

**Wake County Board of Commissioners  
Transit Committee  
February 12, 2018  
9:00 a.m.  
Wake County Justice Center, Room 2800**

**Commissioners Present:**

Sig Hutchinson, Chair  
Matt Calabria, Vice Chair  
John Burns

**Wake County Staff Present:**

Tim Gardiner, Planner III; Community Services; Frank Cope, Director, Community Services; David Ellis, Interim County Manager; Nicole Kreiser, Assistant County Manager; Dara Demi, Communications Director; Allison Cooper, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Ben Canada, Assistant to the County Manager; Alicia Arnold, Housing and Transportation Director; Denise Hogan, Clerk to the Board; Michelle Cerett, Executive Assistant; and Jennifer Heiss, Communications Specialist.

**Others Present:**

Jenny Green, Transit Service Planner, GoTriangle; Darcy Downs, Transportation Planner, GoTriangle; Shelby Powell, Deputy Director, CAMPO; Bonnie Parker, Public Engagement Planner, CAMPO; David Eatman, Transit Administrator, City of Raleigh; Hunter Blohm, Intern, County Attorney's Office.

**Meeting Called to Order**

Commissioner Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Commissioner Calabria moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to approve the Transit Committee minutes from September 17, 2017. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Wake County Transit Plan Implementation.**

Ms. Nicole Kreiser, Assistant County Manager, presented an update on the status of the implementation of the transit plan.



She shared the objectives of the transit plan.

- Monitor and oversee the deliverables and processes established by the transit governance interlocal agreement.
- Continue to support and seek public participation in the development and implementation of the transit plan, including consumer experience goals and service metrics.
- Promote opportunities to maintain affordability for transit services and address needs for rural access.
- Evaluate opportunities for communities in need.
- Collaborate with municipal, community and private partners to encourage best development practices in corridors and areas identified for transit investment, including serving communities in need and creating affordable housing.
- Seek opportunities to increase collaboration between transit providers and the Wake County School System.

Commissioner Hutchinson said GoTriangle is considering purchasing electric buses. Mr. David Eatman, Transit Administrator, City of Raleigh, provided an update on GoRaleigh plans for the electric buses. He said there are 17 electric buses ordered and that be implemented once the details are finalized.

Mr. Kreiser shared the steps being taken to implement the plan.

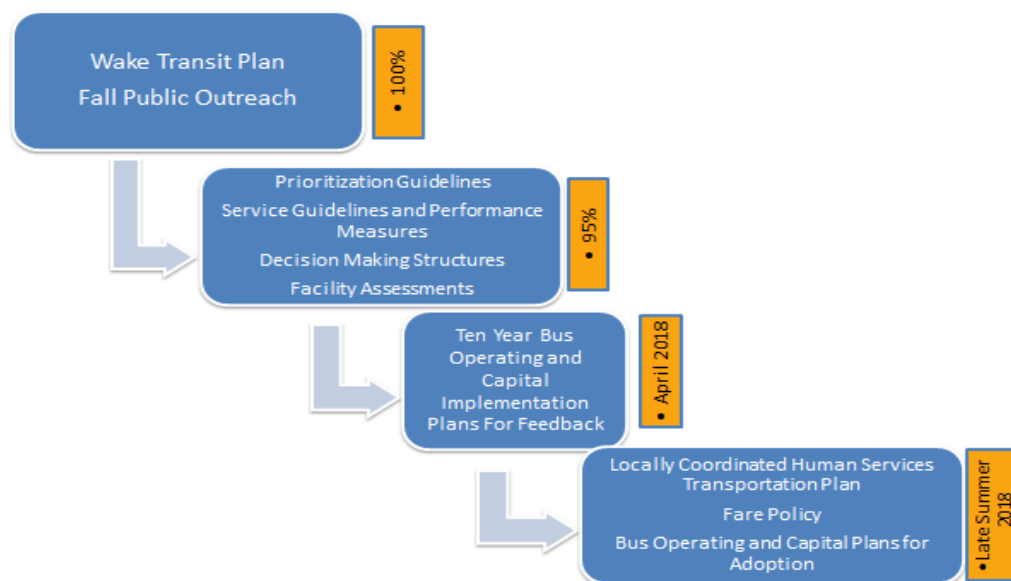
### Wake Transit Plan | Planning Underway to Inform Implementation



She shared information on the fall public outreach survey. She said public input is very important in creating and implementing the plan.

- 2,513 people completed the survey
- Held 12 public meetings from late October to mid-November
  - Seven meetings held in Raleigh, two in Cary, and one each in Fuquay-Varina, Wake Forest, and Zebulon
  - Met with over 164 attendees at public meetings,
- Collected 54 paper surveys and recorded 50 formal comments

Ms. Kreiser shared the bus plan progress and the steps that will be taken over the next ten years.

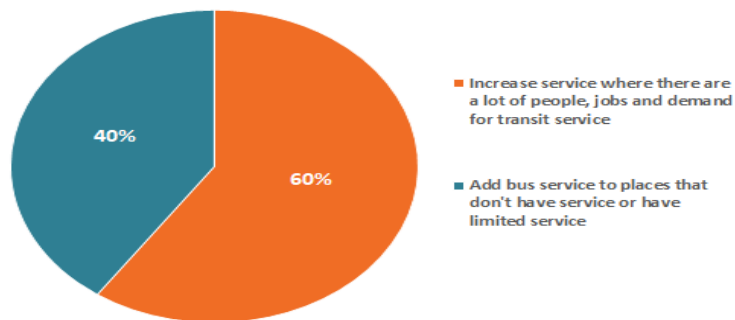


She shared the public input staff received on changes needed to the transit system.

## Which Wake Transit improvement should happen first?

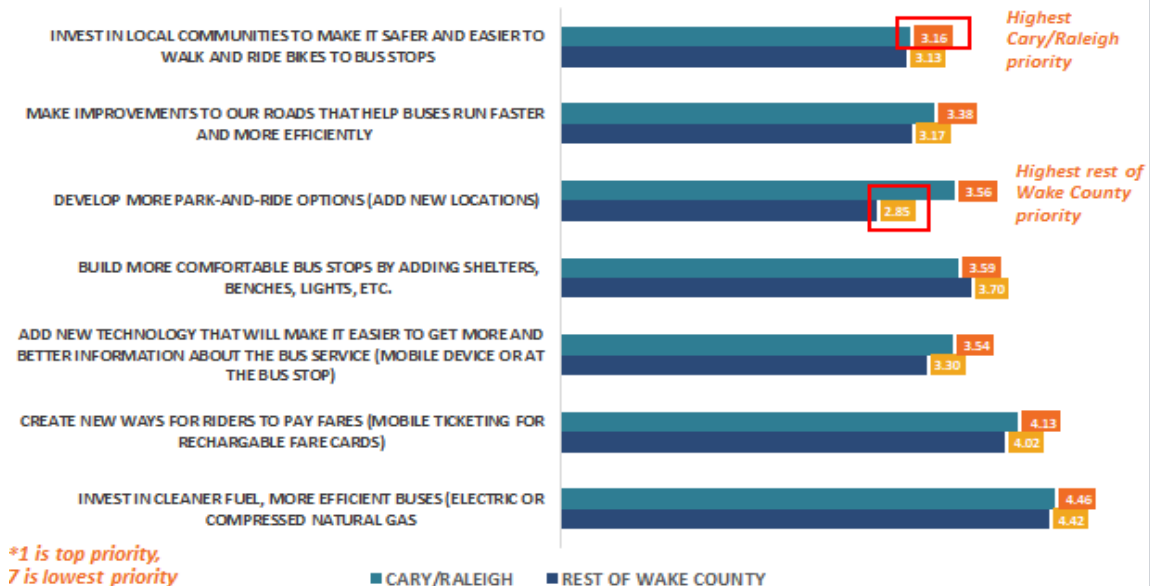


All respondents



Ms. Kreiser shared the top seven priorities received from the public during the survey process.

## Which Wake Transit improvements are the most important to you?



She shared the prioritization guidelines that were followed during the plan design.

