



## Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

Special Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020

Virtual Teams Meeting

### Meeting Purpose

The purposes of this meeting were to: (1) approve meeting minutes from the July 22, 2020 meeting; (2) provide updates on GoApex Route 1; (3) provide an update on the GoTriangle Route 305 extension to Holly Springs; (4) provide an update on the Wake Transit Vision Plan; (5) provide an update on the Affordable Housing Plan; (6) share brief updates on the GoCary Apex-Cary Express (ACX), the autonomous shuttle presentation, the Wayfinding Signage Program, the new Long Range Transit Planner position, a Capital Improvement Program request, and a transit oriented development grant opportunity; and (7) discuss next steps in transit planning and service projects.

### Meeting Outcomes

Town staff will: (1) continue work on GoApex Route 1 bus stop design and construction; (2) support expansion of GoTriangle Route 305 to an all-day and weekend service; (3) continue coordination with GoCary and GoTriangle on the Apex Cary Express and Route 305, (4) hire a Long Range Transit Planner; and (5) submit of letter of support for the NCDOT S-Line passenger rail planning study.

### Attendees

Committee members:

- Linda Barrett
- Laura Brain
- Nick Bryant
- Amanda Bunce
- Joanna Helms
- Kurt Pfeifer
- Angela Reincke
- Stuart Wagner
- Andrew Werking

Staff support:

- Shannon Cox (Town of Apex Planning)
- Jenna Shouse (Town of Apex Planning)

### 1. Meeting Minutes

*(Action Item: Jenna Shouse, Town of Apex)*

- Andrew Werking made a motion to approve the July 22, 2020 meeting minutes.
- Nick Bryant seconded the motion to approve the July 22, 2020 meeting minutes.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

### 2. GoApex Route 1 Updates

*(Information Item: Jenna Shouse, Town of Apex)*

- Staff provided an update on the Transportation Demand Management Grant.
- Staff provided an update on the GoApex Route 1 bus stops. Bus stop designs are under review and environmental review is in progress. Construction may be delayed due to NCDOT cost control measures.



- Staff are pursuing license agreements with private property owners at a few locations along the route.
- Staff may pursue a Wake County Neighborhood Revitalization Grant to construct bus stop improvements and pedestrian facilities to improve access bus stops.
- Project funding was included in the FY 2021 Wake Transit Work Plan.
- Bus operations may begin in Summer 2021, assuming an aggressive schedule, rather than Spring 2021.
- Bus wrap and bus stop sign designs have been created for GoApex Route 1.
- *Committee Discussion:*
  - *Question of whether there will be a mobile app to track GoApex Route 1.*
    - *Staff confirmed that there will be a mobile app.*

### **3. GoTriangle Route 305 Extension to Holly Springs**

*(Information Item: Jenna Shouse, Town of Apex)*

- Staff provided an update on the recent extension of Route 305 to Holly Springs. This extension also included new bus stops in the Apex Town Center.
- Staff are coordinating with GoTriangle to install permanent bus stop sign posts.
- Staff are coordinating with GoTriangle on issues identified with bus tracking. Staff plan to assist with marketing after these issues are addressed.
- GoTriangle plans to upgrade bus stops to meet ADA requirements in the future.
- *Committee Discussion:*
  - *Committee member noted that buckets have been seen around Town.*
    - *Staff responded that they are working with GoTriangle to install permanent bus stop signs.*
  - *Committee member requested a copy of the Route 305 map to post in downtown Apex.*

### **4. Wake Transit Vision Plan Update**

*(Information Item: Shannon Cox, Town of Apex)*

- Staff provided an update on the Wake Transit Vision Plan and noted that 3 years of additional tax collections will likely be needed to support the already programmed expenditures identified in the Wake Transit Plan. Some projects may be delayed past 2030.
- The Community Funding Area Program is still a high priority in the Wake Transit Vision Plan update. GoApex Route 1 operations are funded through this program.
- GoTriangle Route 305 all-day expansion was identified as a high-priority project and is currently held in the FY 2021 unbudgeted reserve queue. A possible FY 2021 Work Plan amendment will be considered during the week of November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- *Committee Discussion:*
  - *Committee member noted support of the Route 305 expansion project and recommended pressing forward with the FY 2021 amendment. The member noted there is a connection between GoApex Route 1 and GoTriangle Route 305.*



## 5. Affordable Housing Plan Update

*(Information Item: Shannon Cox, Town of Apex)*

- Staff shared updates on the Affordable Housing Plan and noted that transit has been a theme of public input and discussions among the Steering Committee.
- A public presentation of the Draft Affordable Housing is anticipated in mid-December. Public hearings for potential plan adoption are anticipated in January.
- *Committee Discussion:*
  - *Question of whether there were any comments on the Affordable Housing Plan survey related to transit in Apex.*
    - *Staff responded that there were general comments that transit is needed in Apex but there were no specific comments on locations or frequency of service.*
  - *Question of whether staff are looking for the Transit Advisory Committee to serve on an Affordable Housing Committee. Committee member noted to make sure there is cross-over between any Affordable Housing committee and Transit Advisory Committee.*
    - *Staff noted that one of the recommendations from the Affordable Housing Plan will probably be to have an Affordable Housing Committee. That committee would likely include a member or a staff representative from the Transit Advisory Committee.*

## 6. Brief Updates

*(Information Item: Shannon Cox, Town of Apex and Jenna Shouse, Town of Apex)*

- GoCary Apex Cary Express (ACX)
  - Delayed to January 2021 to coincide with GoCary system-wide changes.
- Autonomous Shuttle Presentation Follow-up
  - Staff shared information that Ashley Thompson with Stantec provided in response to Committee members questions at the last meeting.
- Wayfinding Signage
  - Staff provided a brief update on the Wayfinding Signage Program, noting that signage will be directed to Park and Rides.
  - *Committee Discussion:*
    - *Suggestion to incorporate a QR code into the Orientation Map so people can use it on their phone when they walk away from the kiosk.*
- New Long Range Transit Planner
  - Staff noted that this position is anticipated to begin in early November.
  - *Committee Discussion:*
    - *Question of where the new Long Range Transit Planner position fits in the Planning Department.*
      - *Staff responded that this position will be in the Long Range Planning Division. This person will work closely with Shannon and Jenna and will eventually become the main staff for the Transit Advisory*



*Committee. They will also be marketing GoApex Route 1 and planning new transit routes.*

- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Request
  - Staff shared that the latest CIP request included \$100,000 in FY 24-25 for GoApex Route 1 bus stop enhancements as well as \$690,000 in FY 25-26 for bus stop improvements to prepare for GoApex Route 2 or frequency/service improvements.
- NCDOT Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant
  - The application for this grant is due in October. The grant would fund passenger rail station planning and the study would begin in Spring 2021.
    - *Committee Discussion:*
      - *Support for the TOD project. Apex can show that we already have transit on the ground to support passenger rail.*

## **7. Next Steps**

*(Information Item: Jenna Shouse, Town of Apex)*

- Coordinate with GoTriangle on next steps for Route 305 – infrastructure improvements and route expansion.
- Begin service to GoCary Route ACX in January 2021.
- Begin GoApex Route 1 bus stop construction in Winter 2021.
- Begin GoApex Route 1 operations in Summer 2021.
- Next meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.