



Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024

4:00pm-5:30pm

2nd Floor Council Chamber, Apex Town Hall

Meeting Purpose

The main purpose of this meeting was to provide updates on the GoApex service as well as consider the online public survey planned for the Apex Transit Prioritization Study.

Meeting Outcomes

Town staff will refine the survey questions and send a test version for the TAC to review prior to launch. Staff will also provide a snapshot of progress using the Remix transit planning software to develop different service scenarios for comparison, as well as will follow up on a potential downward trend for on-time performance on GoApex Route 1.

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Linda Barrett
Nick Bryant
Stuart Wagner
Andy Werking

Amanda Bunce, ex officio
Joanna Helms, ex officio
Angela Reincke, ex officio

Absent:

David Yokum
Kurt Pfeifer

Staff:

Shannon Cox
Katie Schwing
Lauren Sisson

Guests:

Councilor Brett Gantt (Apex Town Council)
Lauren Staudenmaier (Apex Planning Dept Staff)

1- Welcome and Introductions

Stuart Wagner, Chair, called to order at 4:12pm and opened by welcoming all followed by introductions of members and guests.

2- Meeting Minutes

Stuart Wagner requested discussion or a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on October 11th, 2023.

A motion was made to approve the Meeting minutes by Nick Bryant. Linda Barrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



3-Transit Prioritization Study

Katie Schwing and Shannon Cox, Town of Apex

Katie Schwing provided a summary of the project and mentioned that there are four main tasks to complete for the Transit Prioritization Study:

1. Current state of transit planning summary
2. Analysis of projects and identification of gaps
3. Public input – develop online and onboard surveys to understand local priorities
4. Recommendations – create a prioritized list of project ideas with description of planning considerations

Katie mentioned that due to time constraints, staff plan to work through tasks 1, 2, and 3 concurrently, which will all be used to develop recommendations. She gave a quick overview of the planned outreach, and requested that the group review and discuss the proposed online survey questions.

The questions focus on:

Section 1: Awareness of transit services

Section 2: Priorities

Section 3: Demographic questions

Andrew Werking asked if a social media question can be incorporated in the survey. This could be an opportunity to understand where we can target market potential riders. Are there or could there be local influencers.

Katie mentioned proposed strategies for advertising the online survey:

- Email E-blasts to the Transit Plans and Services mailing list
- Town’s “All-in Apex” Online Newsletter
- Senior Center Newsletter
- Utility bill mailer
- Town’s social media

Andy suggested a display at the Community Center to catch people attending sports or recreation programs, such as a flyer with a QR code. Katie said she would look into it and also mentioned she would see if it would be possible to add a flyer to park bulletin boards.

Linda Barrett wondered if there were any upcoming health fairs where it could be shared.

Katie also mentioned she planned to do some interview-based outreach to major stakeholders would also hopefully spread the word.

A member asked what the planned timeline is, and Katie replied that the idea is to post it this Spring, hopefully in march, and have it open for at least 30 days.

Section 1 questions:

Brett Gantt suggested adding a timeframe to the questions asking if they have ridden any transit services such as “within the last year”.

Discussing the funding information question, Andy asked what the purpose of that question. Stuart responded to make the public aware of the funding? Andy said maybe add what funds the other 50% so there’s no question where the money is coming from. The group discussed making it two questions, but decided to just keep one question. Nick suggested to simplify the answers to Yes or No.

Andy also suggested than instead of having individual links to additional information, that a link could be provided at the beginning or end of the survey to a source of information.



Section 2 questions:

Nick suggested asking for the person's top three most important stop locations in each section instead of listing them. Other suggestions consisted of being able to pin the locations on a map including their "home" stop location. Katie asked Shannon if there can be categories assigned to pins and Shannon thought it was possible. Staff will look into it and change it if so.

Ranking priorities for users/use of the transit services brought up a possible rephrasing of the question. Andy suggested elderly be changed to senior.

For the Importance rating questions, Stuart suggested answers to these questions should be required before moving on. Nick suggested that the options should be presented differently to prevent people from just choosing "neutral".

For the last question in this section I think Andy said it seems like this is steering to a particular answer based on the wording. (I wasn't sure what he was meaning by his statement.) Katie said it can be removed, since it was trying to rephrase similar options from above.

Nick asked how different will the onboard rider survey be and Katie said it will be shorter with the same demographic questions.

For the question asking about importance if different factors, the group suggested reduce the number of response options as well as adding trash receptacles as an option.

Brett suggested reformatting the question into one where the survey takers are asked how they would spend a set of coins, with a couple of different categories split up by approximate budget requirements. Shannon thought that if that couldn't be accommodated in the survey tool, we could ask respondents to rank choices within categories. The group also considered removing the last question in the section and bringing it into the reformatted previous question.

Section 3 questions:

Andy asked if we can change the age range to 12-18 and 18-21. Katie said it is purposely the way it is so there is no appearance of soliciting the survey to minors.

For the question of where you work, Brett thought editing the responses to allow farther-reaching destinations would be helpful.

TAC asked how different the rider survey might be from the online survey. Katie shared that the idea at this point is to focus the rider survey on the current rider experience, including origin and destination, satisfaction and demographic info. There would be little to no duplication, except the demographic questions. The onboard participants would be encouraged to also fill out the online survey.

The group was interested in testing out the survey before it goes live.

- TAC asked how different the rider survey might be
 - No duplication except demographic

Part 2 analysis

Due to time and technical constraints with bringing the remix project up on the screen, Katie shared brief updates and stated that she would send some snapshots from Remix over an email, to give the TAC a sense of that process. She said she was working on a few scenarios:

- Current service



- FY25 proposed service (based on draft Wake Transit Annual Work plan)
- FY27 scenario (based on Wake Bus Plan)
- Future scenario, including routing from the Transit Plan Map
- Remix will also provide stats for the different scenarios, including operating cost, area covered, population served, etc.

Brett Gantt asked if it will include route length, suggested stops, anticipated ridership? Katie said that yes, it would. He also asked if it shows current and potential future density in the statistics? Katie said that Remix does not include population projections, we would have to do an additional step outside of Remix, perhaps using the regional model.

4-Informational Updates

Katie Schwing and Shannon Cox, Town of Apex

Katie referenced the summarized updates per the agenda and asked if there were any questions or concerns with them.

Andy noted that the on-time percentage seems to be trending downward and wanted to know if it is being analyzed as to why. Katie said December was probably due to the Christmas Parade detour causing delays, and there was also a mechanical failure one day so the buses was out of service for a few trips. Andy said he would like to see us stay ahead of any other issues causing a downward trend in the future and suggested a follow up ahead of the next TAC meeting in case the trend continues.

No other questions or concerns were noted with these updates.

5-GoApex Updates

Katie Schwing and Shannon Cox, Town of Apex

Katie provided some updated on the Real-time transit information. UMO mobility app is up and running, GoCary will go live soon and will include GoApex Route 1.

GoCary is looking for independent contract for Text arrivals which will likely be up and running in April.

Katie stated that the GoApex annual report is complete and will be added to the Town's website.

Andy stated that he was initially opposed to publishing the report; however, after reviewing it he was impressed with the presentation. Brett noted that the report is a large file and suggested to see if it can be reduced to be more web-friendly.

6-Other Business

- Next meeting will be April 10, 2024. Nick Bryant said he would be unavailable.
- Stuart adjourned the meeting at 5:37pm.

APPROVED

**TOWN OF APEX
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024
4:00PM**

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The meeting on April 10, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee was cancelled.

Stuart Wagner
Chair

Allen Coleman
Town Clerk

Submitted for consideration and approval by Apex Town Clerk Allen Coleman.

Minutes approved on _____ day of _____ 2024.



Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

FINAL Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2024

4:00pm-6:00pm

2nd Floor Council Chamber, Apex Town Hall

1-Welcome and Introductions

Stuart Wagner, Chair, called to order at 4:00pm and opened by welcoming all followed by introductions.

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Linda Barrett

Nick Bryant

Kurt Pfeifer

Stuart Wagner

Andy Werking

David Yokum

Amanda Bunce, ex officio

Staff:

Katie Schwing

Lauren Sisson

Guests:

Councilor Brett Gantt, Apex Town Council

Paul Black, GoTriangle

Absent:

Joanna Helms, ex officio

Angela Reincke, ex officio

2-Meeting Minutes

Katie Schwing requested approval for meeting minutes from January 17, 2024.

A motion was made by member Andy Werking. David Yokum seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3-Revision to Rules of Procedure,

4- Committee Member Appointment Process Overview and

5- Chair – Vice-Chair Nomination Process Overview for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Allen Coleman, Town Clerk and Ashley Gentry, Deputy Town Clerk, Town of Apex were unable to attend today's meeting. A call for a special meeting to be held in August was requested.