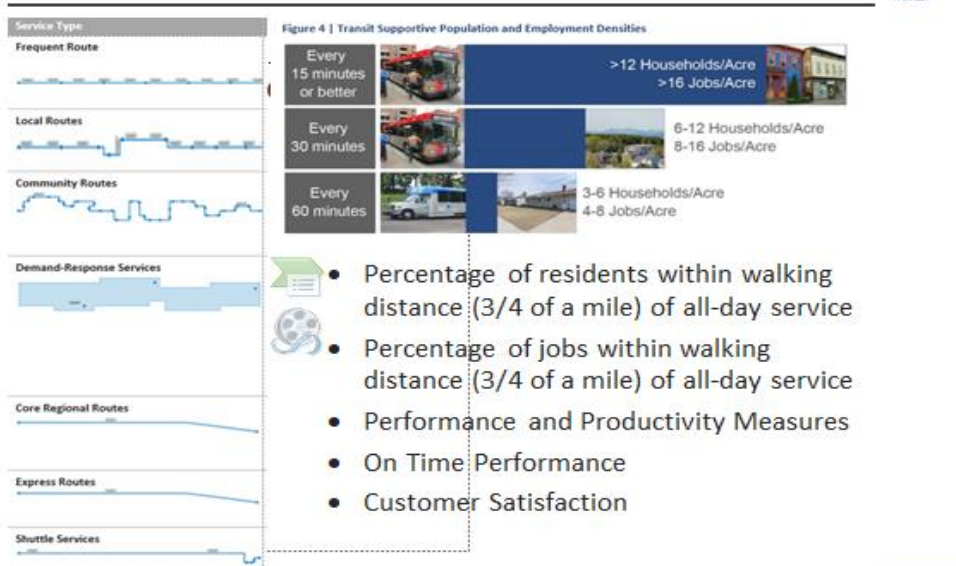
## Prioritization Guidelines



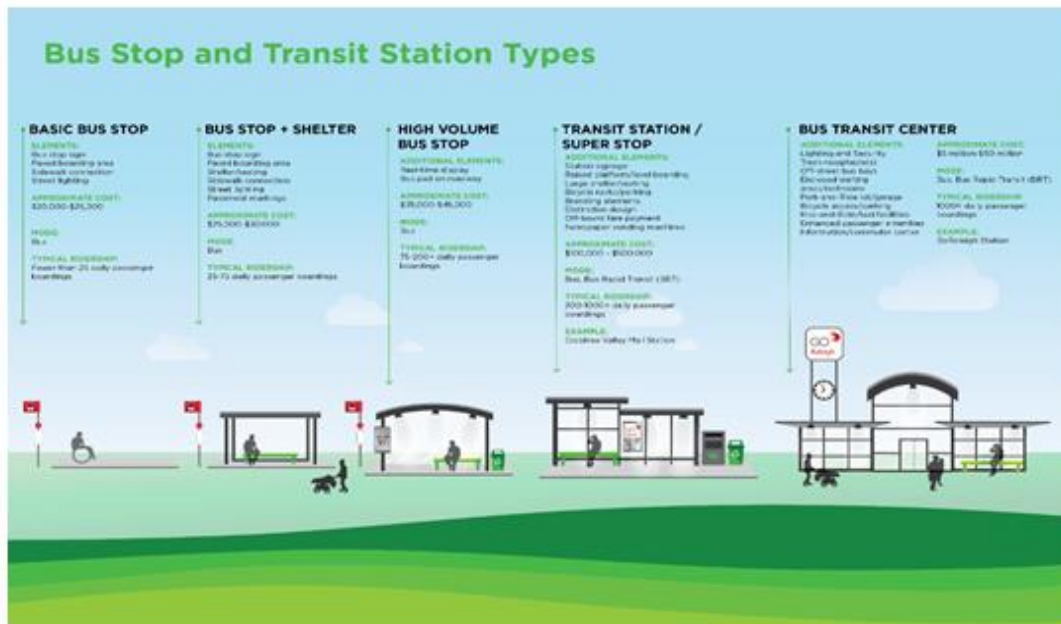
Objective	2019-2021	2022-2024	2025-2027
Balance network to 70% ridership and 30% coverage	Balance investment portfolio to 50% productivity / 50% coverage	Balance investment portfolio to 60% productivity / 40% coverage	Balance investment portfolio to 70% productivity / 30% coverage
Infrastructure Spending	Ensure that the projects promised in the Wake Transit Plan can be delivered.	Ensure capital investments support 2025-2027 projects	Ensure remaining critical system-wide investments are funded
Connect Wake County Communities	All Wake County communities have access to commuter or regional bus	Connect highest need communities with all day bus service	Connect all communities with all day bus service (as appropriate)
Connect Wake County Communities	Balance investment portfolio to bring service to 45% residents /70% jobs	Balance investment portfolio to bring service to 50% residents /75% jobs	Balance investment portfolio to bring service to 54% residents /80% jobs
Prioritize Customer Service and User Experience	Assign at least 20% of capital spending to customer service	Assign at least 15% of capital spending to customer service	Assign at least 10% of capital spending to customer service

Ms. Kreiser shared the performance guidelines used during the planning process.

## Performance Guidelines

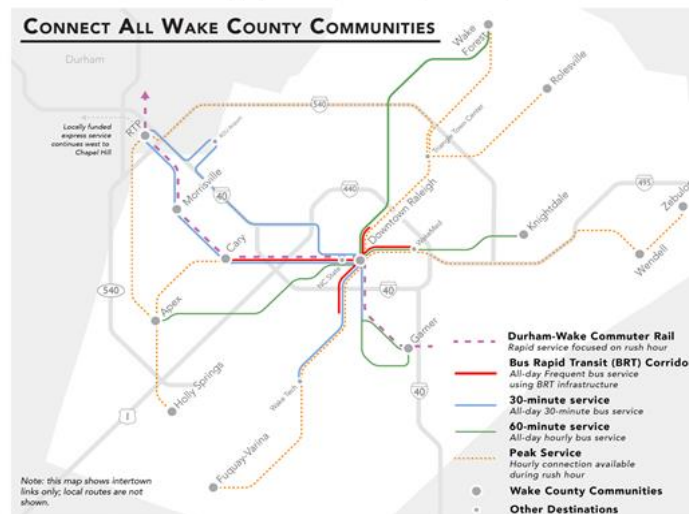


She shared the example guidelines used for determining needs at bus stop locations.



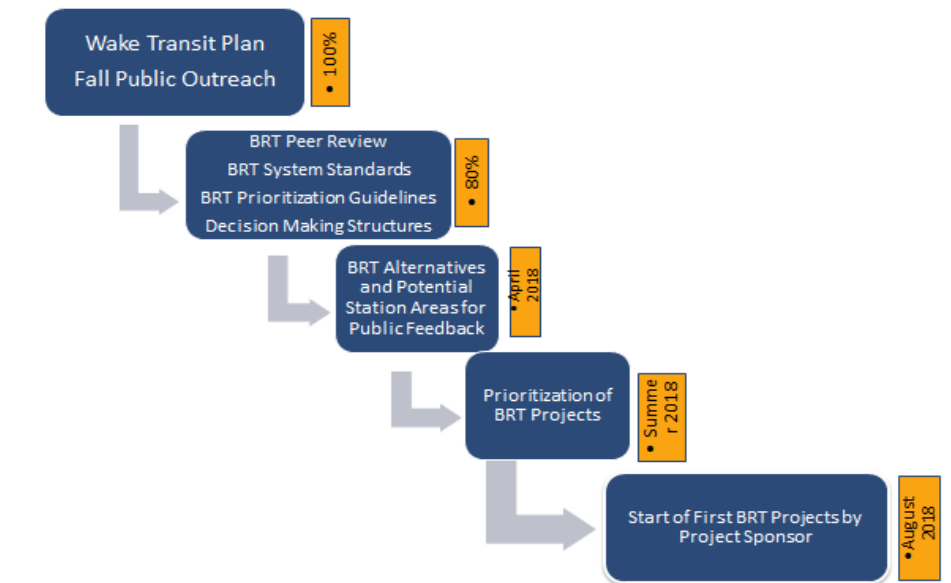
She shared the overview of how the plan will look over the next ten years.

