



## Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

(and broadcast on Town of Apex YouTube site)

### Meeting Purpose

The main purposes of this meeting were to: (1) Receive updates on GoTriangle projects and plans; (2) Receive updates on the S-Line TOD Study; and (3) Receive brief updates on transit-related Town projects.

### Meeting Outcomes

Town staff will: (1) continue coordination with partners on Route 305, the S-Line TOD Study, and the Wake Transit Bus Plan Update, (2) continue work on GoApex Route 1 for targeted Spring or Summer 2022 service launch, (3) continue work on projects including possible Art in Transit installation and transit access improvements.

### Attendees

Committee members:

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

Staff support:

- Shannon Cox
- Katie Schwing

Guests:

- Liz Byrom (Kittelsohn & Associates, Inc.)
- Scott Curry (Kittelsohn & Associates, Inc.)
- Paige Dickerhoof (VHB for NCDOT)
- Brett Gantt (Apex Town Council)
- Jennifer Green (GoTriangle)
- Andrea Neri (GoTriangle)
- Caitlin Tobin (Kittelsohn & Associates, Inc.)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Roll call attendance and a round of introductions was made on the virtual meeting for committee members and guests. Shannon Cox introduced Katie Schwing as the new senior transit planner for the Town who will support this committee in the future.



## 2. Meeting Minutes

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

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the September 1, 2021 meeting. Joanna Helms noted one correction, to add Joanna Helms as a committee member attendee as she was present at the meeting.

*Requested Action: Approve meeting minutes from the September 1, 2021 meeting as corrected.*

- Andrew Werking made a motion to approve the September 1, 2021 meeting minutes.
- Nick Bryant seconded the motion to approve the September 1, 2021 meeting minutes.
- Through a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

## 3. GoTriangle Project & Planning Updates

*(Informational Item: Jennifer Green and Andrea Neri, GoTriangle)*

- **Presentation Summary**

- Andrea Neri presented updates on several GoTriangle projects relevant to the Town of Apex, including the status of Route 305, new transfer areas in the Town, the Wake Transit Bus Plan update, Route 311, and current ridership trends in the Town.
- Andrea noted that the bus operator shortage continues to delay the expansion of Route 305 to all-day and weekend service. Andrea requested that the group consider any priorities for changes, such as expanding service to non-peak hours and weekend days, or expanding the service coverage area of the route as well, noting that a phased expansion may be needed. He also asked the group to consider the timing and order of any changes and he would be happy to hear the feedback as they continue to plan for future service.
- Andrea noted that the new stop at Salem and Moore Street could be a good candidate for public art, as a point for the committee to consider.
- Andrea noted that service remains suspended on Route 311. GoTriangle applied for an FTA grant to study the restoration of Route 311 and how that route and service may need to be modified.
- Andrea mentioned that the Wake Transit Bus Plan update is underway with the focus on aligning operating investments with bigger goals of the Wake Transit Plan. Each transit agency develops a short range transit plan as well. Public engagement is planned in Spring and GoTriangle is planning to coordinate with the Town for public outreach activities.

- **Discussion**

- David Yokum asked if Andrea had a sense of how aware residents in Apex are that the buses are running right now, and if awareness strategies like postcards in mailboxes for those who live along the route pointing out the route details, would boost ridership.
- Stuart Wagner asked if Andrea saw Route 1 as being a catalyst for more ridership, for example those in Apex who may take Route 1 to the 311 to Cary. Andrea agreed that it could help boost awareness and ridership.
- Andrea noted that both nationally and locally there is a need for more bus operators



and requested that the group spread the word to any relevant channels.

- Shannon Cox shared that Apex also has an affordable housing plan in process and stakeholder feedback for that process was clear that transit is needed as a part of the overall affordable housing strategy. For example, some of the funding available for affordable housing requires access to all-day transit.
- Brett Gantt mentioned that his hope is that the GoApex Route 1 could bring about the convenience needed to get people to try transit. BRT might be a game changer, but the local route can offer convenience.

- **Next Steps:**

- Town staff will continue to coordinate with GoTriangle on plans and projects, bringing information to the TAC as relevant and through the public engagement process.

#### **4. S-Line Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Study**

*(Informational Item: Caitlin Tobin, Scott Curry, Liz Byrom, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.; Paige Dickerhoff, NCDOT)*

- **Presentation Summary**

- Caitlin Tobin presented an overview of the TOD study, which is separate from the actual S-Line development project. The project team is currently working on a TOD readiness report (existing conditions) and a market study, then will move on to a vision summary, with active planning workshops. They will then develop an implementation plan by the end of the year. For the Apex area, the team is looking at both downtown and the Veridea development area.
- Scott Curry provided a summary of the recent community engagement activities, including pop-up events held in Apex to build awareness and get feedback from the public. There is currently an online survey available through January 2022.

- **Discussion**

- Nick Bryant asked for more details of what the TOD study is, and what to expect from NCDOT as far as outcomes. For example, will this study make recommendations about land use in downtown Apex and the CSX land? Caitlin explained that the main goal is facilitating support for communities to get transit ready from a development and regulatory tools perspective, like where the Town would like to see development in light of the S-line work being done. This study may also be leveraged by NCDOT for some of those more engineering related decisions, which Paige mentioned is part of another study.
- Brett Gantt added that a recommendation from this study relating to some of those downtown land decisions would probably be helpful.
- Andrew Werking pointed out that his understanding is that transit, particularly commuter rail, weighs heavily in business decisions on locating new sites and campuses, and wondered if that is part of this discussion, or if it came up in the pop-up events.
- Joanna Helms added that those types of decisions are usually broken up by B2B (business-to-business) and B2C (business-to-consumer) types of firms. In her experience, B2B employees in this area typically don't rely on transit for their



employees.

- Brett added that the current perspective is that people think about going north into Raleigh, but that a future microchip maker in Moncure or other employers might lead to jobs and demand to go south. Caitlin said that could probably be accommodated in terms of different growth scenarios in the study.
  - Caitlin added that the project team will be coming back to do workshops in the spring and summer and wanted to make sure that the TAC members were aware and invited to attend.
  - Linda Barrett also wanted everyone to know that there is a community health needs assessment in process right now, focus groups are going on and transit can figure into those discussions.
- **Next Steps:**
    - Town staff will continue to coordinate with NCDOT on the S-Line TOD Study, bringing information to the TAC as relevant and through the public engagement process.

## 5. Project Updates

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

- Art in Transit
  - Apex was not selected for the Bloomberg art in transit grant
  - Town staff will begin to draft a call for artists. Shannon requested a couple of volunteers to review and participate in the call, which will be completed in collaboration with the Public Art Committee. Nick Bryant, Andrew Werking, and Stuart Wagner volunteered.
- GoApex Route 1
  - Apex received construction authorization for the bus stop projects.
  - The paratransit service agreement with Wake County is getting closer to finalization.
  - The fixed route service agreement with Cary is still in review.
  - Brett brought up that the Beaver Creek Commons shopping center changed owners and wanted to know if the Town has reached out to them about the stop there. Shannon replied that a new stop cannot be included in the current project but there could be potential to add a stop later. Shannon will reach out to them.
  - Brett asked about the potential for electric buses, and he thought it could bring attention and potentially gain more ridership and wanted to know if there is flexibility to encourage that. Shannon said she has asked GoCary about alternative fuel vehicles, and will tell them we still have an interest in that.
  - Nick asked if there are studies that indicate younger generations are more mass transit ready and less likely to use cars, and would that increase ridership projections. Katie said she didn't have a particular study to cite but had seen studies showing that younger generations are getting drivers' licenses and owning cars as later ages compared to previous generations and young people are slightly more likely to take transit compared to the general population.
- Community Development Block Grant-funded bus stops
  - Shannon provided an update on the collaborative project with Wake County to enhance GoApex bus stops and complete a pedestrian connection at Williams Street



and James Street. She noted the project agreement has been approved, initial field work completed, a pre-application meeting was held, and the design is underway.

- Transit Pedestrian Enhancements
  - Shannon announced that a request for funding for the 2023 Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) to complete pedestrian connections to local and regional bus stops in the downtown areas was recommended by the selection committee and that the final award decision was anticipated in February 2022.

#### 6. Other Business

- Shannon asked about a previous request for a meeting with the Mayor in 2022. Andy said he was interested in knowing the Mayor's interest and vision for transit and it could also be an opportunity to give an overview of the work of the committee done in recent years. Stuart asked about the best conduit for making that a reality and Shannon said staff could work with the Town Manager to see if he can attend in April.
- Stuart Wagner thanked Brett Gantt for joining the meeting.
- Shannon reminded the TAC that the next meeting would be April 13<sup>th</sup> and would most likely discuss marketing for GoApex Route 1.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:27pm.



## Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

4:00pm-5:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room, Apex Town Hall

### Meeting Purpose

The main purposes of this meeting were to: (1) discuss transit initiatives in Town with Mayor Gilbert; (2) receive and discuss updates on transit-related Town projects; and (3) receive and discuss updates on transit-related regional projects.

### Meeting Outcomes

Town staff will: (1) finalize the Call for Artists document for the GoApex pavement art project and send to selection committee members for review; (2) send informational updates on GoApex Route 1 bus stop installation and service start; (3) send updates to those who have volunteered to come to the GoApex booth Town-sponsored events; and (4) send information to the committee on the CAMPO Regional Mobility Management Integration Study.

### Attendees

Committee members:

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

Absent:

- David Yokum

Staff support:

- Shannon Cox
- Katie Schwing

Guests:

- Mayor Jacques Gilbert (Apex Town Council)
- Councilor Brett Gantt (Apex Town Council)
- Taylor Wray (Apex Park and Recreation, Liaison to Apex Public Art Committee)
- Bethany Bryant (Apex Public Art Committee)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Stuart Wagner opened the meeting at 4:06 pm and welcomed the members and special guests. A round of introductions was made.
- In his remarks, Stuart noted that as of March, 2022, he has started riding the ACX daily to work in Cary, and it has been a positive experience. The group was happy to hear that.



## 2. Meeting Minutes

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

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the January 12, 2022 meeting. There were no corrections noted.

*Requested Action: Approve meeting minutes from the January 12, 2022 meeting.*

- Nick Bryant made a motion to approve the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes.
- Andrew Werking seconded the motion to approve the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

## 3. Mayor's Comments and Discussion on Transit

*(Mayor Jacques Gilbert)*

*Katie Schwing briefly introduced this item as an opportunity to reflect on the many transit related projects going on in Apex and this group's contributions over the past almost-five years that the group has been meeting. It was also an opportunity for the Mayor to share his thoughts about how transit fits into the Town's priorities.*

- **Summary**
  - Mayor Jacques Gilbert noted that it was impressive to see community members so engaged in this work, and thanked everyone for being a part of the group and being involved.
  - He mentioned some of the various ways that transit can help the Town achieve its larger goals and challenges, such as the extensive growth the Town has seen – adding over 10,000 residents since the beginning of 2020.
  - He also mentioned that he is excited about how transit can help support that growth and encourage transit-oriented development.
  - He brought up how transit can help affordable housing and people with disabilities.
  - He noted that GoApex can help support the Town's affordable housing efforts, such as the new community of Broadstone walk which has 164 units of affordable housing (and will be served by GoApex).
  - He mentioned that he attended a Braille challenge at Apex UMC and was made aware, through that experience, of the visually impaired population in Town and their needs (for example, the technologies that allow for talking crosswalks).
  - He mentioned he received a Facebook message from someone thanking him for the new GoApex service, as her mother lives in Apex and has disabilities that prevent her from driving. She was worried about how her mother would get around and was so happy to learn that there would be a transit option for her.
  - Mayor Gilbert then brought up some larger regional efforts, such as the S-line rail project. He likened it to a catalyst to help develop the vision for the change we need into the future.
  - He brought up the Apex Peakway project and the highway and sidewalks bond passed recently as a sign that Apex is actively working to improve the transportation system in Town.
  - The Mayor finished his thoughts and Stuart asked if there were any questions or



comments from the group.

