

Item Title: Approval of Professional Services Contract for Wake County/GoWake Access Micro-Transit Service Plan in Support of FTA Integrated Mobility Innovation Grant

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners awards a professional services contract in the amount of \$278,500 to KFH Group and authorizes the County Manager to execute the contract for the Northeastern Wake County NC Rural Micro-transit Service planning project.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve all multi-year services contracts.

Background: Wake County/ GoWake Access applied for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) Grant in August 2019 and received award notification in March 2020. FTA's Integrated IMI Program funds projects that demonstrate innovative and effective practices, partnerships and technologies to enhance public transportation effectiveness, increase efficiency, expand quality, promote safety and improve the traveler experience.

Wake County's project goal is to launch micro-transit services that provide a "first five-mile, last five-mile" approach to connect rural residents in Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon with more distant services that will greatly enhance access to retail, medical providers, employment centers, and linkages to existing commuter or fixed route services

Board Goal: This contract directly supports Growth and Sustainability Initiative 5.3 "Implement strategies to address transit affordability and equitable mobility in vulnerable communities and rural areas" and compliments the Board's Social and Economic Vitality Objectives.

Fiscal Impact: The FTA IMI Grant awarded Wake County \$275,800 in federal funding that will be combined with \$30,000 in Wake Transit funding and \$87,727 of program income including fares, sponsor agency revenues and transportation fund balance. These funds are included in the FY 2021 Human Services Transportation Fund budget.

Additional Information:

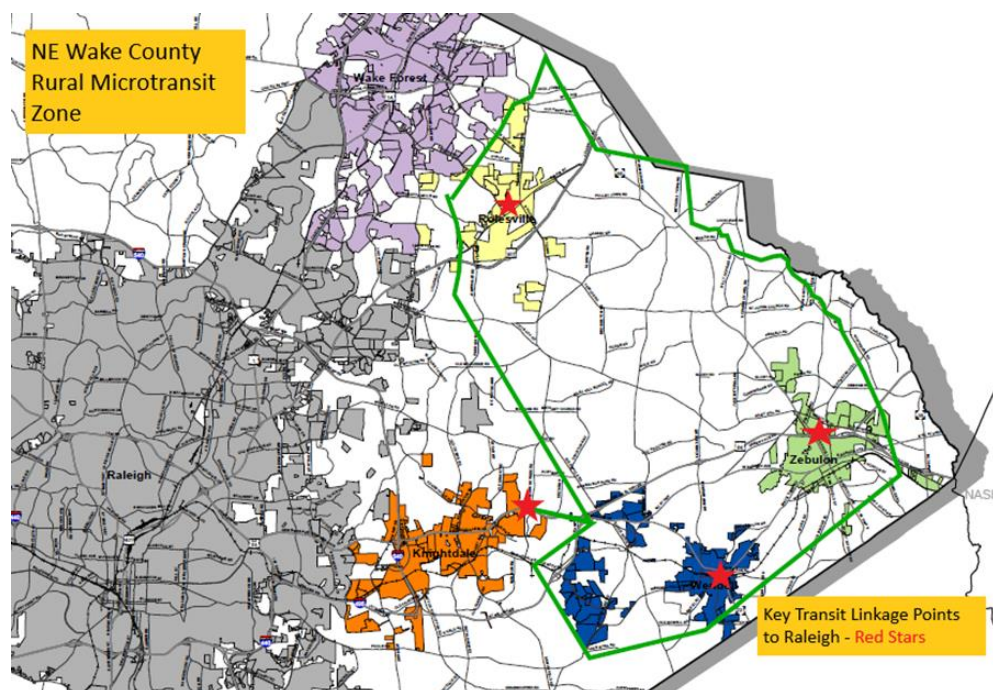
GoWake Access provides door-to-door, shared ride transportation service. Services are provided for the general public who are 60 or older, have a disability, need work-related transportation, reside in rural service zones of Wake County, or participate in a sponsored eligible service (Medicaid, Child Welfare, Work First). The County successfully applied

for federal funding last fall to support the development and testing of micro-transit service in the Northeastern Area of Wake County. The total population within the proposed micro-transit zone shown below is 21,067, of which 38 percent is considered a transportation disadvantaged population.

The consultant firm selected has over 25 years of transportation experience dedicated to aiding local, state, and federal organizations to improve public transportation services. This firm has recently been involved in several Micro-transit implementation plans and specializes in rural transit planning in NC with a sole focus on public transit and human service passenger transportation planning. Upon completion of the micro-transit planning, the County will issue a RFP to select vendors to pilot the service. KFH Group will work with the vendor selected to operate the service to refine the micro-transit service to see if the service can be replicated in other portions of the County or by other transit partners

KFH will develop plan and design a micro-transit service that the County can test as an alternative to its existing GoWake Access service in the Northeastern Area of the County. The comprehensive operations plan will not exceed total operational funds available for the new micro-transit service, including funding from existing Rural General Public (RGP) funds, Wake Transit Funds, or other transportation operating funds. The operations plan will form the foundation for the Proposer's development of an RFP for Operations of Micro-transit Services in the micro-transit service area.

The County will issue an RFP to select vendor(s) to operate the service as a result of the planning and design of the micro-transit service performed by KFH. Micro-transit service is anticipated to begin this Spring, and after 12 months, the County and the Project Team (including partners from CAMPO and GoRaleigh), will evaluate the program. KFH will recommend adjustments to be implemented in the final six months of the federal pilot testing period. In late Fall 2022, the County can choose to continue the pilot using other federal, Wake Transit, and program income funding or can choose to cease operating a micro-transit service.



Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. RFP for NE Wake County Rural Micro-Transit Study
3. Addendum Q&A Attachments
4. Summary of RFP Evaluation Process with Project Team Approvals