### April: Public Feedback for Potential Bus Network Phasing (2021/2024/2027)

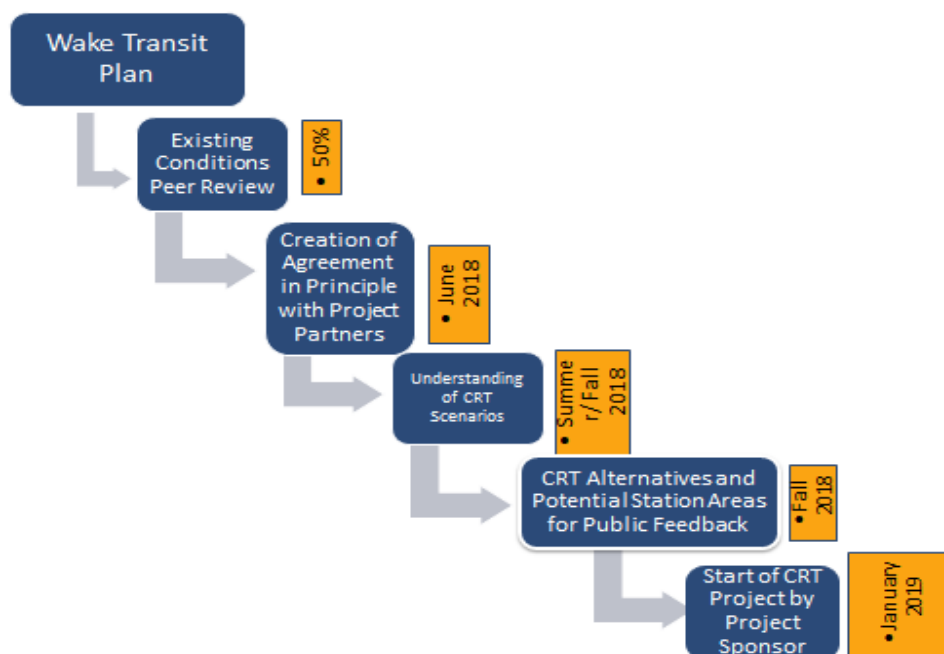


Commissioner Burns said it is important for the public to see the rollout of the plan as clearly as possible and have the opportunity to provide their feedback.

Ms. Kreiser shared the investment study progress for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

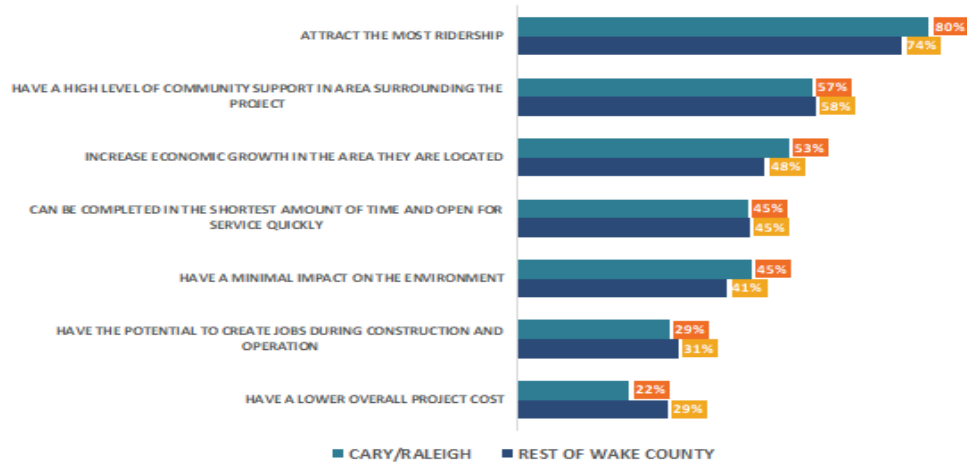


She shared the investment study progress for the Commuter Rail Transit (CRT).



