



## **Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee**

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2021

Virtual Teams Meeting

### **Meeting Purpose**

The main purposes of this meeting were to: (1) Consider the revised ADA plan and ADA application; (2) Receive updates on GoApex Route 1; (3) Consider a proposed amendment to the Transit Plan map; and (4) Receive brief updates on several items of interest to the committee.

### **Meeting Outcomes**

Town staff will: (1) continue work on GoApex Route 1 bus stop design and construction; (2); continue working on developing an ADA policy and paratransit application; (3); continue coordination with GoCary and GoTriangle on the Apex Cary Express and Route 305; and (4) coordinate a field trip to ride Route 305 and ACX.

### **Attendees**

Committee members:

- Linda Barrett
- Amanda Bunce
- Nick Bryant
- Bret Gantt
- Kurt Pfeifer
- Angela Reincke
- Stuart Wagner
- Andrew Werking

Staff support:

- Allyson Coltrane (Town of Apex Planning)
- Shannon Cox (Town of Apex Planning)



### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Wagner introduced those in attendance and welcomed any members of the public participating remotely.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

*(Action Item: Allyson Coltrane, Town of Apex)*

*Requested Action: Approve meeting minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting*

- Stuart Wagner made a motion to approve the January 13, 2021 meeting minutes.
- Linda Barrett seconded the motion to approve the January 13, 2021 meeting minutes.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

### 3. ADA Plan and Paratransit Application

*(Action Item: Allyson Coltrane, Town of Apex)*

*Requested Action: Approve the ADA Plan and Paratransit Application*

- Staff Updates:
  - Staff presented revised versions of both the ADA Plan and Paratransit Application. Staff provided an overview of changes including: shortening the documents to be both reader friendly and concise, removing unnecessary questions, and removing the need for a GoApex ID Card.
- Committee Discussion:
  - Members noted that Laura Brain requested revisions at the previous meeting and asked whether she has provided any feedback on the changes. No comments had been received.
  - Andrew Werking made a motion to recommend the ADA Plan and Application, pending any additional comments from Laura Brain.
  - Linda Barrett seconded the motion.
  - The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

### 4. GoApex Route 1 Update

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

- Staff Updates:
  - Staff provided an update regarding bus stops. Two bus stops are proposed for removal, the stop on Olive Chapel Road adjacent to Olive Chapel Elementary and the interior stop at Beaver Creek Crossings. A stop has been added on Kelly Road near Evening Star Drive in lieu of the Olive Chapel Road location. The Beaver Creek Crossings stop removal requires an amendment to the Transit Plan map (next item).
  - License Agreements are need with both Olive Chapel Professional Park and Beaver Creek Crossings. Town staff have been in talks with the owner of Olive Chapel Professional Park and it looks favorable. There has been limited contact with the property owner of Beaver Creek Crossings in regards to maintaining the exterior bus stop located at Tuesday Morning.
- Committee Discussion:
  - Members asked about the purpose of the license agreement for Olive Chapel Professional Park. Staff shared that this will allow the bus to turn around and start the inbound trip.



- Members asked for additional detail regarding the proposed removal of the stop in Beaver Creek Crossings. Staff noted that the property manager liked the idea of having an interior bus stop, but due to agreements already in place with tenants and the current uncertainty of retail due to the pandemic, they are not able to enter into an agreement at this time. They are open to exploring the possibility in the future.

## 5. Transit Plan Map Amendment

*(Action Item: Allyson Coltrane, Town of Apex)*

- Staff Updates:
  - Staff recommend amending the Transit Plan map to remove the portion of the route interior to Beaver Creek Crossings. This is due to the inability to reach agreement to locate an interior stop in this retail development.
- Committee Discussion:
  - Members asked whether we have other stops inside the shopping center. Staff noted that there are no other interior stops but the shopping center will still be served by two stops on Beaver Creek Commons Drive.
  - Members asked whether the existing stop will be impacted by this decision to remove the interior stop. Staff noted that they have been unable to reach an agreement with the property owner to maintain one of the existing bus stops as it is not in the public right of way. Staff is still working with the property owner to reach a maintenance agreement. The stop can still be served, just not maintained by the Town.
  - Members asked whether a connection of Chapel Ridge Road to Beaver Creek Commons Drive would enable the bus to travel on Chapel Ridge Road. Staff shared that there is not a collector street shown on the Thoroughfare and Collector Street Plan map to connect Chapel Ridge Road to Beaver Creek Commons Drive. If that were to change, an amendment to the route could be considered.
  - Andrew Werking made a motion to recommend approval of the Transit Plan map amendment.
  - Kurt Pfeifer seconded the motion.
  - The motion to recommend approval of the Transit Plan map amendment was unanimously supported by the Committee.

## 6. Bloomberg Asphalt Art Grant

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

- Staff Updates:
  - Staff shared that they have partnered with the Public Art Committee to apply for the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Grant. Staff will ask for the maximum allotment of \$25,000. The intent for this grant is to have art designed at 12 bus stops.
- Committee Discussion:
  - Members asked whether art at bus stops can be included as a community amenity and potentially added to the Public Art map.
  - Staff noted that the UDO and Public Art map address public art on private property. Staff will research a possible UDO amendment and follow up with Committee.
  - Committee suggested looking into what the City of Durham is doing.
  - Committee is very supportive of the Bloomberg grant idea, and believes that there will be a tremendous media opportunity to promote GoApex Route 1 with the integration of art



and transit.

## 7. Updates

*(Information Items: Allyson Coltrane and Shannon Cox, Town of Apex)*

- Staff Updates:
  - Go Triangle’s Route 305 service expansion is anticipated for August 2021.
  - Starting in March GoTriangle began to hold public comment on three items: the Wake Transit Plan, Annual Work Plan, and Community Engagement Policy. The Wake Transit Plan was extended by three years into 2030. The Annual Work Plan includes funding for GoTriangle to construct the bus transfer station that will be near downtown Apex and park and ride improvements. Locations for the park and ride improvements have not been identified. The Work Plan also includes continuing the new service of GoCary ACX and the Expansion of GoTriangle Route 305.
  - Staff provided an update on the Community Block Grant. Staff is currently conducting surveys for income verification that will be aid in the goal of enhancing the six bus stop locations and pedestrian improvements at James St and NC Hwy 55.
  - The Transportation Demand Management Program FY22 grant application has been submitted and we are awaiting comments from the oversight committee.
  - Downtown Design Projects includes three of the top ten project from the Downtown Plan: enhance Salem St, energize the alleys, and add parking. Staff have designs to share and will be inviting property owners and tenants to a discussion on April 26th. There will be virtual workshops for the public from May 17th – May 31st and there will be a live workshop on May 24th. Both workshops will have the same information. The live workshop will require registration.
  - The Transit Oriented Development (TOD) plan, led by NCDOT with participation from the Town, will kick off in June.
- Committee Discussion:
  - The committee was excited and supportive of the sidewalk and bus stop enhancements proposed with the Community Development Block Grant.
  - Chair Wagner asked whether the ACX route information has been added to the TransLoc App. Staff will follow up with GoCary about this.

## 8. Next Steps

*(Information Items: Allyson Coltrane and Shannon Cox, Town of Apex)*

- Committee Bus Ride – July 2021
- GoTriangle Route 305 Expansion – August 2021
- GoApex Bus Stop Construction – anticipated start in Fall 2021 (anticipate 6 months to complete)
- GoApex Route 1 Start of Service – anticipated Spring 2022
- Next Meeting is July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm