Draft of Wake Transit Plan update through 2030 ready for review

FEB. 19, 2021 - The 10-year Wake Transit Plan is being updated, and a draft is available for review through March 31. The plan outlines the long-term vision for public transportation investment throughout Wake County.

Wake residents voted in 2016 to invest sales tax money in transit improvements and approved the first 10-year transit plan that called for "Four Big Moves": connecting all Wake County communities, connecting the region, creating frequent and reliable urban mobility and enhancing access to transit.

Community input received during the yearlong update process confirmed that these will remain the program's priorities.

"We are grateful for the continuing support and participation of Wake County community members, partners and stakeholders in the transit planning process," says Stephanie Plancich, Wake County <u>Transit Planning Advisory Committee</u> administrator. "Their feedback and ideas help to ensure that the Wake Transit plans being developed and the projects being funded will meet their needs for years to come."

The Wake Transit Plan has led to significant transit system improvements. Highlights include bus routes operating more often and for longer hours, new bus routes, more weekend service, transit connections for all Wake County communities, ongoing planning for bus rapid transit and commuter rail service, additional and improved bus stops, the purchase of new environmentally friendly vehicles, upgraded technology throughout the system and new programs that allow youth and seniors to ride fare free.

The drafted update to the Wake Transit Plan extends the planning period from 2027 to 2030. It also includes adjustments to the plan's financial assumptions due to reported and continuing COVID-19 impacts to sales tax collections. The anticipated loss of revenue means that no new projects paid for with Wake Transit funds can be added to the plan at this time, but almost all of the originally planned investments, including a commuter rail and four bus rapid transit projects, will be moving forward.

Please visit goforwardnc.org/wakeinput to review the draft update and to provide feedback to the planning team.

The 40-day public review and comment period for the draft 2021-2030 Wake Transit Plan will be open through March 31.

The public also can attend a joint public hearing of the CAMPO executive board and the GoTriangle Board of Trustees on March 17 at 4 p.m.

The Wake Transit governing boards then are expected to consider the plan for adoption in April.

- CAMPO Executive Board at 4 p.m. April 21.
- GoTriangle Board of Trustees at noon April 28.