

Frequently Asked Questions

Winter 2023

WAKE TRANSIT WORK PLAN

What is the Draft Work Plan?

As the next iteration of the annual Wake Transit Work Plan, the Draft FY 2024 Wake Transit Work Plan (Draft Work Plan) outlines the transit investments that will receive funding in the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024. The Draft Work Plan balances the careful use of taxpayer dollars with thoughtful investment in transit. The document is a budget designed to improve the bus and transit network in Wake County and the Greater Triangle Region.

What is the mission of the Draft Work Plan?

The Draft FY 2024 Wake Transit Work Plan was developed to implement the most recent version of the Wake County Transit Plan, which was adopted by the CAMPO and GoTriangle governing boards in April 2021. The Plan is guided by the Four Big Moves: 1) Connect the Greater Triangle Region, 2) Connect all Wake County communities with fixed-route service, 3) Create frequent and reliable urban mobility, and 4) Enhance access to transit.

When is the public review and comment period?

The Draft FY 2024 Wake Transit Work Plan was released for public review and comment between February 20 and March 22, 2023. Input received will be carefully considered by the TPAC for incorporation into the Recommended FY 2024 Wake Transit Work Plan.

What is included in the Draft Work Plan?

The Work Plan has two main parts: 1) The projected FY 2024 Wake Operating and Capital Budgets, detailing the specific projects proposed to receive funding throughout the year. 2) The second and larger part is the Appendix which outlines Wake Transit's multi-year investment strategy through FY 2030.

Where does the Draft Work Plan receive its funding?

Wake Transit revenues come from a mixture of sources, the largest of which is a transit-dedicated, ½ cent sales tax. Other sources include portions of vehicle rental and registration taxes, local, federal, and state funds, reserved operating and capital fund balances, and projected fare box recovery.

How much is budgeted in the Draft Work Plan?

A total of \$242.8 million is projected to be available for Wake Transit investment in FY 2024. The Draft Work Plan allocates \$39 million to the Wake Operating Budget — \$31.9 million of that would be designated for the continuation of services that were funded in previous years. The Draft Work Plan allocates \$203.8 million to the Wake Capital Budget. A total of \$85.9 million comes from federal funding, which is allocated for the Wake BRT: Southern Corridor project.

How can I learn more and comment on the Draft Work Plan?

The GoForward Website: <https://www.goforwardnc.org/getinvolvedwake>

- Email: publicengagement@gotriangle.org
- U.S. Mail: GoTriangle, ATTN: Annual Work Plan & Wake Bus Plan, 4600 Emperor Blvd., Suite 100, Durham, NC 27703
- Text FY24 to 73224 (charges may apply)
- Call 855-925-2801 (toll-free) and enter code 4685 to leave a voicemail
- Call 919-485-RIDE (7433)

WAKE BUS PLAN

What is the Wake Bus Plan?

In 2016, voters in Wake County approved a tax package to invest \$2.3 billion in public transit services. This investment program is known as the Wake Transit Plan.

The Wake Bus Plan Update is part of the Wake Transit Plan. It is a year-by-year plan for how taxpayer money will be spent to improve bus services. The Wake Bus Plan includes investments in bus service and capital projects.

When was the first Wake Bus Plan prepared?

The first Wake Bus Plan was published in 2019.

Why is the Wake Bus Plan being updated?

The Wake Bus Plan is updated every four years. Updating the plan ensures the Wake Bus Plan adapts to changes in Wake County. It also gives the public and other stakeholders a chance to evaluate and re-prioritize how funds are spent and how transit services are changing.

What is the time period for the Wake Bus Plan?

The Bus Plan is a year-by-year implementation plan for projects that will be funded between 2024 and 2030. The plan is based on fiscal years, so the Bus Plan would begin on July 1, 2024.

While the Bus Plan identifies projects between Fiscal Years 2025 and 2030. There is more detail and information about projects scheduled for implementation between Fiscal Years 2025 and 2027 because there is more certainty in the shorter term. Detailed projects are described in Short Range Transit Plans that are prepared for each transit agency operating in Wake County (GoCary, GoRaleigh, GoTriangle and GoWakeAccess). The Short Range Transit Plans are included as appendices in the Wake Bus Plan.

Why does the plan start in 2024?

The Wake Bus Plan is developed according to a fiscal year calendar, that begins on July 1. The Wake Bus Plan includes projects scheduled for between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2030.

Projects recommended for implementation in Fiscal Year 2024 (between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024) are included in the Wake Transit Plan Annual Work Program.

What are bus service projects?

Bus service projects are changes to bus routes. They can be new bus routes or changes to existing bus routes. For example, some bus routes will be lengthened, and some could be shortened. Others may operate for longer hours or with more frequent service.

Are any bus routes being eliminated in the Wake Bus Plan?

Sort of – in some cases, bus routes that are not carrying many people are replaced with different transit options. For example, one express route that provides service to Triangle Town Center with connections to downtown Raleigh is being changed to operate as on-demand service. Riders can still get to downtown Raleigh with one transfer.

What are bus capital projects?

Bus capital projects are investments in infrastructure that support bus service. It includes new transit centers, bus stops, and new buses.

Why is the Wake Bus Plan important?

The Wake Bus Plan is important because it shows the plan for investing tax dollars in transit services. It also shows you how transit service is being improved.

Was there public input into the Wake Bus Plan?

Yes! This is the second time we are asking members of the public what they think about the Wake Bus Plan. We held pop-up events and meetings in the Spring 2022 and talked to people about the types of bus service improvements they wanted to see. Information provided through this process helped us design bus services and prioritize projects.

How did you decided which projects would get implemented first?

The Bus Plan is designed to implement the Wake Transit Plan, which sets four main goals or Four Big Moves that guide implementation:

- **Connect Regionally:** Create cross-county connections by developing a combination of regional rail and bus investments. The investment plan reflects a Durham-Wake commuter rail project as well as a series of regional express routes.
- **Connect All Wake County Communities:** Connect all 12 municipalities in Wake County plus the Research Triangle Park (RTP) and Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU). This investment will include a combination of regional and express bus routes.
- **Frequent, Reliable Urban Mobility:** Develop a frequent transit network in Wake County’s urban core. The frequent transit network will include development of bus rapid transit services, plus high frequency bus services along major corridors in the County’s most developed communities.
- **Enhanced Access to Transit:** Includes expanding transit operating hours, such as providing more service on weekend days or increasing services on weeknights. Enhancing access to transit also increases the frequency of service on many routes and develops demand-response services in lower density areas.

We also used a combination of data and feedback from riders to prioritize which projects would be implemented first. The data included information about existing ridership on the bus routes – improvements to bus routes that carry a lot of riders will be implemented first. We also looked at

how we can improve service for the greatest number of people and historically disadvantaged communities.

Is it too late for me to tell you what I think?

It is not too late! We would love to know what you think. Please fill out a survey or comment card and let us know what you like and what you don't like as much.