointed.

32. Human Services Board

Mr. Birchie Warren appointed to fill the Psychologist vacancy seat.

33. Jury Commission

Ms. Melissa Ross Matton reappointed.

34. Upcoming Appointments for September

Town of Cary Planning and Zoning Board = 1 Vacancy
1 Resignation:- Ms. Jessica McClure

Other Business

Manager Ellis shared the award for the Digital Counties that Wake County received at NACO. He thanked Jonathan Feldman and his team for their hard work.

He also thanked Lorena McDowell for the Housing Awards.

He introduced and welcomed back Mr. Michael James, new Assistant County Manager.

Closed Session

Closed Session Motion: The purpose for the closed session is to consider the performance of the Board's appointed employees and material terms of employee contracts pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) and (6).

There was no action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne C. Gilyard, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board