

Item Title: Wake County Transit Update

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners receives the FY 2018 Wake Transit Annual Report.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Manager's report provides an opportunity to share information with the Board.

Background: The planning, implementation, and funding of projects is governed by the Wake Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement, to which CAMPO, GoTriangle, and Wake County are parties.

The Wake Transit ILA requires an "Annual Wake Transit Report" which should include information regarding meeting strategic public transit objectives and includes the performance achieved, strategies being followed, and key milestones for capital projects and operating services. GoTriangle, serving as the tax district, is required to submit the annual report and a copy of their annual financial statement for the Wake Transit major operating and capital funds by December 15h of each year to Wake County and CAMPO.

Board Goal: The information presented in the annual report will give Wake Transit specific information to the Board of Commissioners in support of their Board Goal to "Establish a deliberate and realistic approach to address growth and mobility while preserving our environment and healthy communities."

Fiscal Impact: Projects are included in the Wake Transit Plan, funded in large part by the ½ cent local option sales tax for transit, approved by Wake County voters in November 2016. Additional federal funding is assumed in later years of the Wake Transit Plan for major capital projects such as Bus Rapid Transit and Commuter Rail.

Additional Information:

Wake County continues to work in partnership with transit stakeholders on implementation of the Wake County Transit Plan. Since the passage of the half-cent sales tax for transit, Wake Transit added Sunday service and increased mid-day service for GoCary routes; increased Sunday service for GoRaleigh to match Saturday levels; and increased frequencies on GoTriangle Route 100 and Route 300 which connect Raleigh, Cary, RTP, and the airport. With these investments, ridership is up 6 percent in GoCary, 5 percent for GoTriangle Wake Transit Routes, and 7 percent for GoRaleigh.

Additional trips on the Durham-Raleigh Express and the Chapel Hill-Raleigh Express route began in August 2018. New routes in Southeast Raleigh serving Poole, Barwell, Rock Quarry, Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, and Sunnybrook roads, in Northwest Raleigh serving the NC Art Museum, the NC Fairgrounds, and PNC Arena will begin in January 2019. After public feedback in Western Wake County, Cary is redesigning some current routes, and the new Wake Transit route serving Weston Parkway to Park West Village in Morrisville will begin in conjunction with those changes in Spring 2019.

During FY 2018, there were multiple studies to inform the implementation of the four big moves identified in the Wake Transit Plan, including the Wake Bus Plan, the Major Investment Study, and the Community Funding Area Program Management Plan. To help inform these studies, in FY 2018, Wake transit partners engaged more than 2,800 people at more than 60 events and assessed more than 3,200 survey responses and nearly 1,300 comments.

Subsequent to the end of FY 2018, the Major Investment Study for BRT is complete and GoRaleigh has been named the project sponsor for Bus Rapid Transit. The Major Investment Study commuter rail portion is nearing completion and GoTriangle has been named the project sponsor for commuter rail and intends to work with Wake County, Durham County, RTP, the North Carolina Railroad Company, CAMPO, and DCHC on the immediate next steps leading into project development. The Wake Bus Plan is complete and outlines the bus routes planned to connect regionally, connect local communities, and to increase frequent service between now and FY 2027. The Community Funding Area Program Management Plan, the program where Wake Transit funds pay for 50 percent of transit costs related to community transit projects such as on-demand, circulators, and additional transit services over and above those programmed in the larger Wake Transit Plan, is complete and the application deadline is January 25th for towns to submit for funding considerations. Public and stakeholder involvement greatly informed these plans and projects are well positioned for design and service implementation.

The Manager's report will provide the Board an opportunity to ask any questions about the material presented in the FY 2018 Annual Report or the accompanying annual financial statement for the Wake Transit major operating and capital funds. The board will also be presented information on the timetable for next steps for Wake Transit including information anticipated to be presented in committee and future manager's updates.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. FY 2018 Annual Report
3. GoTriangle FY 2018 CAFR