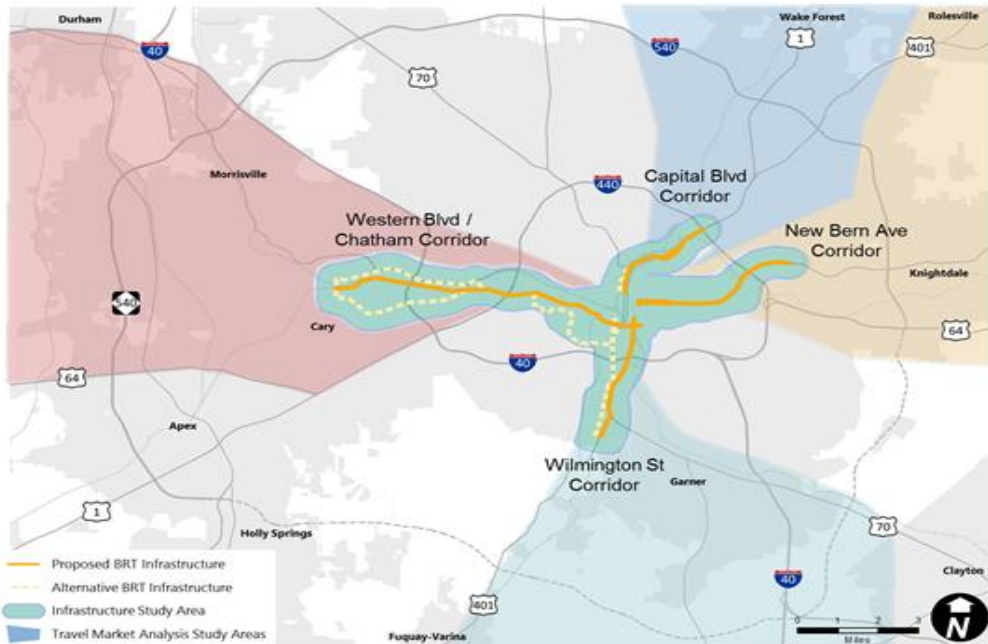
She shared how staff will prioritize implementation of the large projects.

## How should the Wake County Transit Plan prioritize large projects?



Ms. Kreiser shared the public feedback areas for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor.

Ms. Darcy Downs, Transit Planner, GoTriangle, shared how GoTriangle compiled the BRT corridor.





Commissioner Calabria asked if the timeline for implementation was feasible. Ms. Kreiser said that it is feasible, but there are many factors that contribute to the timing. She said fifty percent of the funding is Federal; therefore, the availability of those funds could delay the process.

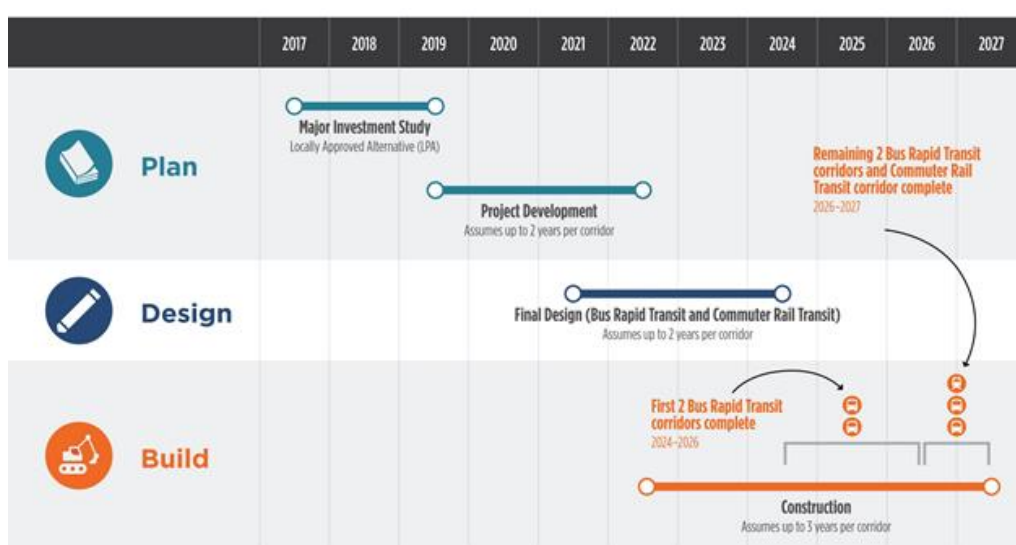
Commissioner Burns asked if the project sponsor would delay the plan. Ms. Kreiser said meeting the plan deadlines will be a requirement for the project sponsor.

Commissioner Calabria said it is important to hold to the timeline as much as possible.

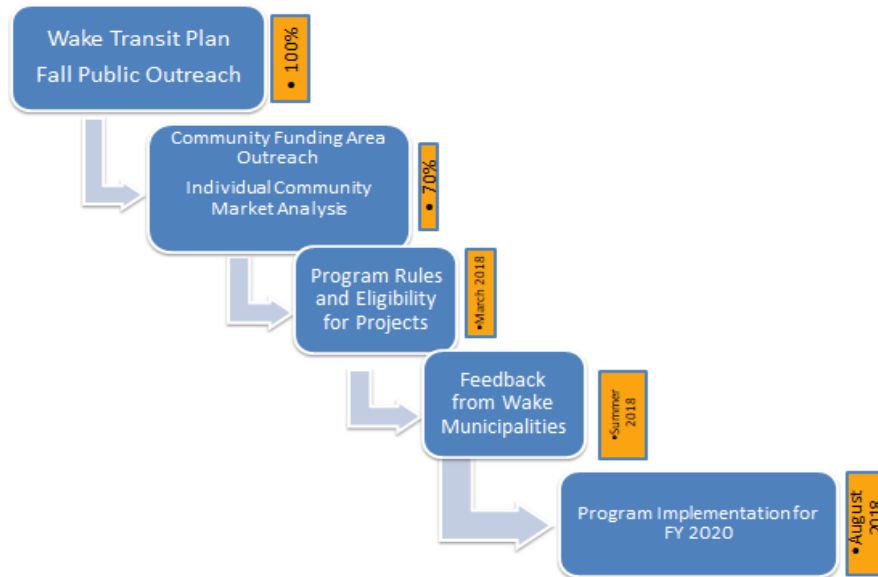
Ms. Downs said environmental guidelines will also be a determining factor in meeting the timeline goals.