- **Discussion**

- Andy Werking said that he thought that Facebook feedback was amazing to hear. It helps to reinforce that, even if most people don't use it, transit can still be a valuable part of the community for those that do use it.
- Nick Bryant added some thoughts that even though there has been a lot of activity, we need to keep the transit conversation going. We need to be able to keep workers in Apex and provide options.
- Mayor Gilbert noted that transit helps with all of the Council's strategic goals, more than almost any other service offered in Town.
- Katie asked how the Mayor's perception of transit has changed since this project started. He said that at first, he wasn't sure if it was something that would be worth the investment for a Town like Apex. Adding transit would be something big. But the more he learned about the benefits, and with the growth that Apex has experienced, and will continue to experience, his perspective changed to think of it as something more forward-facing. Conversations with people like Councilman Gantt has helped him see the potential impact this could have and he is looking forward to what it can bring.
- On that point, Stuart Wagner thought back to about four and a half years ago when staff and some others did a pop-up event in Walmart asking about people's interest in transit in Apex and the reactions seemed to be a mixture of shock and curiosity. It seems that has changed and the reaction has been mostly positive.
- Andy said it was great to have the GoCary ACX in town as a visible display of transit for awareness building. He said he has been in Salem Street pub when the ACX goes by, and has heard people say, "We have a bus?"
- Mayor Gilbert closed out the discussion with the the sentiment, that this is a long-term effort.

#### **4. Project Updates**

*(Information Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)*

- **Art in Transit**
  - Katie provided updates on this project which was also discussed at the September 2021 meeting. The idea for the project has been refined by staff to be a bit simpler – to paint art on concrete near bus stop waiting areas. This was decided for a couple of reasons –as a first step that can be built upon later, and as something that can be done in a faster timeframe with fewer regulatory needs.
  - Apex did not get the Bloomberg Asphalt Art grant and will pursue the project with local funds.
  - Katie mentioned that the staff is putting together a selection committee that will include members of the TAC (Nick, Stuart, and Andy) and Public Art Committee (Bethany, Ton Colwell, and Taylor Wray) and town staff (Shannon, Katie, and Chad Lemasters from Public Works).



- Katie went over some aspects of the draft call for artists, including the budget, timeframe, and selection criteria. She said she had already received some feedback about the timeframe - based on the Town's Public Art Policy, the Town should post the open call for two months instead of the one proposed, and the weighting for the selection criteria - to weight it more evenly between the practical criteria and the creative criteria.
- Bethany Bryant mentioned that this project can also be a great way to help raise awareness market the new bus route.
- Shannon Cox added that a goal of the project is to engage the community, both in the design and in the installation, which will also help raise awareness of the stops.
- Stuart asked about the project budget. Katie said there was \$40,000 in the budget for this project that would have to be spread across 12 bus stops and include artist fees, materials, and public engagement costs.
- Andy asked about the lifespan of the project – was this something that will be maintained over time?
- Nick remembered that when this project was discussed previously, there were ideas like custom shelters with rooftop gardens, etc. This might be something where the Town could ask a company to partner in to help support the project. Can we ask to do that sort of thing? Amanda agreed and thought it might be good to have some buy-in with these things – like adopting a stop or sponsoring a stop near the business.
- Stuart added that this first project can be a start, to show that the Town is being active with it, and could do something more. This is an opportunity to almost advertise the possibilities.
- Bethany echoed that idea as a possibility for getting businesses to sponsor a bus stop. The Public art committee started on a project to paint the concrete sewer manholes along the greenways, and then volunteers saw it, and wanted to get involved and help. The Town may have to work on the policies to make sure it meets all requirements.
- Angela offered the suggestion that the Town could have it be set up with an Adopt a Stop process.
- Angela asked for clarification if these are sidewalks around the stops, not the roadway? She had been told there was a rule against painting road surfaces in Town. So, it might be worth checking. But, the idea of having enhanced crosswalks in the area near the stops, like for example, on Mason Street near the Community Center, would be nice.
- Bethany wanted make sure to get the call for artists out to local artists. This could be a great opportunity for those local to Apex.
- Nick asked if the route went by the Hunter Street Skate park? Katie replied that it did not go directly by it, but near to it.
- Nick asked about the idea for integrating art into the walls of the new shelters that are planned. Can we find a shelter that has a way to replace/integrate art?
  - Shannon responded and said it may, depending on a few factors, like the funding sources and placements. She heard that the committee liked the vinyl wraps and that option is still on the table.
  - Nick thought he has seen some special panels where there was a design in the metal panel itself.
- Katie said she would update the call for artists based on the discussion and comments, and would send out an updated version to the selection committee members.