- Katie Schwing suggested an item be added to the agenda to discuss a special meeting to help keep these items moving forward.
- Stuart Wagner suggested to select a date in August now. The members and staff discussed their availabilities. Kurt Pfeifer asked about his term expiring and if he was expected or needed to attend. Katie indicated that if he was available, it would be good to attend.
- Stuart suggested Wednesday August 21, 2024 at 4pm with consensus from the group. Katie said she would follow up with meeting notifications.

6-Transit Prioritization Study

Katie Schwing, Town of Apex

Katie gave updates on the Online Survey, Onboard Study and Remix Analysis tasks of this project. Katie reminded members that the last time the committee met, they went over draft survey questions. Since then, staff finalized the survey, administered the surveys, and conducted public outreach to raise awareness of the surveys.



Katie then went through a summary of the online survey results. She had previously sent the PDF summary to the committee members over email for their review.

Discussion:

- Nick asked if the survey results were broken up for Apex residents and non-residents. Katie explained that in the results on the slide, they were not broken up, but that Town staff were working on an interactive dashboard (Power BI) where the results could be broken up by location of the respondent.
- Andy noted that 80% awareness for GoApex Rout 1 seems pretty good, considering the service is still fairly new and was not too concerned about that result.
- Members noted a low level of regular riders in the survey responses. Andy wondered if there is more targeted outreach needed to better reach people who may become more regular riders
- Brett Gantt noted that further down, it seems the factors that were most important for respondents to consider riding were frequency and serve close to chosen destinations
- Members noted safety related factors also seemed important to respondents: Feeling of Safety and Security in the vehicle, feeling of safety and security at the bus stop, safe and convenient walking path to the bus stop and destinations
- Members asked what the top destinations were for the suggested destinations. Katie let the group know that although she didn't have the map available, she remembered that downtown Apex was the top destination, and that both Pleasant Park and Apex Community Park were also mentioned frequently, as well as Apex Friendship high School. Brett asked if the library was up there. Katie said yes, that was one of the top requests as well. Katie also noted that many of the locations selected were already near the GoApex routing, but perhaps the respondents did not live near the bus route, so didn't have a way to access those destinations directly.
- Katie showed a summary of demographic data from respondents, and noted that overall, the survey respondents weren't an exact representation of the community and had more white respondents, and higher income respondents, than the overall community. Andy asked about the possibility of following up with more targeted outreach to specific audiences, like youth, seniors, and low-income households. Katie said she had started reaching out to some Town resources, such as the Apex Youth Council, Senior Center, and specialized recreation programs, with the idea of maybe doing some focus groups, but hasn't implemented anything yet. Andy suggested working with the schools and maybe doing an assembly at the high school to get feedback. Someone added that it might be good to search for a broader spectrum of respondents who aren't already involved in Town activities. Katie said that her coworker Jenna Shouse has contacts for the local schools for Safe Routes to School planning efforts, so she could see what might be possible. Linda thought of additional groups that might be interested in helping, such as the local YMCA's, Apex Chamber of Commerce, or even TAC members.
 - On a side note, Andy was curious to see safe routes to school feedback to better understand where students are coming from and what safety needs they have, which could potentially inform transit projects
- Brett said that this survey is still a good picture overall of why people are or aren't riding and what would make them more likely to ride.
- Andy noted there are more females than males and asked if that was common. Katie responded that, based on what she could remember from previous studies, transit tends to skew slightly more female.
- Andy also noted the number of young riders and that they are the biggest single age group riding.



Katie estimated that for the online survey, about 25% of respondents probably heard about the survey from the email blast, about 25% from postings on Facebook (both town and non-town sponsored pages), and all others are from various forms of media, website, QR code, etc.

The group discussed the possibility of conducting focus groups for more surveying. Stuart asked if assemblies at middle schools could be a way to present to the young ridership community to further awareness. Andy suggested selecting 5-10 students from each grade to be a focus group. Linda also suggested to reach out to more youth groups, such as the Girl Scouts (since they participated recently), etc., to create a larger reach in the youth community, and Brett suggested to add future transit plans, shopping, community events, etc. to a survey to give compelling reasons to ride.

Katie then went over the results from the onboard survey. She shared that it took place from May 11th to May 18th and the surveyor completed an 8-hour shift each day, for a total of 56 trips surveyed. Although 173 passengers boarded during his shifts, only 41 surveys were completed. This was because riders were only requested to complete the survey once per person, no matter how many times they rode. There were also many riders who appeared under the age of 16 who were not requested to complete the survey. She noted that eight refused to take the survey, and six had a language barrier.

Katie then noted in the survey results that 63% of riders reported riding four or more days per week, and 37% said they transferred to or from another route. She also noted that 64% responded that their primary trip purpose was to go to work. 35% did not have a vehicle available for the trip, and 13% had a disability that prevented them from driving. Home and work were the most common origins/destinations. She also noted that about half of respondents did not use one of the marketed transit real-time apps.

Katie then briefly went over the customer satisfaction responses. She noted that these questions were related to the current service as it is today (as opposed to the online survey which asked about other preferences). She noted that overall, respondents seemed satisfied with the service. She noted that the two factors that respondents were least satisfied with were weekend service (GoApex does not operate on Sundays) and service to all locations you want to go. She also noted that weekend service was rated as the most important factor to improve, followed by availability of shelters or seats at bus stops.

Discussion:

- Andy asked if there could be an acceptable level of satisfied/not satisfied to set an expectation. He also suggested we look into other options to ask riders about as well. Katie responded that she wasn't sure, but could research if there is an industry standard or the Town could look into setting one.
- David also noted that it seems there are a lot of people who have tried out the service, but do not become regular riders – so it seems perhaps there is not a marketing issue. It might be helpful to find out why they choose not to continue riding.
- The group noted that the wifi-question seemed polarizing.
- Andy noted that frequency of service ranked higher on the onboard survey than the online survey.
- Stuart wondered if respondents on both surveys were conflating frequency with reliability.

Remix Analysis - Katie showed a live demo of the remix software she has been using to develop scenarios for the analysis portion of the project.



7-Possible Transit Plan Map Amendment

Katie introduced a possible Transit Plan Map amendment for GoTriangle Route 305. She also introduced Paul Black, Principal Planner with GoTriangle, who was present to clarify or add additional information.

Katie showed a map and explained that currently on northbound trips, GoTriangle Route 305 travels from Laura Duncan Rd to Shepherds Vineyard Drive to Pine Plaza Drive, to Lake Pine Drive, to US 64. She explained that on southbound trips the bus does the same loop, but then heads south.

Andy asked if there's really a need to serve Costco with bus stops. Paul came to the podium and explained that the reason for the change is more so to get the bus off of the unprotected left turn from US 64 to Pine Plaza Drive. He went over some of the proposed stop changes, including moving two bus stops. He thought where they may need some assistance from the Town or with NCDOT would be on Laura Duncan Rd, to lower the speed limit from vehicles traveling south towards Pine Plaza Drive to 35mph instead of 45mph, or maybe even a signal or flasher there instead of a stop sign.

Stuart noted that is a difficult intersection especially for cars pulling out of Pine Plaza Drive with several conflicts there. Paul agreed in the am and pm peak. Brett asked Amanda if a roundabout it planned for this intersection. She said she thought so, tied in with the US 64 intersection project, and would likely follow that project's schedule. Brett asked if it could be separated out. Amanda said she wouldn't know and Katie agreed.

Paul added that GoTriangle is seeking to add weekend service on Route 305, sometime between August and January. Katie added that GoTriangle is planning to install bus stops, not the Town. Paul added that at first, they would just be putting a sign in the ground, but they are working on making all stops in Apex on Route 305, not just these new ones, ADA compliant.

Stuart asked if there was a motion to recommend the proposed amendment to Planning Board and Town Council in August. Nick made the motion. David seconded. It passed unanimously.

Andy did ask about serving the library. He thought this change would only make it harder for people to access Eva Perry library. He wanted to request that this be considered a top priority for future transit planning. Nick, Andy, and Stuart agreed.

8- Wake Transit Update

Katie provided updates on the Wake Transit Plan process. She provided the overall timeline and tasks, as well as a brief overview of work completed by the project team so far, including that about \$750 million has been raised and about \$200 million has been spent so far, with the bulk of the being spent on additional bus service, new transit vehicles, and planning and design for projects like commuter rail and BRT. She noted the current state of planning for Commuter Rail and BRT. She noted there is currently an online survey open until July 20th and encouraged the committee members to take the survey. She explained that the survey is focused on tradeoffs.

Katie noted that a task of the update is to update the Community Funding Area Program Management Plan. She explained this sets the rules for the matching funding the town currently receives for the GoApex service. She noted that there is a draft document currently out for review, and that the document is intended to be finalized in late August or September in order to guide the next round of funding.



Katie noted that as of the first draft, Town Staff have several questions and concerns with the document. She said that overall, staff don't feel like the changes are clear and that the feedback provided earlier hasn't been incorporated. She noted, for example, that the draft document appears to limit the use of funds for staff support and for ongoing marketing, two items for which the Town currently is able to seek reimbursement. She also noted that the proposed funding level appears to be in three possible scenarios that vary from about a 3% to about a 11% annual growth from the current allotment.