Commissioner Burns expressed concern about the ten-year plan and the difficulty of ensuring the service area needs do not change. Ms. Kreiser said that issue will be monitored throughout the ten-year plan.

Ms. Kreiser shared the implementation timeline for high capacity transit in Wake County.



She shared the community funding area progress. She said CAMPO has been heavily involved in the community funding process.



Commissioner Burns said municipal officials from various areas of the county are very interested in the plan.

Ms. Kreiser shared a study completed by TJCOG showing how transit and affordable housing are connected.

### **Affordable Housing and Transit:**

#### **TJCOG Wake Transit Corridor Land Use & Housing Project**

- Review of existing housing and land use policies and plans for all jurisdictions
- Inventory of legally-binding affordable units and naturally-occurring affordable apartments
- GIS-based opportunity sites analysis to identify properties that may be suitable for affordable housing development along transit corridors
- Research best practices for codes and policies that promote transit-oriented development
- Land use and affordable housing inventory as criteria for corridor prioritization
- Recommendations for municipal land use regarding affordable housing decisions and how it is factored into state and federal transit funding decisions

She shared how transit works into the affordable housing plan. She said affordable housing was taken into consideration during the creation of the plan.

### **Affordable Housing and Transit: Wake County Affordable Housing Plan**

- Disposition of public land for affordable housing along proposed high frequency transit corridors and “opportunity sites” near (within ½ mile of) proposed BRT and CRT station areas

- Land Use recommendations for municipalities:
  - Accessory dwelling units for affordable housing, especially along transit corridors and near proposed station areas
  - Support higher by-right residential development
  - Affordable housing overlays to allow extra density or offer developer incentives in areas served by transit
  - Designation of critical infrastructure special assessment districts
- Acquisition and Preservation Fund
- Rental Loan Program prioritizes funding along transit corridors

Ms. Kreiser shared other priority areas necessary for the plan implementation.

- Youth Fares and Coordination with WCPSS (Implementation with FY 2019 Work Plan)
- Other Fare Programs and Vulnerable Communities (Fare Strategy Complete by Late Summer 2018)
- Human Services Locally Coordinated Transportation Plan (Late Summer 2018)
- Fare Technology (Study Funded in FY 2019 Work Plan, in conjunction of results of Fare Strategy)

She shared the next steps in implementation of the plan.

- FY 2019 Draft/Recommended Work Plan
- April: Public Feedback in Phasing of Bus Plan and Bus Capital Projects
- April: Public Feedback for BRT Corridor Alternatives and Station Areas
- Late Summer/Early Fall 2018: Adoption of Bus Plan, Start of Design of First BRT Corridor, Community Funding Area Program Implementation Begins

Commissioner Burns asked if there is anything the commissioners can do to encourage public feedback. Ms. Kreiser said involving the community is important, and communication is the key.

Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Ms. Kreiser and the GoTriangle staff for their work on the plan.

Mr. David Ellis, Interim County Manager, commended Ms. Kreiser and GoTriangle for their work and dedication to the design of the plan.

## **FY 2019 Draft Transit Work Plan**

Ms. Kreiser shared the draft transit plan for FY 2019. She shared a summary of the services that were expanded in 2017.



GO Raleigh

- Increased Sunday service on all routes to match Saturday levels.
- Expanded South Saunders route to 15-minute all-day service.
- Funded 15 bus stop improvements throughout the system.



GO Cary

- Increased all four Downtown Cary routes to all-day, every 30 minutes, six days a week.
- Added Sunday service on all routes.
- Funded 220 bus stop signs and 35 ADA compliant bus stops.



GO Triangle

- Increased frequency from every hour to every 30 minutes Monday through Friday on Route 100 to RDU International Airport, NC State and Downtown Raleigh.
- Expanded service between Cary and Raleigh on Sunday.

A COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN WAKE TRANSIT

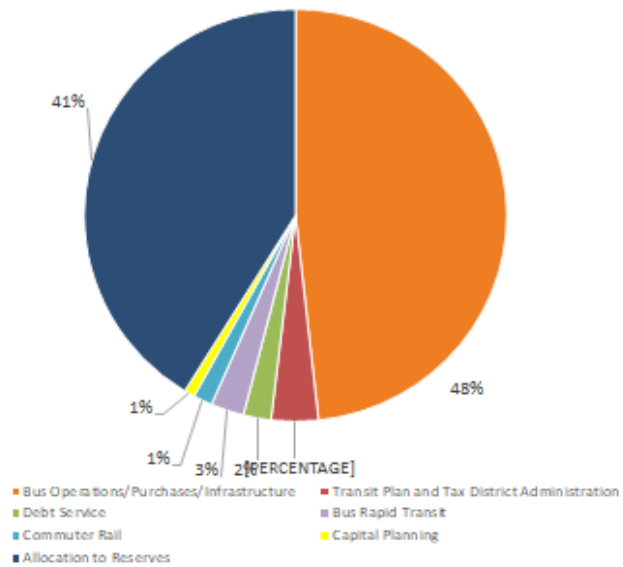
She shared the anticipated revenue and investments for fiscal year 2019.