- GoApex Route 1

- Katie provided updates on the new GoApex Route 1 service. The bus stop installation project is set to begin any day now with concrete work to add bus stop pads, and in some cases, additional concrete to connect to the nearest sidewalk or curb. She added that amenities (benches, trash cans, and bike racks, depending on the stop) would come later, likely May-August depending on delivery times. She provided an update about the various agreements that need to be in place before service starts
  - Service agreement with GoCary – in negotiation but close to finalization
  - Service agreement with GoWake Access – approved by Wake Board of Commissioners but awaiting signatures
  - License agreement with Olive Chapel Professional park – signed in March
- Katie also provided updates on the proposed outreach for this project and that the focus at this point was for awareness, basic information, and ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion in the process. Staff are creating brochures and other documents to be able to hand out at in-person events. There are a few event types planned:
  - Town Events – Apex EarthFest, Apex PeakFest, and a Vision Zero Event.
  - Pop-up Events – Setting up a table outside local businesses – final locations TBD.
  - Pop-in's – local businesses or apartment offices for staff to distribute materials
- The group asked about efforts to reach out to young people, such as high schoolers. Katie mentioned that this was one of the target audiences for the service, but that at this point, there is not much specifically planned for this group. Some ideas were to go to Hunter St Park, and to downtown Apex in the evenings. Angela suggested the open gym time at the Community Center after school.
- Andy added that this service could be a way to help bolster independence for youth, to get to downtown on their own, for example.
- Andy Werking asked if the operator shortage will affect this route. He noted that operator consistency is so important for a new service to provide confidence to riders.
  - Katie responded that since we are partnering with GoCary, we can't guarantee there will never be missed trips but we have talked with them and they will prioritize this service as much as they can. The operator shortage is a national and regional issue, but GoCary does not seem to have had as big of an issue as other agencies.
  - Shannon added that we have talked with GoCary about ensuring this and they cannot put GoApex above their other routes, but that they have been able to raise their driver compensation to help avoid a larger operator shortage, and they haven't had to cut service as a result.
- Andy asked if there was flexibility in the funding to pursue direct service providers instead of contracting to another agency? Shannon responded that at this point, it would cause delays to do something like that, maybe even up to a year. She added that GoCary contracts their service to MV transportation.
- Shannon did want to emphasize the big step that was getting the license agreement finalized with Olive Chapel Professional Park and wanted to take a moment to celebrate that, as it means the routing is also finalized.
- Nick mentioned that something that could help with the success of GoApex, is that since Apex is growing so much, that there are people coming from all over the county and areas are used to having transit services, such as California, and they may be more



used to using it.

- Andy asked about some other outreach options, like can GoApex provide shuttle service for the PeakFest or other events? Shannon responded that the Town is looking into that for PeakFest and she can add the Vision Zero event to that list as well. The buses may not have the GoApex branding/wrap yet, but maybe the Town can have the backup branding for those events.
- Community Development Block Grant-funded bus stops
  - Shannon provided an update on this project and that they are heavily into the design phase. This is the project that the Town has partnered with Wake County on to add bus stop enhancements (including shelters) and some additional sidewalk connections in Town.
- Transit Pedestrian Enhancements LAPP Project
  - Shannon updated the group that Apex was awarded this grant and that design work has recently started. This is the project to add pedestrian connections to transit stops in Town. Shannon wanted to emphasize that this project was awarded to Apex under the Transit category, and that Apex has been doing a good job of leveraging those funds to make improvements.