Brett commented that he thought the program needed more like five times the current level in order to serve all eleven municipalities. He asked if there was a discussion from the CFAs, for those who have not moved forward with projects yet, what level of cost share they would need in order to start local bus service. Right now, it is 50% and there have only been three projects implemented. Katie replied that she had heard informally that some of the smaller municipalities were interested the option of a lower local match, with one person suggesting maybe an 80-20 split, but she wasn't sure how all the CFA's feel about it. Brett added the thought it would be helpful to send a collective letter from the CFA's. Paul clarified that the Wake TPAC (Transit Planning Advisory Committee) is the group making the decision. Nick asked how long the 80-20 split would be allowed for – if some would be paying 50% and some 20%? Brett clarified that he was thinking all would pay 20% local match, with added funding for the whole program. He thought the fact that only 3-4 projects had been implemented was suggestive that the cost share was too high. Katie added that there will be a meeting of all the CFA's and CAMPO, likely in early August, and that could be a discussion point for the group. Brett thought something signed by all the municipality leadership could be impactful.

Katie also shared updates from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Wake Transit Plan update. The group had its first meeting in May and plans to meet again in August or September. The first meeting went over the state of the plan to date as well as a preview of the public survey that is currently open. She shared that Brett as well as Mr. Jimmy Torres from Fiesta Cristiana attended, as well as herself. She asked Brett if he had any observations to share from the meeting. He shared that thought that the commuter rail project was likely out, and his hope was that it would go towards other projects like BRT and things like connections between towns and bus stop improvements. He noted that there were a lot of municipalities there who seemed to have similar priorities. He said he thought the public probably likes the train option, but from the meeting, it might not make the most sense from this plan's point of view and he thinks that will be reflected in the plan's update. Andy asked if it was the cost and Brett confirmed, and also added there were a lot of place like Knightdale and Garner who were thinking about connectivity to Johnston County, things we don't think about as much in Apex. There did seem to see some traction for town-to-town connections like Apex-Holly Springs or Apex-Cary.

9-Informational Updates

Katie let the committee know that there was a packet of information for this item that they can review in the own time, and send any questions to her. Andy noted that ridership is up this year. Katie agreed that she thought it was up about 20-30% from last year.

Brett asked if Katie could provide a summary of the budget and CIP for this year and what the group can expect. Katie shared that they will continue to have funding for their GoApex operating project and they are slated to receive another bus stop improvement grant from the CFA Program, but that the Work Plan was not approved yet so staff are waiting to hear about that before moving forward. There is funding for additional bus stop design and construction in the CIP. The timeline for the Transit



Prioritization Study is end of this calendar year, and in the Spring may require additional internal or external planning work to determine the next project.

10- Other business

There will be a special meeting planned for August 21, 2024 at 4PM and the next regular meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024 at 4PM.

Stuart announced to the group that after the August meeting, he will be stepping down from the TAC as chair and member. The members and staff thanked him for his dedication, expertise, experience, and excitement around transit that have served the Town and this committee well.

11- Adjourn

Stuart Wagner, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:41PM.



Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

FINAL Special Meeting Minutes

4:00pm, August 21, 2024

Apex Town Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chamber

The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss updating the committee's rules of procedures to account for several administrative processes and recommend candidates for appointment consideration to the advisory committee related to Transit.

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Linda Barrett
Nick Bryant
Kurt Pfeifer
Stuart Wagner
Andy Werking
David Yokum

Staff:

Katie Schwing, Planning Dept
Lauren Sisson, Planning Dept

Guests:

Allen Coleman, Town Clerk
Ashley Gentry, Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Joanna Helms, ex officio
Angela Reincke, ex officio
Amanda Bunce, ex officio

1-Welcome and Introductions

Stuart Wagner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02pm, and welcomed all to the meeting. A round of introductions followed.

Katie requested to provide some clarifications on the meeting agenda. She had prepared an agenda that also contained review of previous meeting minutes and informational updates, but later realized that those should not be presented at this special meeting because only the items advertised in the special meeting notice can be included. She requested that the group use an updated agenda with those items removed. Stuart agreed and the meeting proceeded using the updated agenda.

2-Revision to Rules of Procedure Document

Ashley Gentry, Deputy Town Clerk

Ashley introduced herself and briefly presented on a proposed change to the Committee's Rules of Procedure document to update the meeting location to "Apex Town Hall" instead of "Apex Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room" which is no longer where the group is meeting. An action was requested. A motion was made by Nick Bryant and seconded by Andy Werking. It passed unanimously.

3-Committee Member Appointments-Process Overview and Nominations

Ashley Gentry, Deputy Town Clerk



Ashley gave a presentation overview of the committee member appointment process. She highlighted that the Office of the Town Clerk manages the process, among their other functions. Management of committees includes recruiting, advertising, preparing and administering the Oath of Office, preparing meeting minutes, conducting trainings, arranging meeting logistics, and recording meetings.

She gave an overview of what process would be followed today and why the Town follows this process.

Ashley then summarized the recruitment and nomination process for the Committee including advertising for and collecting applications, as well as internal-facing tasks to prepare applicants at-a-glance for review. The Committee may discuss to come to nominations at this meeting, and that these nominations will be taken to the Mayor for review. The Mayor will make the final recommendation to Town Council for approval.

Ashley told the group that there are currently three seats that recently expired, and that two current holders of those seats, Kurt Pfeifer and David Yokum, have decided not to apply for reappointment, and one, Linda Barrett, has decided to apply for reappointment. She shared that members may re-nominate Linda for another term if they so choose.

She also shared that Stuart Wagner's term has not expired, but that he intends to resign from the committee. In doing so, his seat will be open for the remainder of the term. The group may also nominate someone to fill this seat for the remainder of its term. Stuart asked, if someone filled the role as chair, is that person's seat now empty? Ashley explained that the members terms follow the seat, not the role, so Stuart's seat term would still end in one year, and the new chair's would remain what it is currently. Andy asked what the current members terms are. Katie clarified that Stuart, Andy, and Nick's terms all end in July, 2025 and that Linda, David, and Kurt's all ended in July 2024.

Ashley then presented on the FY24-25 meeting calendar. She mentioned that all meetings moving forward will be at the Apex Town Hall, Council Chamber unless otherwise noted. All meetings will be conducted in person and live streamed and made available on the Town's YouTube channel. Stuart noted the asterisk next to the July 2025 meeting and asked if it was the third Wednesday of the month. Ashley confirmed that date was moved due to the 4th of July holiday. She also stated that all advisory boards are now being held in the Council Chamber, because the livestream is clearer there. Andy made the motion, Stuart seconded, and the calendar was approved unanimously.

The committee was then encouraged to have an open discussion about the applicants and to nominate candidates for the empty seats. A summary of notable discussion points is below:

- Stuart thanked Kurt Pfeifer and David Yokum for their service on the Board.
- Stuart recommended to nominate Linda Barrett to the board and reappoint her. There was consensus from the group.
- The group acknowledged that Kurt and David did not choose to seek reappointment and thanked them for their contributions.
- Open discussion about the new applicants began. The discussion lasted approximately eighteen minutes.
- The group first discussed applicant Wendy Perry, with Nick noting that she said she was referred



to the committee by Stuart Wagner. Stuart confirmed this and said he recommended she apply since her family has experience with GoApex, as her daughter uses it to get to work, and that he considers her an advocate for transit. Andy and the group concurred with this recommendation.

- Several members asked if living in the extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) would affect the eligibility for the committee. Ashley confirmed that this committee does not have that restriction, and Katie confirmed that the Town would be allowed to offer transit service in the ETJ.
- The group discussed applicant Priya Singh. Stuart mentioned that she seemed to have a lot of experience and interest with transit. Katie shared that she had met her as a part of the recent Peak Academy program, which is a Town program to learn about government departments and processes.
- Kurt thought there was a pretty good mix of more technical experts and users, and thought it would be good to have that mix. He mentioned two with technical experience – Mark Spanioli and Patrick Kirley. Nick also thought Mark might have experience with local transit as well.
- Andy did bring up concerns about possible conflicts of interest, as Morrisville and Apex may sometimes be in competition for local transit funding.
- The group discussed applicant Patrick Kirley as another possible technical expert, as he mentioned having a degree in urban planning.
- The group discussed applicant Lawrence Silverberg, with Andy noting that he said in his application that he is a retiree, and that he felt having a retiree perspective on the group would be valuable.
- The group discussed applicant James Devlin supporting transit and having a certificate in sustainable transportation.
- The group discussed applicant Frances Williams and noted that her statement on why she wanted to serve seemed to be strong, and Andy noting her application was the strongest of the retirees.
- The group asked the Clerk's Office staff some clarifying questions about the nomination process. Allen Coleman confirmed that the nominations from the TAC will go to the Mayor for review, and that the Mayor may either approve, make changes, or choose not to advance any or all of the applicants nominated by the TAC. It is allowable to make more nominations than there are seats, and the Mayor would be able to move forward the applicants he chooses. Members may rank nominations if they choose.

