



Board of Commissioners

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February 19, 2019

Shannon Cox, Chair Transit Planning Advisory Committee
c/o Juan Carlos, GoTriangle Community Engagement Manager
PO Box 13787
RTP, NC 27709

Re: Draft FY 2020 Wake Transit Work Plan

Dear Shannon,

The Board of Commissioners received an update regarding proposed FY 2020 Wake Transit projects, as well as how those projects and initiatives relate to the Board's 2019 Board Goals, Objectives, and Initiatives at its February 11, 2019 work session. Many of the proposed projects in the Draft FY 2020 Wake Transit Work Plan support the Board's goal areas of Growth and Sustainability and Social and Economic Vitality. Some of the Board of Commissioner initiatives supporting implementation of the Wake Transit Plan are included as part of the Board's 2019 Goals and Objectives:

- Monitor and oversee the deliverables and processes established by the transit governance interlocal agreement.
- Encourage best development practices and create affordable housing opportunities in areas identified for transit investment.
- Expand opportunities and implement strategies to address affordability of transit services and the needs in vulnerable communities and rural areas.
- Identify and recommend multi-modal transportation opportunities supporting the Wake County Transit Plan.
- Increase mobility equity by ensuring residents have access to affordable transportation options.

The Board is pleased with the fixed route and additional trips proposed for GoWake Access included in the FY 2020 Draft Wake Transit Work Plan. These new routes and additional demand response trips not only support implementing the Wake Transit Plan's big moves of connecting all Wake County communities and enhancing access to transit, the expanded service also supports the Board's initiatives to increase mobility equity and address needs in vulnerable communities and rural areas.

At the work session, the Board was also briefed on a proposed common fare strategy that will implement consistent fare pricing and discount policies. This proposal, aided by investments for mobile technology and fare capping, support the Wake Transit Plan's goal of improving the rider experience and the Board's initiatives to expand opportunities and implement strategies to address the affordability of transit services. The Board is extremely pleased to see the tangible results of a fare strategy for teens implemented with the Youth GoPass. The County is proud to have shepherded the program and welcomes serving as a distribution partner for it. The Board of Commissioners would like to see a similar emphasis for senior citizens with implementation of the fare strategy and marketing of transit services. The County is also hopeful that advancements in fare technology will mean greater synergies between the various modes of transportation in our region.

At the Work Session, the Board reviewed the consultant recommendations for the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, which was a subtask of the Wake Bus Plan. The Board of Commissioners is supportive of recommendations to include alternatives to traditional demand response transportation options and views these as key for delivering different service models for GoWake Access. The County remains committed to creating a seamless transit experience and believes that ADA and non-fixed route customers will be better served with increased collaboration. To aid in this collaboration, and to partner with City of Raleigh and proposed Wake Transit funding, the Board of Commissioners has authorized a portion of the County's federal transit funding be used towards a new Demand Response Operations and Maintenance Facility. However, there are many next steps for the recommendations included in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, and the County is interested in a clearer plan and timeline for how those recommendations will be implemented. Like the emphasis on seniors for the fare strategy, the Board would also like to see an emphasis on implementing recommendations that support aiding seniors in navigating the fixed route network and demand response transportation options.

There has been significant progress since the Board of Commissioners adopted the Wake Transit Plan and approved placing on the ballot the half-cent sales tax for transit. However, much work remains to implement the 10-year vision of the Wake Transit Plan. The Board of Commissioners remains interested in the implementation of the Plan's major capital investment projects, especially Bus Rapid Transit and Commuter Rail. We welcome our partners to present more information on these projects, their status, and implementation timelines at future Commissioner work sessions and committee meetings.

Thank you and the TPAC for the work that continues in structuring the planning and implementation of the Wake Transit Plan. Wake County continues to be a key partner and is committed to ensuring the implementation of the Wake Transit Plan. Through the County's participation on the TPAC, various project management teams and special study groups, and through the Wake Transit concurrence process, we look forward to the County's participation in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Jessica N. Holmes, Chair
Wake County Commissioners

cc: Nicole Kreiser, Assistant County Manager
Chris Lukasina, CAMPO Executive Director
Jeff Mann, GoTriangle President and CEO