## 5. Other Project Updates

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

- Regional Mobility Management Integration Study
  - Katie provided a “head’s-up” to the group that CAMPO is working on a study with some other regional project partners to study possibilities surrounding developing a regional mobility management program. Mobility management essentially refers to managing the various human service transportation needs for a region in a “one-stop shop” type of setup.
  - The project will explore developing a regional interagency agreement for this program as well as an implementation plan.
  - To save time in the meeting, Katie said she will send out some additional slides that explain what a mobility management program is.
- Wake Bus Plan
  - Katie let the group know that the Wake Bus Plan is currently in development. This is the bus planning portion of the Wake Transit program (does not include the rail projects) and will be completed around October 2022.
- S-Line TOD Study
  - Shannon provided a quick update on this project, which is focusing on land use supportive of transit. Mr. Gantt is sitting on the executive committee. In June 2022 there will be a big public engagement activity – a charrette or workshop. This effort is important to help prepare for future rail service.
  - Councilman Gantt expressed that this project has raised the awareness of commuter rail in the region. These lines (the S-line) are also where a lot of the growth is (Apex and Wake Forest) in the region. A project like this makes it more concrete to people in the region and gives us something to plan towards.
- S-Line Mobility Hub RAISE Grant Initiative
  - NCDOT is pushing for a RAISE grant to study mobility hubs along the S-line as well, in addition to the TOD project.



- For some selected areas, the proposed project will get into designing the stations (but not ours). Apex will participate in that grant application. Applications are due in April.

Shannon showed some photos and talked briefly about the tour she and Councilman Gantt took last week to South Florida, where they saw new multimodal projects such as the Brightline service and examples of mobility hubs – multimodal facilities built with the idea to provide seamlessness to get to and from the station and surrounding land uses (first mile and last mile service). Nick asked if this is the same idea for the mobility hub project at NC 55 and Salem St. Shannon said that is still in the works but this idea is more appropriate for around a new rail station. Councilman Gantt said that a big takeaway is that the region (Miami/Ft Lauderdale/West Palm Beach) is choosing multiple options for transit – not just one. They, in some ways, may be an example the future of the Triangle in the decades to come.

Andy added that the photos Shannon shared are a great way to visualize the first-mile, last-mile, mobility hub concept.

#### 6. Other Business

- Katie reminded Andy, Stuart, and Nick that their appointment terms are up in July and to let Katie know if they would like to stay on for another term.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.



## Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

4:00pm-5:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room, Apex Town Hall

### Meeting Purpose

The main purposes of this meeting were to: (1) discuss a potential amendment to the Apex Transit Plan Map; (2) receive and discuss updates on the launch of GoApex ; and (3) receive and discuss updates on transit-related regional projects.

### Meeting Outcomes

Town staff will: (1) consider additional press and outreach opportunities for GoApex; (2) forward a request for the Public Art Committee to consider opportunities near the High Line building.

### Attendees

Committee members:

- Linda Barrett
- Amanda Bunce, ex officio
- Joanna Helms, ex officio
- Kurt Pfeifer
- Angela Reincke, ex officio
- Stuart Wagner
- Andrew Werking
- David Yokum

Staff support:

- Shannon Cox
- Katie Schwing

Guests:

- Councilor Brett Gantt (Apex Town Council)

Absent:

- Nick Bryant

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Stuart Wagner opened the meeting at 4:07 pm and welcomed the members and guests. A round of introductions was made. Linda Barrett joined remotely through a videoconference link, and the meeting was livestreamed.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

*(Action Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)*

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the April 6, 2022 meeting. There were no corrections noted.



*Requested Action: Approve meeting minutes from the April 6, 2022 meeting.*

- Andrew Werking made a motion to approve the April 6, 2022 meeting minutes.
- Kurt Pfeiffer seconded the motion to approve the April 6, 2022 meeting minutes.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

### **3. Apex Transit Plan Amendment**

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

Shannon Cox provided background information on a possible Transit Plan map amendment to show future local transit service along Chapel Ridge Rd. She explained that there is a rezoning application in process for apartments, that has proposed to complete a minor collector roadway to connect Chapel Ridge Rd to Beaver Creek Commons Drive, including a side path bike/ped connection. This proposed Transit Plan Map amendment would run concurrently with the rezoning request and transportation map amendment (so there are actually three amendments).

At this time, the idea is to create a new loop for GoApex Route 1. This would allow the route to serve a new area and also allow the route to avoid turning around on private property in the future. She explained that there is a 5-year agreement for the current turnaround in Olive Chapel Professional Park, that could potentially be extended, but is not a long-term sustainable choice for a public transit route.