After additional discussion, the group decided on a list of nominees as follows: Linda Barrett, Wendy Perry and Patrick Kirley for the three open seats and Frances Williams for the partial term opening. A motion was made by Stuart, seconded by Andy Werking, and approved unanimously.

4-Chair – Vice-Chair Nomination Process Overview for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Allen Coleman suggested that since there will be so many new people joining the committee soon that the Vice-Chair should chair the next meeting and get the new members seated; then go through the Chair and Vice-Chair nomination process then. Everyone agreed.

Nick Bryant asked questions about the makeup of the committee and if the group should consider any changes. Nick expressed that he appreciated that there are ex officio staff members on the committee who provide that perspective, and Andy concurred. Allen replied that he thought that setup was unique



amongst the Apex boards and committees. He agreed that the group could consider changes to the committee makeup at a later date. Katie mentioned as an example, that staff had thought about the quorum needs and that adding one more member would keep the quorum number the same, at four, but allow one more person to help make sure the group makes that quorum at a given meeting. Allen added that the Clerk's office would research and present on any requests, and it would require an amendment to the UDO ordinance on the committee.

David Yokum expressed appreciation to the applicants for the open seats and took the time to fill out the applications and be considered for this commitment. The other members agreed.

5-Adjourn

Stuart Wagner adjourned the meeting at 5:02PM.



Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

FINAL Regular Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2024

4:00pm

2nd Floor Council Chamber, Apex Town Hall

1-Welcome and Introductions

Andy Werking, Vice Chair, called to order at 4:00pm and opened by welcoming everyone. An extended round of introductions was held to introduce and welcome the new members to the committee: Wendy Perry, Patrick Kirley, and Gaye Williams.

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Linda Barrett
Nick Bryant
Patrick Kirley
Wendy Perry
Andy Werking
Gaye Williams
Lauren Staudenmaier, ex officio
Joanna Helms, ex officio

Staff:

Shannon Cox
Katie Schwing
Lauren Sisson

Guests:

Allen Coleman, Town Clerk
Brett Gantt, Apex Town Council
Ashley Gentry, Deputy Town Clerk
Tyler Gumpright, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources
Sarah Williams, CAMPO Mobility Manager

Absent:

Angela Reincke, ex officio

2-Meeting Minutes

Katie Schwing, Senior Planner – Long Range Transit, requested approval for meeting minutes from July 10, 2024 Regular Meeting and August 21, 2024 Special Meeting.

Linda Barrett made a motion to approve and Nick Bryant seconded the motion for the July 10, 2024 Regular Meeting. It was approved unanimously.

Linda Barrett made a motion to approve and Nick Bryant seconded the motion for the August 21, 2024 Special Meeting. It was approved unanimously.

3-Request for Letter of Support – Great Trails State Funding Request for Reedy Branch Greenway project

Tyler Gumpright, Parks and Greenways Planning Technician in the Apex Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, made a brief presentation about the department's planned funding request to complete a portion of the Reedy Branch Greenway. He explained that this segment of the proposed greenway runs from Kelly Rd to Goliath Ln and is approximately 1.08 miles in length. He further



explained that the Town is seeking \$200,000.00 for design and engineering funds from the state of North Carolina, and staff have already procured letters of support from the Abbington and Sweetwater HOA's, Olive Chapel Elementary School, and CAMPO.

Tyler then requested that the TAC approve a motion for the Chair to sign a letter of support on behalf of TAC for the Great Trails State Funding Request for Reedy Branch Greenway project.

Discussion:

- Gaye Williams asked who the Town is asking for the grant. Tyler said it is the Great Trails State grant program. The criteria are broad and open to greenways and blue ways.
- Gaye Williams asked if the Town is limited to the number of times it can ask for funding. Tyler said this is a one-off opportunity, with the hope is that it will be an annual offering.
- Patrick Kirley asked how transit ties into this project. Andy Werking responded that the eastern terminus of the greenway is in close proximity of a stop on the GoApex Route 1 which is in front of the 540 Flex on Olive Chapel Road. It serves primarily the Wake Crisis Ministries food bank and the Publix shopping center. He also explained that one of the most common points of feedback from riders is a request for greenway connectivity to bus stops, and this would provide off-street connectivity as it is near Apex Route 1 stops and those communities.
- Nick Bryant suggested adding the connectivity information for the GoApex stops to the letter. He then said he was ready to make a motion to approve.
- Gaye Williams asked if any HOAs have given pushback for this project. Tyler said a couple he reached out do not have regular board meetings and was not able to get on a board meeting to request support. Property managers mainly supported the greenway. He said there could be pushback from neighbors where there are access points to the greenway, but these have already been included on established plans.
- The grant being requested is \$200,000.00 and the Town is proposing to put up matching funds of \$250,000.00.

Nick Bryant made a motion to support and Gay Williams second the motion. Motion carried.

4- CAMPO Mobility Manager Introduction

Katie Schwing, Town of Apex, and Sarah Williams, CAMPO

Sarah Williams, the Mobility Manager at CAMPO, introduced herself and provided a brief overview of CAMPO and the new Mobility Management Program. CAMPO is an MPO covering Johnston, Harnett, Wake, Chatham, Granville and Franklin Counties.

Sarah started with CAMPO in February 2024, and this is a new position. It came from multiple plans and 5310 grant funding which supports access to transportation for elderly, disabled and low-income individuals. She explained that her position will serve to bridge transportation gaps, especially to help people who need to across county lines taking transit to get to medical appointments and similar trips.

In her presentation, she noted that mobility management helps to:

- Connect people with transportation options
- Coordinate and cooperate between the public and private entities to provide comprehensive and affordable service
- Identify gaps and barriers preventing individuals from using existing service.
- Create a one-stop shop where people can find transportation that meets their needs.



She shared that mobility management is needed for several reasons, including that our region’s fixed-route bus systems are limited, and more coverage is needed; it is difficult to sustain regular bus service in rural areas due to low demand; reservation-based transport service is not well known; with more outreach and consolidated information and coordination with providers, unmet needs can be addressed.

She told the group that a mobility management webpage has been developed on the CAMPO website. She further shared that the goals of the program are to:

- Have a database to tell all the different transit agency information, such as pricing, service boundaries, and how to get from one county to another.
- Data collection to better serve those with mobility challenges.
- Evaluate and refine the program to promote and improve coordination and use of technology leading to better user experience, more services and reduce operating costs.

Sarah then asked if the TAC members had any questions.

Discussion:

- Nick Bryant asked if it is more comprehensive than Google and using the transit selection. Sarah said yes – for example, this would include paratransit services, which requires reservations and requires more than just googling. So, this will be more comprehensive.
- Wendy Perry asked if there is an outline of what each county offers or is that something that is being worked on. Sarah said it is currently tedious and that is what she is working on now – to try to create a one-stop place for information.
- Brett Gantt made comment that he hopes there is collaboration with the Durham/Chapel Hill MPO as well. Sarah said yes, they are working with them to try and coordinate with them as well.
- Linda Barrett discussed the door-to-door service that has boundaries. Wake County is working on community health needs assessment and access to healthcare is one of the top three priorities from the 2022 assessment. Linda thanked Sarah for doing this and agreed it is much needed for Wake County.

5- Chair and Vice-Chair Nomination Process Overview for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Ashley Gentry, Deputy Town Clerk

Ashley Gentry, Deputy Town Clerk, gave an overview of the TAC chair and vice chair nomination and appointment process. She explained that any can nominate anyone else, through open discussion. Nominations are then taken to the mayor for review and he puts forth his recommendation to Town Council for approval. Moving forward, these positions will be appointed annually, with members eligible to serve up to four years. She then requested for the TAC to make nominations for the upcoming year.

Discussion:

- Gaye Williams asked what is meant by this year. Ashley and Allen determined that this would be through the fiscal year, through July 2024.
- Nick Bryant asked the members who would be interested in serving as chair.



- Andy Werking said it would be important to stick with those who have been serving a while and said he would be willing to do it.
- Nick Bryant made a motion to nominate Andy as chair; Gaye Williams seconded the motion and the committee unanimously agreed.
- Linda Barrett made a motion to nominate Nick Bryant as Vice-Chair; Andy Werking seconded the motion and the committee unanimously agreed.

Ashley said she would inform the committee of the results after the next Town Council meeting.

6-Transit Prioritization Study

Katie Schwing, Town of Apex

Katie Schwing provided a brief overview of the Town's ongoing Transit Prioritization Study. She explained that it is meant to guide and identify the next steps for transit expansion or improvement in Town. She also provided some additional context for the new TAC members, explaining that Advance Apex, the Town's Long Range Transportation Plan approved in 2019, made a recommendation to pursue a local circulator bus route, and then eventually became GoApex Route 1.

