

Item Title: Wake County Response to Draft FY 2020 Wake Transit Work Plan

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Authorizes a letter from Wake County to the Transit Planning Advisory Committee in response to the Draft FY 2020 Transit Work Plan and;**
- 2. Authorizes the County's 5339 Federal Transit Administration sub-allocation from the City of Raleigh to be used towards a proposed shared facility with the City of Raleigh for a new Demand Response Operations and Maintenance Facility for federal fiscal years 2018-2022.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Transit Planning Advisory Committee has released the Draft Wake Transit Work Plan for public, agency, and stakeholder feedback. As part of an annual review process, the Board of Commissioners offers feedback on the draft plan.

Background: On February 1, 2019, the Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) released the FY 2020 Draft Work Plan for public, agency, and stakeholder comment. At the February 11, 2019 work session, the Board also received an update on the draft work plan, as well as information pertaining to GoWake Access and a proposed new Demand Response Operations and Maintenance Facility. The work session briefing also addressed how these projects relate to the Board's proposed 2019 Board Goals, objectives, and initiatives.

Board Goal: These actions complement initiatives in the Board Goal Areas of Growth and Sustainability and Social and Economic Vitality.

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.

The County receives approximately \$200,000 a year as a 5339 subrecipient from the City of Raleigh. The County's total contribution to the shared demand response facility would total \$1 million of the total \$20 million cost for land, design, and construction. The remaining cost for the facility will come from the City's federal funds and Wake Transit funding.

Additional Information:

Wake County continues to work in partnership with transit stakeholders on implementation of the Wake County Transit Plan.

On February 1, 2019, the Transit Planning Advisory Committee released the FY 2020 Draft Work Plan for public, agency, and stakeholder comment. Included in proposed projects are services to connect Wake County municipalities that currently do not have transit service, including a new weekday express route from Rolesville to Triangle Town Center and a weekday peak commuter service among Holly Springs, Apex, and Cary. Moreover, services are proposed to transition peak-only service for Knightdale and provide new all-day weekday service from downtown Raleigh to Garner and to serve North Raleigh better with a new weekday express route running from Triangle Town Center to RTP. Wake Tech's RTP campus will also be served by proposed route changes and additional service.

To support a better customer experience, funds are planned for mobile ticketing, and transit partners are working to implement a common fare strategy with the same pricing for single ride, 7-day, 14-day and monthly passes. With the implementation of mobile technology, the providers will also be positioned to implement fare capping, a program that ensures riders who purchase multiple single or weekly passes in a month will not pay more than the riders purchasing monthly passes.

The plan also includes significant capital expenditures to benefit transit customers, including new transit centers, new bus shelters, and enhancements to transfer points such as digital passenger information signs, safety call boxes, and improved lighting and larger shelters. County funded improvements on Wake Tech's main campus will be leveraged by Wake Transit funding and a new park and ride is being constructed allowing bus service serving downtown Raleigh and Fuquay-Varina to stop directly at Wake Tech.

An additional capital project included in the FY 2020 Draft Work Plan is a shared demand response operations and maintenance facility. Wake County and the City of Raleigh currently share a transportation vendor and a transportation operations and maintenance facility located at 1430 South Blount Street. The City of Raleigh's Engineering Services Department recently conducted a facility condition analysis and the facility has reached its useful life. The City has requested that a portion of the County's federal funds it receives as a subrecipient of Raleigh FTA funding be used towards the facility. The County receives approximately \$200,000 a year in 5339 funding in addition to approximately \$1 million in other FTA funds as a subrecipient of the City of Raleigh. The City of Raleigh will contribute approximately \$4 million and the FY 2020 Draft Work Plan includes a total of \$16 million over multiple fiscal years. The County proposes contributing its 5339 funds from federal fiscal years 2018-2022, for approximately \$1 million. This contribution will better serve on-demand and rural customers, as well as to move towards recommendations outlined in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

Funds are also included in the Draft FY 2020 Work Plan for project development funds for additional Bus Rapid Transit Corridors, which will allow those additional corridors to be submitted for federal funding consideration. Project development includes environmental review, alternatives review, selection of a locally preferred alternative, and design. Funds are also being held in reserve for Commuter Rail environmental review processes, development of alternatives, and selection of a locally preferred alternative once additional pre-project development activities are complete to better position the project for competitive federal funding.

Finally, the Draft Work Plan includes funds to be allocated for Community Funding Areas, which provides 50 percent matching funds for localities to implement transit services over and above those programmed as part of the larger Wake Transit Plan. The funds will be allocated through a competitive process between the Draft and Recommend Wake Transit FY 2020 Work Plans. The Town of Fuquay-Varina has applied for a planning grant to study micro-transit service in a service area that includes not only town municipal boundaries but areas of unincorporated Wake County. The County has partnered in the Town's application to better understand different delivery models for GoWake Access non-fixed route service. By partnering with the Town for the proposed service boundary, the County can learn more about how micro transit would work in communities and non-urbanized areas that are adjacent to municipal boundaries.

Staff has prepared a letter in response to the Draft FY 2020 Transit Work Plan. The letter, directed to the Chair of the Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC), includes comments provided by staff and those provided by the Board at its February 11, 2019 work session. The TPAC, as authorized by the Transit Governance ILA, is a committee composed of technical staff from transit providers, CAMPO, Wake County, NCSU, and all municipalities. The TPAC will review all public and agency comments and finalize the FY 2020 Transit Work Plan for consideration of adoption by CAMPO and GoTriangle in June.

Attachments:

1. Letter to the Transit Planning Advisory Committee
2. Letter from the City of Raleigh