Shannon added that this proposed amendment is supported by staff. The Apex Planning Board heard this request on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and recommended approval. She would like to request a recommendation from the Transit Advisory Board before the item goes before the Town Council (slated for July 26<sup>th</sup>). Shannon said she wanted to make the group aware that the rezoning case is controversial, and this is a neighborhood that has been transitioning from rural character to new development.

Andy Werking asked if the extension of Chapel Ridge Rd is completely dependent on this rezoning, or if it could happen some other way at some other time. Shannon replied that the public hearing for the transportation plan is heard right before the rezoning public hearing, so they are typically the same decision, but doesn't have to be. But staff did say they would probably bring back the amendments whether or not the rezoning was approved. Andy said he thought it made sense to have it on the transit plan, whether or not it goes through - does it matter if we show transit on a route that may not ever exist? Shannon did say they will continue to look for an alternative to the turnaround, whether or not this goes through. She did add that the new proposed routing would lose two bus stops [at Kelly Rd and Evening St Dr and Beaver Creek Commons Dr and Diamond Dove In Westbound] because the bus would not be coming that way.

Stuart said he thought any opportunity to shed an license agreement like the one at the professional park is a good thing, and did not see a downside to being prepared by having this as part of a plan.

Brett Gantt also mentioned that when he saw the proposed rezoning, he thought it would be a good place for transit to go. He also asked at the time if there was a way for the route to serve



downtown on the eastbound and westbound routing. Shannon replied that staff had not studied this yet, but it likely would add too much time to the route. Stuart added maybe with a second bus.

Andy said he has had conversations with folks about the new service, and one of the primary points of negative feedback is that it only comes once per hour, so a second bus would be a big improvement.

Action: Stuart Wagner asked if there was a motion on the requested action per the slides (“Recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the Transit Plan map along Chapel Ridge Rd”).

- Andy Werking made the motion.
- David Yokum seconded.
- The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. GoApex Project Updates**

*(Information Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)*

- GoApex Route 1

Katie provided updates on the new GoApex transit service. She shared that the start date will be Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Katie will be sending out an e-blast to the transit and long-range planning interest lists. There is a ribbon cutting ceremony that the TAC members are invited to.

Stuart asked if there is a publications dept who is putting this out to the media outlets. Katie said that staff have been working with the Town’s Communications department and will be doing a press release, but haven’t talked about guided press activities. Stuart thought that there are a lot of media outlets who are going to want to tie this to the rising gas prices, and from experience, this comes at a great time for the service because of that – in that it could be good publicity. Katie did say there would be some media available when the press release is published. Katie

Mr. Gantt said Chris Lovingood with WRAL might be a good resource for that type of segment and good topic for a Saturday broadcast.

Katie gave a couple quick updates about the status of the service agreements and partner agency preparations. The service agreements are signed, GoCary and GoWake access are currently gearing up for the service.

Andy Werking asked if the previous concern about the driver staffing levels would still be an issue. Katie said that we are basically in the same situation as previously – that while there have been drivers assigned to the route, that there isn’t a guarantee that the service will never miss a trip, but staff is optimistic that it will run smoothly.

Stuart – the “ghost runs” for training he has seen around town can be good advertising as people start to notice the vehicle around town. The ACX missed it’s turn the other day, with a substitute driver.

Katie told the group that the town’s contractor is nearing completion of the bus stop installation project. There is one stop at Williams St and Salem St that is not complete yet, it had site constraints and the



location was moved to the other side of the intersection.

The bus stop signs have not been installed yet but should be either this week or next. The Town's Public Works department installed one bus stop sign at the Hunter Street layover location.

Mr. Gantt asked if it was possible to add a real-time map on the website under the GoApex webpage. Katie said that there will be an interactive map, but not a real-time interactive map. Katie said she could see if GoTriangle could provide the API for the real-time information. Amanda Bunce asked if Google transit would be able to pick it up. In some places she's visited she could get real-time arrivals via Google maps. Stuart mentioned the Transloc app, which provides real-time bus information. Katie said that the webpage will have information about the Transloc app.

Andy asked if the QR code is on the bus stop signs. Katie said it was not, and that staff had gone back and forth on that. Shannon explained that the Transloc contract may not be permanent for the region. We put it in the ride guide, but if it could change even in a year. Katie said GoTriangle had indicated they are interested in procuring a new contract, but have not proceeded with that process at this time.