She reminded the committee of the projects four main tasks:

1. Current state of planning: providing a summary of relevant local and regional transit planning to-date
2. Analysis to identify gaps: identify focus areas, then mapping out and comparing scenarios
3. Public input: administering online and onboard surveys, with results are posted on webpage
4. Recommendations to create a prioritization of project ideas

Katie explained that they are still slowly working through the project, and she was excited to share that the Planning Department has hired a new Planner II for long range planning to start at the end of October. It is expected that this new position will work on this project, and staff are aiming to complete plan in 2025.

Katie also shared that staff are currently working on adding a Sunday service to GoApex from 7am-9pm, as the Town previously received approval from the CFA program to implement this in FY25. She explained that staff are still working through the logistics of launching the service with the Town's contracted service providers and that an updated service agreement is still needed with GoWake Access to implement. Staff are aiming to get it implemented this coming spring.

Nick Bryant asked if Cary does Sunday Door to Door service. Katie said they do, but that the GoApex Door to Door is serviced through GoWake Access. Staff have been coordinating with GoWake Access about expanding the service, and they've confirmed they are in operation for the hours the Town would like to operate on Sundays, but an agreement has not been signed yet for the Town to access that service.

Katie then shared some items for discussion about the upcoming FY26 CFA application cycle. She said that staff were already considering possible project ideas that would be feasible for FY26, and decided that the most feasible operating project idea was to increase frequency on GoApex Route 1 to 30-minute service. This would not require any additional capital infrastructure, nor would it require a



change to the GoApex Door to Door service area. It was also supported by the online and onboard survey results from this past spring. She shared that there are possible vehicle constraints at GoCary, and also that it would cost more – at the most, it could be about \$672,000 over the current cost. Staff aren't 100% sure at this time if they will submit the request or not.

Discussion:

- Andy Werking asked how the cost for the 30 minute frequency compares to expanding Route 1 or adding a Route 2?
- Katie said there are additional things included in the total cost. Some are more administrative, and some costs would increase with additional service area – like more bus stops, increasing the Door to Door service area, etc. Maybe \$500,000+ additional cost.
- Andy asked where the door-to-door service is required to be. Katie said it needs to be available within 0.75 miles of the route.
- Nick Bryant shared that he was concerned that increasing service to 30 minutes will not increase ridership. He wanted to know if this would be justified.
- Katie replied, sharing that staff felt it would have benefits, and didn't want to miss an opportunity to apply for the grant funding. She shared that from an operations perspective, having another bus on the route helps with reliability. For example, this spring and summer, the GoApex bus experienced some mechanical issues which decreased reliability. However, staff are not sure that increasing frequency will double ridership.
- Brett Gantt mentioned it may be better to go to 30 minutes and expand the routes at the same time. Brett also asked about expanding the time such as 11pm.
- Andy asked about outreach to increase ridership.
- Shannon mentioned at the new long-range planner will be doing outreach for various projects. Route 1 isn't the only route in Town – GoTriangle Route 305 has recently expanded their trips, and the GoCary ACX will be expanding their service as well. She said that she and Katie will investigate this more by reaching out to Cary and researching what they did.

Katie shared that there is still time before the grant application is due on January 31st, and staff can bring this back to the January meeting for an update.

7-Wake Transit Plan Update

Katie Schwing, Town of Apex

Katie shared that the Wake Transit Plan update is currently underway and that there is a project webpage available. She reminded the members that the plan is organized around four “big moves”:

1. Better connectivity in the region
2. Connect all Wake County communities, including Apex
3. Create frequent, reliable Urban mobility to Cary and Raleigh
4. Enhance access to transit which includes CFA program as well as programs to build out bus stops and transfer points

Katie shared that this update will guide what we want to do with the money we will have available through 2035. She shared that there is a “State of the Plan” summary document which is available on the project website showing what the program has done to date, but the current focus is identifying



undated goals and priorities and exploring where to go in the future. The project team is developing scenarios for public feedback in the November-December timeframe.

Katie also reminded the group that a public survey went out after GoApex survey asking what rider and the public wanted to see in terms of major update, and the results are available online.

Katie also shared that there will probably one or two in-person pop-up events in Town. Staff are working with CAMPO team to figure out when and where and will be hosted on webpage when scheduled. There will be a survey out for feedback on the scenarios.

8-Informational Updates

Katie Schwing, Town of Apex

Updates on the following items were provided to the Committee in advance as an attachment to the agenda. Committee members were asked to review the information prior to the meeting and provide feedback and questions at the meeting:

- GoApex Operations and Performance
- Bus Stop Improvements
- Mobility Hub Feasibility Study
- Rail Operations Relocation Study

Andy had one question if the new members have route maps for the routes in Town. They said they did, and Katie mentioned that she had a brief orientation for the new members as well.

9- Other business

Andy Werking, Vice-Chair

Katie shared that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Discussion:

- Gaye Williams asked if there was a way to get together in a casual environment to catch up on transit information and issues before the next meeting.
- Andy explained that committees are challenging with the rules and regulations pertaining to meetings.
- Allen Coleman said it would be fine to meet one on one and with staff and two of the members to get up to date with committee items. Allen said he did not recommend meeting in the whole group as it would be considered a meeting and would have to be recorded, etc.
- Shannon said she and Katie would be happy to meet with the new members to get them up to date.
- Gaye said she was interested in the dynamics of the group and felt that a meeting would be good to get to know each other better.
- Andy suggested to have a special meeting to orient the new committee members with an overview of the history of the committee.
- Allen suggested that Nick and Andy could get together and select the top three things to discuss at that meeting and present that ahead of time.



- Nick said he would rather schedule a date for a working orientation session to have a hour to discuss how we got to where we are – essentially an overview, and use the time to address questions and concerns.
- Andy suggested to have the new members send a list of questions that can be addressed at that meeting.
- Allen suggested to have the chair and vice chair decide what would be beneficial and contact Katie and Shannon to talk through those items, then have staff meetings with the new members separately so there isn't a meeting.
- Gaye said she didn't think multiple meetings will achieve what they want to do – a special meeting to orient the new committee members sounded more like what she was thinking.

After discussion on content, the group requested a Special Meeting and worked through schedule availabilities. The group settled on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 4pm, to have an orientation for the new members with updates on plans and initiatives.

10- Adjourn

Andy Werking, Vice-Chair

Andy Werking adjourned the meeting at 5:55PM.

APPROVED MINUTES

TOWN OF APEX SPECIAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024 4:00PM

The Apex Transit Advisory Committee met for a Special Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Monday, November 18, 2024 at 4:00 pm in the 3rd Floor Training Room A at Apex Town Hall, located at 73 Hunter Street in Apex, North Carolina.

This meeting was open to the public. Members of the public were able to attend this meeting in-person or watch online via the livestream on the Town's YouTube Channel. The recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

[Transit Advisory Committee Meeting 11.18.24 YouTube](#)

[ATTENDANCE]

Transit Advisory Committee Members

Andrew Werking, Chair

Nick Bryant, Vice-Chair

Patrick Kirley

Linda Barrett

Frances Williams

Wendy Perry

Lauren Staudenmaier, Ex-Officio

Joanna Helms, Ex-Officio

Angela Reincke, Ex-Officio

Staff

Shannon Cox, Long Range Planning Manager

Katie Swing, Senior Planner-Long Range Transit

[WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS]

Chair Werking thanked staff for putting together this special meeting and thanked the Committee members for attending. He then moved to Agenda Item #2 - Meeting Calendar.

[MEETING CALENDAR]

Ashley Gentry, Deputy Town Clerk then went over the meeting schedule for adoption. Deputy Town Clerk Gentry presented 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 calendars for two separate motions for approvals. She reminded everyone that the meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every quarter at 4 p.m. and live streamed. There was a discussion about the meeting dates. There were questions about July dates possibly being changed in the April meeting.

APPROVED MINUTES

Alan Coleman, Town Clerk, said that the meetings are scheduled out as far as possible to reserve the meeting spaces.

