

**Item Title:** Public Hearing and Resolution Calling for an Advisory Referendum

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners holds a public hearing concerning an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy an additional one-half percent (1/2)% local sales and use tax, in addition to the current sales and use taxes, to be used only for current public transportation systems included in the Wake County Transit Plan pursuant to NCGS 105-509. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Commissioners are asked to:**

- 1. Adopt the attached resolution which approves the action taken by the Board of Trustees of the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority and jointly directs the Wake County Board of Elections to call a special election for an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy an additional one-half percent (1/2%) local sales and use tax, in addition to the current local sales and use taxes, to be used only for public transportation systems included in the Wake County Transit Plan pursuant to NCGS 105-509; and**
- 2. Request the advisory referendum to be held in accordance with NCGS 163-287 on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.**

**Item Summary:**

GS 105-509 outlines the procedures for an advisory referendum for the adoption of the half cent (one-half percent) sales tax for transit by the special district. Per statute, the special district must be created or expanded, and the Board of Trustees of the Regional Public Transportation Authority (GoTriangle) may direct the board of elections to conduct the advisory referendum if the following conditions are met:

- The election shall be held on a date jointly agreed upon by GoTriangle, the Board of Commissioners, and the Wake Board of Elections.
- The advisory referendum shall be held on a date permitted by and in accordance with GS 163-287.
- A majority of the Wake County Board of Commissioners has approved conducting the advisory referendum
- A public hearing is held on the question by the Board of Commissioners at least 30 days before the date of the election is to be held

The one-half cent sales tax is a key financing source of the Wake County Transit Plan. In the first full fiscal year of the plan, sales tax is estimated at \$78.5 million and is expected to grow at four percent annually. The proceeds of the tax levied may only be used for the implementation of the Wake County Transit Plan as outlined in the Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement.

The Board of Commissioners is asked to adopt the attached resolution at the conclusion of the public hearing. It approves the action taken by the GoTriangle Board of Trustees and jointly directs the Wake County Board of Elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy an additional one-half percent (1/2%) local sales and use tax, in addition to the current local sales and use taxes, to be used only for public transportation systems included in the Wake County Transit Plan pursuant to NCGS 105-509.

The form of the advisory referendum question will be:

☐ FOR                      ☐ AGAINST

One-half percent (1/2%) local sales and use taxes, in addition to the current local sales and use taxes, to be used only for public transportation systems.

Moreover, the Board of Commissioners is requested to agree to the date of November 8, 2016 for the advisory referendum, to be held in accordance with NCGS 163-287.

With approval by the voters, GoTriangle will levy the one-half cent sales tax for transit. Without approval, the sales tax cannot be levied, and Wake County will no longer be part of the special district expanded pursuant to 105-509(d).

**Attachments:**

1. Draft Resolution