



Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022

4:00pm-5:30pm

3rd Floor Training Room, Apex Town Hall

Meeting Purpose

The main purposes of this meeting were to: update the TAC members on the GoApex initial performance data and transit-related projects in Town and in the region, as well as discuss other Town project and regional projects.

Meeting Outcomes

Town staff will prepare for additional discussion at the January meeting on next steps for transit in Apex. Staff will also follow up with additional ridership data and updates on the Bus Stop Sidewalk Art project with the selection committee members.

Attendees

Committee members:

- Linda Barrett
- Nick Bryant
- Amanda Bunce,
ex officio
- Joanna Helms,
ex officio
- Kurt Pfeifer
- Angela Reincke,
ex officio
- Stuart Wagner
- Andrew Werking

Staff support:

- Katie Schwing

Guests:

- Councilor Brett Gantt (Apex
Town Council)

Absent:

- David Yokum

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Stuart Wagner opened the meeting at 4:06 pm and welcomed the members and guests.

2. Meeting Minutes

(Action Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the July 13, 2022 meeting. There were no



corrections noted.

Requested Action: Approve meeting minutes from the July 13, 2022 meeting.

- Member Werking made a motion to approve the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes.
- Member Bryant seconded the motion to approve the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

3. GoApex Updates

(Informational Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)

Katie Schwing provided updates on GoApex ridership and performance data. Members asked questions about the on-time percentage goal of 85%. Katie commented that it is a pretty standard target nationally and for the Wake Transit program.

Member Werking suggested we review the lowest utilized bus stop at the next meeting and talk about how often we should evaluate the ridership data.

Joanna Helms asked which stops are on Mason St at the Apex Community Center. Staff responded that there are two stops at that location.

Member Bryant asked if Route 305 ridership was up due to GoApex 1 coming online. Staff noted that they had heard verbally from GoTriangle that an increase in ridership was noticed after adjustments were made to the Route 305 schedule to help facilitate transfers with GoApex Route 1, and which included a few additional trips per day.

Discussion was had about driver shortages in the region. Staff commented that GoTriangle just announced a wage increase for drivers.

Members were interested in what would be involved in the Town handling the GoApex route rather than contracting with the Town of Cary or other options so that we could have more control over drivers. Staff responded that it would probably be a very involved process, considering the regulations around reporting, vehicle maintenance, etc, and with only one route, might not be as efficient as the current setup.

Members asked if there were repercussions regarding Federal grants when route standards are not met or if the 85% on time rate is not met. Staff explained that while 85% is a pretty standard performance target, they are not aware of a legal requirement to maintain it. Staff did note that on-time performance should be monitored to ensure equitable service delivery per Title VI.

Staff gave an update on ADA Paratransit service ridership and noted that there is more interest than applications received, but many people live outside the service area. GoWake Access has an overlapping service that could explain why ridership is lower. Apex contracts with GoWake and only pays for service rendered which benefits the Town. Member Werking asked if the low ridership could be due to lack of awareness. Staff reviewed awareness efforts that have been made to date and possible additional efforts that could be made.



Member Werking asked if we could determine the demographics of the typical user so that we can improve our outreach to those segments of the population that aren't riding. Staff discussed a regional onboard transit survey that GoApex Route 1 may be able to be part of this Fall, and if not, the Town could do its own community survey in the Spring. With paratransit service, there is a concern about using personal information, since all riders must register for the service, but staff could look into it more. Member Werking suggested that reaching out to young people for a social media type push to encourage riders in that age group might be good. Ideas were shared about ways to spread the word about GoApex in general.

Members asked if a stop could be added closer to the Senior Center to reduce the distance needed to walk from the stop to the front door. Staff can investigate if an option is available for a stop at the front door of the Community Center.

4. Town Project Updates

(Informational Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)

Katie provided updates on the following projects:

- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application and "Safe Routes to Transit" Considerations
 - Town applied for this Federal grant for 6 different projects, one of which is for creating safe stops and routes to transit. Grant, if awarded, requires a 20% local or state match. Awards will be announced end of this year or early next year.
- Bus Stop Sidewalk Art Project
 - NCDOT provided preliminary comments on 8/24. Staff summarized the feedback received and said that it seems promising at this point that NCDOT will approve the needed encroachment agreement.
 - The public survey closed on 9/20/22 and resulted in 72 responses. Staff provided a summary of the responses.
 - Staff reviewed next steps which includes issuing a call for artists and the NCDOT encroachment process. Member Bryant suggested that artists could respond to provide art at a specific location so that the art can be contextual.
- Veridea Master Subdivision Plan Application
 - Staff provided an update on a potential future transit route that would serve this development and other areas, a possible transit hub, and the potential for rail based on the reservation requirement in the approved zoning conditions. Staff needs to take another look at what services are actually needed to serve the area based on current conditions, the actual development proposals within Veridea, and the timeline in the zoning condition. This will determine whether changes to the Transit Map should be made to reflect a type and level of service that can be supported.

Members asked about the feasibility of rail and what was originally envisioned for the development. Staff mentioned that new rail would have to be constructed to serve this development which makes this more difficult/expensive. Staff mentioned that other options



like BRT could be considered here rather than rail. Some members expressed that this location could be better for an S-line stop than in downtown for a variety of reasons. No concerns were expressed about a stop in downtown, more rather the location of a hub where parking is needed.

Staff: The immediate question is what right of way is needed to reserve within the West Village part of Veridea. Staff will conduct a desktop analysis to determine what the proposed development can support.

Staff reiterated that the purpose of this update was informational. Staff will likely have an update on the study at the next meeting.

- **Next Steps for Transit in Apex**
Staff discussed whether it makes sense to look at possible transit service expansion in Apex. Staff reviewed the next steps in what needs to be evaluated to make this determination. At the next meeting, staff will have more data that will allow the committee to make a recommendation on potential projects. A potential timeline was reviewed for obtaining public input.

Committee commented that the approach seemed to be good. Council member Gantt asked if a project to increase route to 30-minute service could be submitted for the next budget. Staff indicated that the timeline doesn't fit that schedule.

Member Bryant asked how many people reside within the service area of Go Apex 1 and what the gap is for GoWake Access. He wondered if it was even half of the Town.

Member Werking stated that the current Transit Plan Map may be outdated. We need to evaluate higher population areas and new developments now versus then to determine if changes are needed.

5. Regional Project Updates

(Informational Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)

Staff will provide an email update on this agenda item due to time constraints in the meeting:

- S-Line TOD Study and RAISE Mobility Hub Grant
- Wake Bus Plan

6. Other Business

(Informational Item, Stuart Wagner, TAC Chair)

Stuart and Katie introduced a form that the TAC will need to use when there is a recommendation made from the TAC to the Town Planning Board and/or Town Council.

Staff explained the purpose and use of the form.



The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.