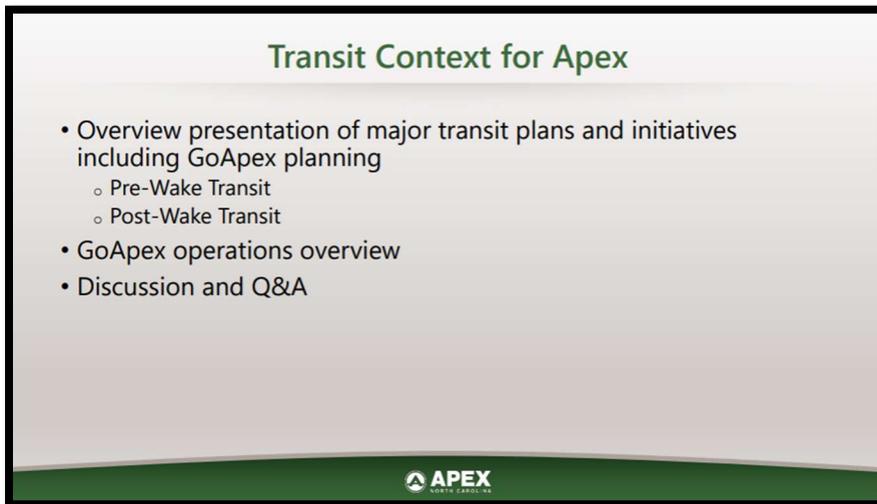
A **motion** was made by **Nick Bryant**, seconded by **Linda Barrett** to approve the fiscal year calendars 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 as is.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (9-0)

[PRESENTATION-TRANSIT CONTEXT FOR APEX]

Katie Schwing, Senior Planner-Long Range Transit, spoke about where the committee is and where they are going, for the newer members. She gave an overview of the history of Apex transit, revenue and funding sources. She also talked about how the Transit Plan map evolved and operations and the following presentation:

[SLIDE 1]

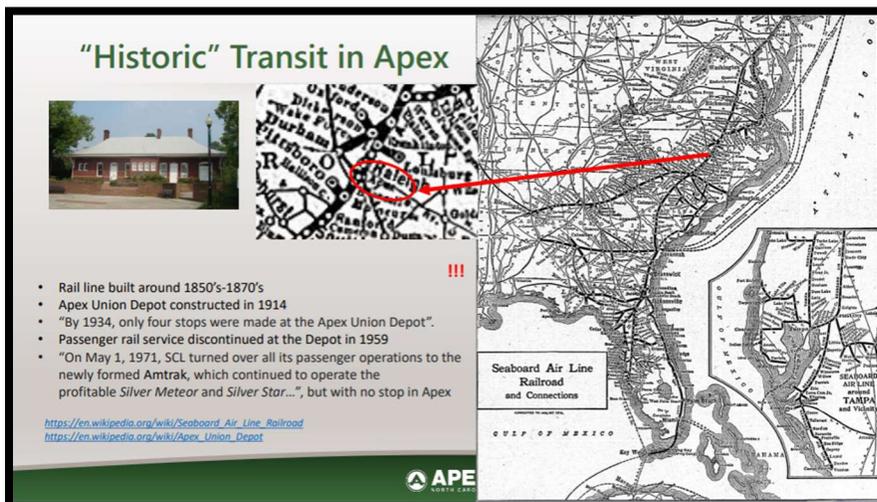


Transit Context for Apex

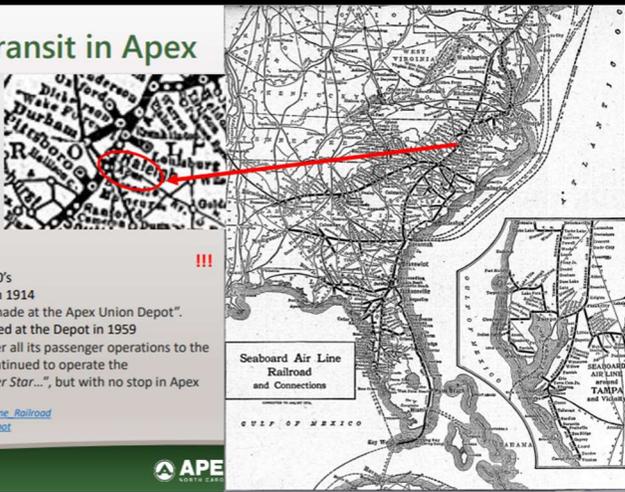
- Overview presentation of major transit plans and initiatives including GoApex planning
 - Pre-Wake Transit
 - Post-Wake Transit
- GoApex operations overview
- Discussion and Q&A

APEX
NORTH CAROLINA

[SLIDE 2]



"Historic" Transit in Apex



- Rail line built around 1850's-1870's
- Apex Union Depot constructed in 1914
- "By 1934, only four stops were made at the Apex Union Depot".
- Passenger rail service discontinued at the Depot in 1959
- "On May 1, 1971, SCL turned over all its passenger operations to the newly formed Amtrak, which continued to operate the profitable *Silver Meteor* and *Silver Star*...", but with no stop in Apex

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seaboard_Air_Line_Railroad
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apex_Union_Depot

APEX
NORTH CAROLINA

[SLIDE 6]

Routes 305 and 310 Replace Route 302: Jan 2006

Approved Service Changes - Jan 2006

Route 305 - Downtown Apex to Lake Pine Plaza to Downtown Raleigh

Which Areas of the Triangle would be served by Route 305?

Route 305 would serve Downtown Apex and the area of the current Route 302 between Lake Pine Plaza and Downtown Raleigh.

In response to several public comments, TTA staff is working to see if Route 305 can be represented as a new line that preserves access to the Government Camp. Staff hopes to finalize the routing decision in downtown Raleigh very soon.

Why is TTA making this Change?

This change is both a cost-saving measure and a service quality improvement strategy. By getting Route 302 into two routes, TTA saves about \$200,000 per year and can operate both routes using 4 buses instead of 5 during rush hour.

On the service quality side, TTA hopes to improve on-time performance. Route 302 has two proven travel corridors combined into one bus route. These include one:

- Apex/Cary to RTP

Currently, construction on Davis Drive is making the RTP side of the route quite unreliable. In an effort to improve on-time performance, and subsequently, customer satisfaction, the bus route will allow TTA to add more time to the RTP-oriented Route 310, and abandoning the less competitive Apex/Raleigh segment. Route 305 to operate without being subject to the effects of Davis Drive construction.

Schedule Change

[View the Route 305 Schedule](#)
[View a Map of Routes 305 and 310 \(PDF 249K\)](#)
[View a Map of Routes 305 and 310 \(PDF 318 K\)](#)
[Back to the January 2005 Service Changes Main Page](#)

Thanks, [Internet Wayback Machine](#)

[SLIDE 7]

Route 310 (Apex / Cary / RTP)

Major Stops: Downtown Apex; Lake Pine Plaza; Davis Drive; RTP Bus Center

Map: [View a Map of Routes 305 and 310 \(PDF 249K\)](#)
[View a Map of Routes 305 and 310 \(PDF 318 K\)](#)

Apex to RTP

NC 55 at Galaxy Food	US 64 at Lake Pine Plaza	High House Rd at Cary Pkwy	Davis Dr at Kirk Creek Rd	RTP Bus Center
5:30am	6:05am	6:15am	6:25am	6:40am
7:35am	7:45am	8:05am	8:20am	8:40am
X	X	X	4:32pm	4:45pm
X	X	X	5:02pm	5:15pm
5:30pm	5:35pm	5:50pm	6:02pm	6:15pm
6:20pm	6:25pm	6:35pm	7:02pm	7:15pm

RTP to Apex

RTP Bus Center	Davis Dr at Kirk Creek Rd	High House Rd at Cary Pkwy	US 64 at Lake Pine Plaza	NC 55 at Galaxy Food
6:45am	6:52am	7:05am	7:20am	7:35am
7:45am	7:52am	8:05am	8:20am	8:35am
8:45am	8:52am	9:05am	9:20am	9:35am
4:20pm	4:25pm	4:35pm	5:13pm	5:15pm
4:50pm	4:55pm	X	X	X
6:20pm	6:25pm	6:35pm	6:55pm	7:15pm

Route 305 (Apex / Cary / Downtown Raleigh)

Major Stops: Downtown Apex; Lake Pine Plaza; Waverly Place; NC State University; Downtown Raleigh

Map: [View a Map of Routes 305 and 310 \(PDF 249K\)](#)
[View a Map of Routes 305 and 310 \(PDF 318 K\)](#)

Apex to Downtown Raleigh

NC 55 at Galaxy Food	US 64 at Lake Pine Plaza	Waverly Place	Dillard Dr at Walnut St	Western Blvd at NCSU	Wilmington St at Martin St
6:00am	6:11am	6:22am	6:36am	6:47am	7:00am
7:00am	7:11am	7:22am	7:36am	7:47am	8:00am
8:00am	8:11am	8:22am	8:36am	8:47am	9:00am
4:00pm	4:13pm	4:24pm	4:39pm	4:47pm	4:55pm
5:00pm	5:13pm	5:24pm	5:39pm	5:47pm	5:55pm
6:00pm	6:13pm	6:24pm	6:39pm	6:47pm	6:55pm

Downtown Raleigh to Apex

Wilmington St at Martin St	Western Blvd at NCSU	Dillard Dr at Walnut St	Waverly Place	US 64 at Lake Pine Plaza	NC 55 at Galaxy Food
6:00am	6:11am	6:20am	6:34am	6:45am	6:55am
7:00am	7:11am	7:20am	7:34am	7:45am	7:55am
8:00am	8:11am	8:20am	8:34am	8:45am	8:55am
4:00pm	4:11pm	4:20pm	4:34pm	4:45pm	4:55pm
5:00pm	5:11pm	5:20pm	5:34pm	5:45pm	5:55pm
6:00pm	6:11pm	6:20pm	6:34pm	6:45pm	6:55pm

Note: The 305 route does NOT stop at the Moore Square Transit Center, but rather at Wilmington Street near Martin Street (see map below).