This is the second year of a 10-year plan

### Revenues

Half-cent local option sales tax	\$86.7 million
Vehicle rental tax	\$4.1 million
\$7 county vehicle registration tax	\$6 million
\$3 increase to regional vehicle registration tax	\$2.6 million
<b>Total local</b>	<b>\$99.4 million</b>
Other (federal, state, fares and debt proceeds)	\$16.8 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$116.3 million</b>

### Expenditures



Ms. Kreiser shared the draft work plan revenues for FY 2019.

FY19 Draft Tax District Revenues	
½ Cent Local Option Sales Tax	\$86,684,000
Vehicle Rental Tax	\$4,146,000
\$7.00 Vehicle Registration Tax	\$6,030,000
\$3.00 Vehicle Registration Tax	\$2,585,000
<b>Subtotal Local:</b>	<b>\$99,445,000</b>
Federal (Bus Purchase in 18-27 TIP)	\$1,750,000
State (Capital – Bus Purchase in 18-27 TIP)	\$540,000
New Farebox Revenue	\$644,000
Debt Proceeds	\$13,912,000
<b>Total FY 2019 Modeled Sources</b>	<b>\$116,291,000</b>

She shared the draft work plan expenditures for FY 2019.

FY19 Draft Tax District	Operating	Capital	Total
Bus Operations	\$10,569,410		\$10,569,410
Transit Plan Administration	\$3,772,362		\$3,772,362
Tax District Administration	\$411,094		\$411,094
Transfer to Wake Transit Major Capital Fund	\$84,304,000	(\$84,304,000)	\$0
Allocation to Operating Reserves	\$1,032,134		\$1,032,134
Bus Infrastructure		\$19,196,624	\$19,196,624
Bus Acquisition		\$26,352,908	\$26,352,908
BRT & CRT		\$4,651,916	\$4,651,916
Capital Planning		\$947,333	\$947,333
Debt Service		\$2,464,000	\$2,464,000
Allocation to Capital Reserves		\$46,893,219	\$46,893,219

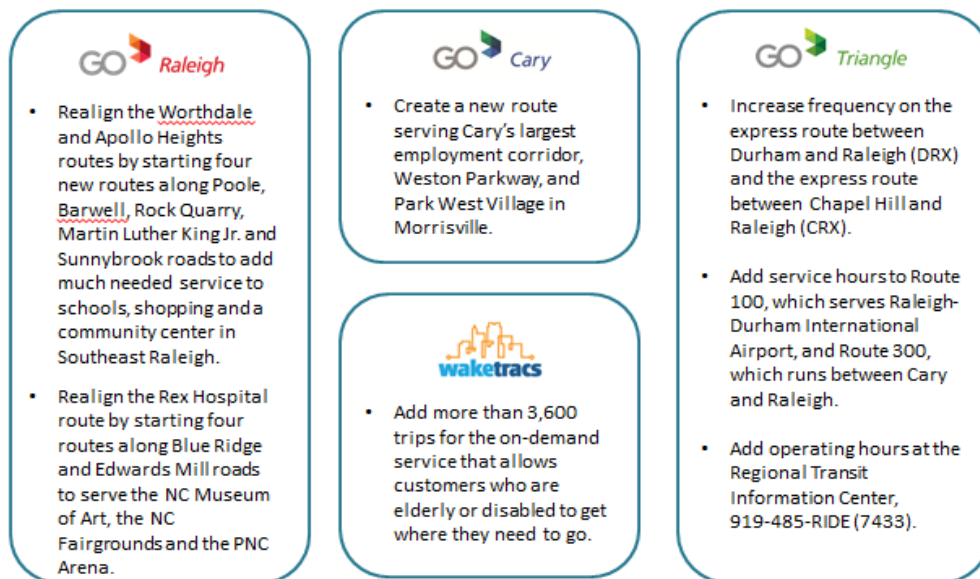
She shared information about free youth fares, which will begin in the summer of 2018. She said staff is working out the final details and implantation is expected to take place July , 2018.

## Free fare for youths

We're making transit more accessible to riders 18 and younger who need to get to school, jobs, museums and other places to encourage them to become life-long transit riders.



Ms. Kreiser shared the proposed bus service expansion for FY 2018.



She shared additional proposed transit investments for FY 2018.

- Buy additional and replacement buses for GoRaleigh and for GoTriangle to support additional bus service in the years ahead.
- Improve 55 bus stops.
- Add more park-and-ride lots and improve existing ones.
- Design the Raleigh Union Station Bus Facility.
- Build a regional operations and maintenance facility in Cary.
- Develop a strategy for new transit technology to enhance the customer experience.

Commissioner Calabria asked how the additional 3,600 trips will impact the backlog in trips for the elderly and disabled. Ms. Kreiser said the additional trips will greatly reduce that backlog.

Mr. Ellis said staff will review the program to see if there are additional services that can be provided to the elderly and disabled.

Commissioner Calabria said there is a great demand for services to assist the elderly and disabled to get to their appointments. He asked that staff look at the issue closely to see if there are additional trips that can be added.

Mr. Ellis said staff has worked closely with the consultant to solve short term issues as well as plan for long term solutions.

Ms. Kreiser shared the long-term investments that will be funded by transit revenue.