Thanks, [Internet Wayback Machine](#)

[SLIDE 8]

Apex 2002 Population: 25,393

Transit Plan

[SLIDE 12]

Wake Transit Investment Strategy

- County-wide referendum passed in November 2016 with about 53% of the vote – new ½-cent sales tax in Wake County
- Accompanied by a Transit Vision Plan completed in 2016

- Wake Transit Plan is a revenue stream for public transportation investment
 - Voters approved funding package in 2016
 - Started collecting taxes and fees in April 2017
 - Wake Transit Plan started funding new transit service in August 2017
- Wake Transit Plan Investments are organized around four big moves:



Connect Regionally



Connect All Wake County Communities



Create Frequent, Reliable, Urban Mobility



Enhance Access to Transit





[SLIDE 13]

Wake Transit Plans/Funding

- Established the Four Big Moves:



Connect The Region

- Build Commuter Rail
- Enhance connections to Raleigh Durham Airport (RDU) and Chapel Hill



Connect All Wake County Communities

- Expand transit service to all 12 Wake County communities
- Increase commuter bus service



Create Frequent, Reliable, Urban Mobility

- 4 BRT Lines
- More frequent bus service
- Expand transit infrastructure – buy buses, build maintenance facilities, and invest in new technology



Enhance Access to Transit

- Increase service spans on evenings and weekends across the network
- Establish the CFA Program



[SLIDE 14]

Major Wake Transit Revenue Sources and Enabling Legislation

Wake Transit Revenue Source	Enabling Legislation
½-cent local sales tax	NCGS Article 43 §105-508 Special districts.
\$7 Wake Transit Plan Vehicle Registration fee/tax	NCGS Article 52 §105-570 County Vehicle Registration Tax; shared with municipalities.
\$3 Wake Transit Plan Vehicle Registration fee/tax	NCGS Article 51 §105-561 Authority registration tax authorized.
Percent of Vehicle Rental Tax	NCGS Article 50 §105-550 Regional Transit Authority Vehicle Rental Tax.



[SLIDE 15]

Major Wake Transit Revenue FY17-24

Category	FY17-23 Actuals	FY24 Budget
1/2-Cent Sales Tax (Article 43)	\$ 649,933,011.68	\$125,000,000.00
\$10 WTP Vehicle Registration Tax (\$7 + \$3)	\$55,926,451.00	\$9,775,000.00
Portion of GoTriangle Vehicle Rental fee	\$25,628,879.94	\$276,000.00
Other Revenue	\$8,746,406.00	TBD
Investment Income	\$21,318,899.00	TBD
Unrealized Loss/Gain	\$(13,668,601.00)	TBD
Total Revenues FY17-23	\$747,885,046.62	\$135,051,000



[SLIDE 16]

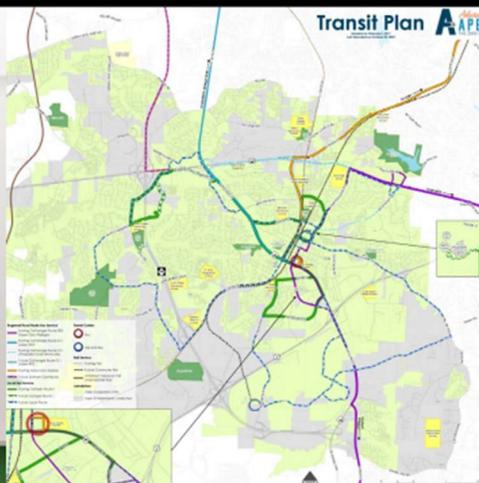
- ### Wake Transit-funded Regional Route Improvements in/near Apex:
- GoTriangle Rt 305:
 - In October 2020, route was extended to Holly Springs for certain trips
 - In August 2022, about four additional trips were added to the route (extending morning service to about 11am) and headways made more consistent
 - In August 2024, additional mid-day and evening trips added, making it all-day service from 6am-9pm
 - Approved for extended service to all-day, seven-day service between Apex and Raleigh per the FY2018-2027 Wake Bus Plan, with full implementation likely in FY27
 - GoCary ACX
 - Began service in January 2021
 - 2025-2030 Wake Bus Plan calls for replacing the ACX with GoCary Route 12, an all-day, seven-day, local route now slated to start potentially next summer/fall (2025)
 - GoTriangle Rt 311:
 - Had been operating since 2001, but was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and low ridership
 - Later, GoTriangle removed the route from its services
 - 2025-2030 Wake Bus Plan calls for re-introducing the 311 in FY27, using Wake Transit funding
- 

[SLIDE 17]

Local Transit Planning



Apex 2019
Population:
59,485



Transit Plan **APEX**

[SLIDE 18]

Local Transit Planning

- GoCary's Western Wake Comprehensive Operations Analysis (2018)
 - Established the concept of a local Apex Circulator based on transit propensity... in coordination with Advance Apex Plan




APEX
LOCAL TRANSIT

[SLIDE 19]

Apex Circulator Study

- Served to refine the circulator route identified in the WWCOA, including routing, costs, and service model
- Included robust community engagement
- Helped with CFA program application





APEX
LOCAL TRANSIT

[SLIDE 20]

Local Funding for Transit

Revenue	FY 20-21 Actual	FY 21-22 Actual	FY 22-23 Actual	FY 23-24 Budget
Motor Vehicle Fees	\$242,299.00	\$256,439.17	\$272,981.00	\$ 280,000.00

Local funding for GoApex projects is assigned first through the \$5 vehicle registration fee, and then from the general fund

APEX
LOCAL TRANSIT

[SLIDE 21]

GoApex service funding and launch

- Operating Project and Bus Stop Installation Project approved for funding in FY21
- Initially aimed to start service in FY22, but service planning and bus stop installation take time!
- Service launched July 30, 2022
- Operations overview
- Service Agreement with GoCary to provide the fixed Route service (GoApex Route 1)
- Service Agreement with GoWake Access to provide the required ADA Paratransit service (GoApex Door to Door)



Ribbon cutting – July 28, 2022

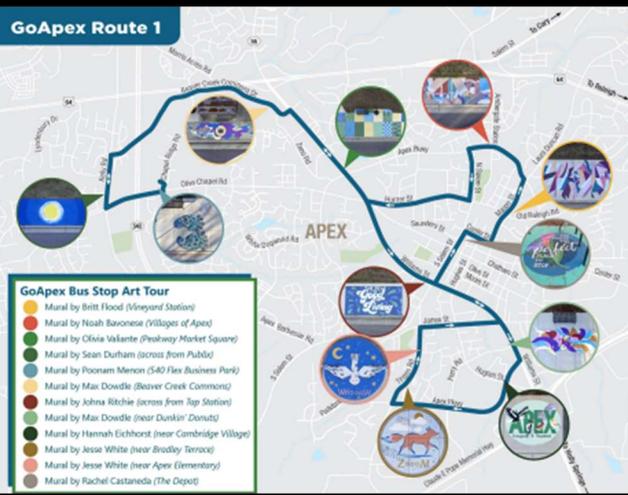


[SLIDE 22]

GoApex Bus Stop Sidewalk Art Project

12 art pieces completed by local and regional artists between July and December 2023

GoApex Route 1



GoApex Bus Stop Art Tour

- Mural by Britt Flood (Vineyard Station)
- Mural by Noah Bavonese (Villages of Apex)
- Mural by Olivia Valente (Pebbleway Market Square)
- Mural by Sean Durham (across from Publix)
- Mural by Poosam Menon (540 Flex Business Park)
- Mural by Mac Dowdle (Beaver Creek Commons)
- Mural by Johna Ritchie (across from Top Station)
- Mural by Mac Dowdle (near Dunkin' Donuts)
- Mural by Hannah Eichhorst (near Cambridge Village)
- Mural by Jesse White (near Bradley Terrace)
- Mural by Jesse White (near Apex Elementary)
- Mural by Rachel Castaneda (The Depot)

[SLIDE 23]

Ongoing Planning Opportunities

- Transit Prioritization Study
- Apex Comprehensive Plan update
 - Will start in 2025, through 2026
 - Opportunity to update transit plan map in coordination with land use and multimodal transportation planning
 - We want your input and participation!



APPROVED MINUTES

Chair Werking spoke about the level of work and discussion and public input that went into the development of the current circulator route and where those stops are located.

Vice-Chair Bryant went through where some of the stops are and how they were decided.

Chair Werking said that they still need to work on the library stop.

Committee Member Kirley asked about the High School population.

Vice-Chair Bryant said that they had to condense the routes to make sure it would within an hour.

Ms. Perry asked how an hour was decided.

Chair Werking said that it was a cost balance.

Shannon Cox, Long Range Planning Manager, gave more information about the circular study that Apex worked with Cary on. She said that they did not realize that there would be the younger demographic for specific outreach.

Councilmember Gantt asked how buses vs. trains had changed overtime.

Ms. Schwing said that there was a shift towards bus transit instead of rail transit. She said that there were distinguishing factors making bus routes like frequency of stops and other reasons.

Chair Werking asked if in the Apex area was there any other bus rapid transit services.

Ms. Schwing said that there are four in Raleigh and Chapel Hill transit is also in the process of converting their routes that goes to Airport Road.

Vice-Chair Bryant asked if they were dedicated guideways.

Ms. Schwing said that it was a mixture and a combination of part of the route in its guideway. She spoke on transit signal prioritization.

Ms. Cox spoke about Wake Transit Tracker website.

[TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECAP]

Katie Schwing gave a recap of the Transit Advisory Committee. She spoke on the focus groups and there were discussions about Advanced Apex. She gave the following presentation:

[SLIDE 1]

Transit Advisory Committee Recap

- Transit focus group for the Advance Apex Transportation Plan (2017-2018)
- First TAC meeting - February 28th, 2017
 - Nick, Andy, Shannon, Joanna, and Angela were there!
- 2017-2019: focused on how to bring transit to Apex
 - Stuart, Kurt, Amanda, joined in 2018
 - Group was formalized in 2019
 - Linda joined in 2020
- 2020-2021: Provided feedback on Apex Circulator Study, including service model, bus stop locations, marketing and branding, ADA Paratransit Policy development
- 2022-2023: Worked through GoApex launch, Bus Stop Sidewalk Art Project, Wake Bus Plan, Senior Center Bus Stop
- 2024 – forward: Transit Prioritization Study, continue to provide feedback on transit-related issues

Meeting summaries can be found on the TAC webpage!



[SLIDE 2]

TAC Member Working Orientation/Discussion

- Role of the TAC
- Individual and group priorities
- Topics of interest to cover at future meetings
- Additional history and context for previous TAC decisions
- Ideas about meeting format, venue, agenda development



[SLIDE 3]

For new members: What are the top two things you'd like to know about transit in Apex as you start your term as a committee member?

- Are there areas where Transit efforts have hit roadblocks that indicate the Town just isn't ready for them, at least not yet.
- What other lessons learned might long-time TAC members share with new members?
- I would be curious to know how the current transit Route 1 was established? In riding the route recently, I was pleasantly surprised at the number of young people taking advantage of the service.
 - Were there discussions on serving the high schools and Eva Perry library when developing the route?
 - Also, have there been discussions about any route changes due to changes in the town (i.e. Veridea, etc)?
- I'd like to know more about the funding for the services.
 - Where specifically does it come from and how does Apex qualify for the funding?
 - Also, what would happen if the current funding mechanisms changed and were reduced or eliminated?
 - Would Apex be in a position to continue service perhaps at a reduced level?
 - What, in general, has been the town council's view of the transit service and associated costs?



APPROVED MINUTES

[SLIDE 4]

For returning members: What are the top two things you'd like to pass along to the new committee members as they begin their term?

- How transit in Apex is funded, including grants/matches from federal, state, and county entities, and local funding from Town of Apex.
- The current cost of transit in the Town of Apex – total and per boarding.
- It is helpful to ride on the Go Apex Route 1 to learn and observe. I would recommend riding a couple of times (different days) and ask the bus driver about ridership, rider comments, etc. It is a valuable service that will only continue to grow over time. Riding the bus is a great way to get insight and observe the rider experience. It will also be helpful to read through the survey results from earlier this year as well.
- The Planning Department staff are experts and do a fantastic job presenting the current state of issues, changes modifications needed/required, and suggestions based on their expertise. We are responsible for reviewing materials prior to the meeting and learning about the issues/asking questions to provide the best feedback and approvals. As our community continues to grow, transit will be even more important since this is a major issue in the town. I would recommend reading through previous minutes to get an idea of our agendas and topics of discussion to help with your orientation process.



[SLIDE 5]

What do you think works best about current transit services in Apex?

- That we started with buses that run consistently.
- The current Route 1 does a good job of providing service to major trip generators like downtown, Beaver Creek, and the 55 corridor through Apex. That's not an easy task in an hour timeframe especially with the delays caused by the railroad bridge constraints on Hwy 55. Also, the reliability of the service seems adequate.
- I'm still getting familiar with the door to door service and don't have comments at this time.



[SLIDE 6]

What, in your opinion, is the single best way to improve transit services in Apex?

- Setting aside funding considerations, the best improvement to the fixed route service would be to increase the frequency of the service. Obviously, current financial considerations may make this difficult or unachievable.
- Marketing. Make non-car transportation something residents at least think about when they consider their trips.



APPROVED MINUTES

[SLIDE 7]

What, in your opinion, should be the single highest priority for transit in Apex in 2025?

- Improve ridership on buses to reduce cost per ride
- Initially, I think bus stop improvements would improve the experience for most current riders. Seating and shelters can greatly help at a fairly affordable cost. Additionally, it seems that an increased focus on outreach might be useful. Since joining the TAC, I've had a lot of conversations with people in town who were either unaware or vaguely aware of the services or that made comments about seeing empty buses and dismissed the services as frivolous. The ridership surveys give great information on existing riders but it would be good to know more about the rest of the community's thoughts on transit usage potential.



[SLIDE 8]

TAC Member Working Orientation/Discussion

- Role of the TAC
 - What has been the role of the TAC?
 - What in your eyes, *should* be the role of the TAC?
- Recommendations to Planning Board and Town Council
 - Plans and Plan Amendments
 - Funding Requests
- Providing Feedback to staff on Town Projects
- Public Art Projects
- Staying Up to Date on local and regional Transit-related projects
- Serving as a stakeholder/participant in regional transit planning activities



[TAC MEMBER WORKING ORIENTATION/DISCUSSION]

Katie Schwing gave an orientation of the overall role of the Advisory Committee members. She gave the following presentation:

[SLIDE 1]

TAC Member Working Orientation/Discussion

- Topics of interest to cover at future meetings



[SLIDE 2]

TAC Member Working Orientation/Discussion

- Additional history and context for previous TAC decisions



[SLIDE 3]

TAC Member Working Orientation/Discussion

- Ideas about meeting format, venue, agenda development



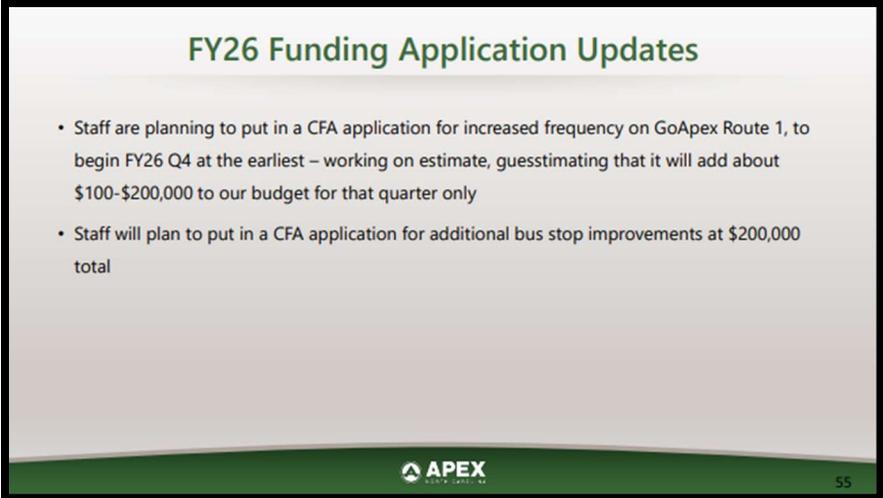
APPROVED MINUTES

Chair Werking spoke about the community participation. There was discussion about the likes and dislikes of how the Committee worked together and clear expectations and perspectives of the Advisory Committee for current members and new members.

[FY26 FUNDING APPLICATION UPDATES]

Katie Schwing gave a brief update on the FY Funding Application update and gave this presentation:

[SLIDE 1]



FY26 Funding Application Updates

- Staff are planning to put in a CFA application for increased frequency on GoApex Route 1, to begin FY26 Q4 at the earliest – working on estimate, guesstimating that it will add about \$100-\$200,000 to our budget for that quarter only
- Staff will plan to put in a CFA application for additional bus stop improvements at \$200,000 total

APEX 55

[SLIDE 2]



10. Closing

APEX 56

APPROVED MINUTES

[ADJOURN]

Chair Werking announced the meeting adjourned at **5:35 pm.**

Andy Werking
Chair

Submitted for consideration and approval by Apex Town Clerk Allen Coleman.

Minutes approved on _____ day of _____ 2025.