Nearly \$47 million (41%) of transit-dedicated revenue collected in the next fiscal year will go toward future transit projects including the planning, design and construction of:



**Bus Rapid Transit** Dedicated bus lanes on roads in four of the busiest corridors so bus operators can bypass traffic and keep their routes on schedule. The plan calls for adding approximately 20 miles of bus rapid transit lanes, priority treatment at traffic signals and faster boarding and easier access for passengers to get on and off the bus.



**Commuter Rail Transit** 37 miles of rail service from Garner to Downtown Raleigh, N.C. State University, Cary, Morrisville and the Research Triangle Park continuing to Durham. Will use existing railroad tracks to provide comfortable passenger service that allows riders to relax or work on their way to key destinations.

In addition to the reserve funds, \$4.7 million will be invested in required studies and planning to advance the larger bus rapid transit and commuter rail projects in 2018 and 2019.

She shared staffing and operations needed to support the implementation of the FY 2019 plan. She said all three agencies are working well together on marketing.

- Additional marketing and staff for public engagement to support Wake Transit outreach and service advertisement
- Project management staff for technology initiatives
- Paratransit Office Space Lease
- Planning Funds for Community Funding Areas
- Other implementation staff such as analysts, program coordinators, call center staff, and transit planners for transit agencies

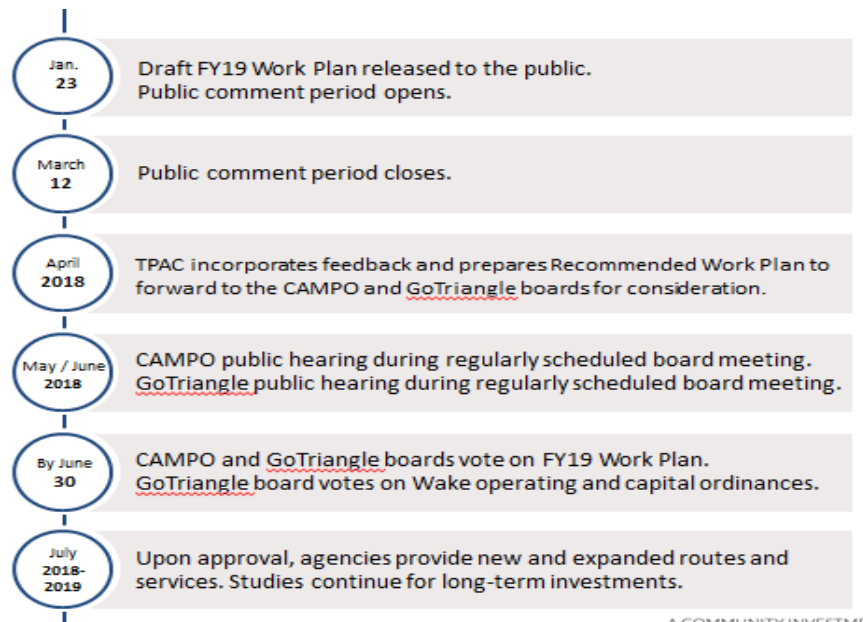
She shared suggestions of things that will help the plan implementation.

- Request that municipalities share in the cost of area land use studies requested to be funded by Wake Transit.
  - Land use studies should be specific to transit corridors and that land uses supporting transit investments result from those studies.
- Request multi-year bus replacement plans from GoRaleigh and GoTriangle and revise the FY 2019 proposed bus purchase line item accordingly.
  - Some of these buses should be funded with existing revenues and not solely new Wake Transit revenues.
  - Request GoTriangle consider movement towards alternative fuels for a portion of its fleet for future year replacements that are funded by Wake Transit.
- Request a review for cost savings and synergies in marketing, staffing, or other cost items that could be streamlined.

Commissioner Burns commended staff and thanked them for their work on the plan.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it is important for municipalities to contribute financially, but he doesn't want that to hinder the implementation of the plan.

Ms. Kreiser shared the work plan approval timeline.



Mr. Eatman said work is being done on ADA accessibility for the bus stations.



Ms. Kreiser shared the next steps that will be taken to implement the 2019 plan.

- Wake Transit Update at February 19, 2018 Board Meeting
- Submit Letter with Wake County Comments to TPAC for Incorporation in Recommended Work Plan (Released April 2018)
- Spring Public Outreach for Long Term Transit Plan Implementation Feedback
- July 1, 2018: Free Fares Begin
- January 2, 2019: Most New FY 2019 Bus Routes Begin

Commissioner Hutchinson asked Ms. Kreiser to share information she received recently on bus stops near the Wake County Detention Center. She said there are currently two stops that service that area.

Commissioner Hutchinson said it is important to have transportation immediately available to inmates re-entering the community after incarceration. He said he has heard concerns that there is no weekend service to the two stops near the Wake County Detention Center.

Ms. Kreiser said the issue is being addressed as part of the transit plan, but they are also looking for a short-term solution.

Mr. Eatman said he will put together a summary of existing and planned services.

Commissioner Calabria asked for that information to be shared with Capital Area Workforce Development, Wake Tech and the Sheriff's office so they have accurate information to share with inmates.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the transportation 101 presentation could be placed on video and shared on the county website. He also suggested offering a 30-day pass upon release from the Detention Center to assist them with their re-entry.

## **Adjourn**

Commissioner Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michelle L. Cerett  
Executive Assistant