Shannon pointed out that with Transloc, GoApex will be under GoCary and we don't have a way to work around that with the current contract. Stuart added that you can customize Transloc to only routes you are interested in. Sometimes you have to zoom in close before you can see your route.

Katie gave a summary of the outreach events and materials. Andy asked if all the downtown businesses have copies of the ride guides. Katie said she hasn't distributed them yet, but will be taking them. Joanna said that Colleen had given out bags and postcards.

Stuart asked about Beaver Creek - Chick-fil-a, places with summer jobs, etc, that kind of business - would be great to distribute materials to.

Brett made a quick comment to acknowledge that it is hardest to do things for the first time, and that lot of work went into this.

Katie then gave an update on the Art in Transit project to bring sidewalk art to select bus stops. Since the last TAC meeting, what has changed is on the procedural side of things. Katie informed the group that the Town needs to follow the Public Art in the NCDOT Right of Way policy, which requires a review by NCDOT prior to painting. Katie also said she was planning to release a public survey and move the installation work to Spring, 2023 instead of Fall 2022. The survey would help inform the artists applications as well as the selection committee. She will include the survey in the GoApex E-blast.

Andy asked if NCDOT has to approve the actual art, or if they just approve things like the Call for Artists, size and parameters, and things like that. Katie explained that she thought the main purpose of the review is so that NCDOT can make sure that the project follows the art in the Right of Way policy. They want to make sure, for example, that the art will not be an advertisement, or pose a safety issue, etc.

Joanna made a suggestion to see if the Town could put public art at the concrete at the highline building where the grade changes, for safety purposes? Katie can pass that idea on to the Public Art Committee to see if they have any ideas.



## 5. Regional Project Updates

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

- S-Line TOD Study

Shannon provided updates on the project since the last TAC meeting in April. The project is managed by NCDOT and there was a charrette in Apex on June 9<sup>th</sup>. There was good turnout, and several neighbors and property owners in the project area attended. She said that NCDOT is planning to conduct a field visit on July 14<sup>th</sup> as well.

Shannon then showed a draft sketch showing potential TOD and station area development possibilities. The darker brown is redevelopment potential, and is not meant to be definitive, but more just what they were able to work through that charrette day. Shannon then described the various features around the Town Hall Campus as well as near the Salem Street and Williams Street intersection. Shannon pointed out that in the future, the town may want to consider a transit plan amendment to move the potential rail station south towards Williams Street, depending on the outcome of this project.

Andy asked if there were any projections about what the potential daily rail ridership would be - that could determine where it makes sense to place the station or parking. Shannon answered that those are not part of the scope of this study, and that a service study would have to be done to determine ridership.

Stuart asked if CSX had given any more thought to moving their operations facility from downtown out to New Hill as was discussed before. Shannon replied that that conversation with CSX and NCDOT is still in the same place as was previously, and if the Town of Apex wants CSX to move, the Town (or someone other than CSX) would need to fund a study to find out the potential costs. Shannon added that they have moved in other places, but there is a lot that goes into the decision and potentially other rail improvements would be needed to support the move.

Mr. Gantt said he had asked NCDOT about why they are not pursuing purchasing the track south of Raleigh like they are north of Raleigh, and the response was that NC will have to make a lot of track improvements to the Raleigh to VA corridor to prepare it for high performance passenger rail, so they want to own that investment. Mr. Gantt thought that a discussion about the benefits to the state and localities about ownership of this segment is worth a conversation. Shannon mentioned that the state has to have the project prioritized in their program of projects in order to fund them, and this project is not on that list. Mr. Gantt asked if there is a program where if localities put in a match, would it increase the ratings to make it more likely to be prioritized? Shannon said that yes, it does help if there is a local commitment, but, the last round of prioritization was just cancelled due to lack of funding at the state level. She said it would also help if there was a safety benefit, that could help with prioritization. Economic development or aesthetics reasons is not as high a priority.

Joanna Helms asked if the potential redevelopment areas is public knowledge or been shared with property owners yet? Shannon said that the station area itself does not have a parcel yet and that the Jordan's were aware of the project.

Andy asked how this is factored into current planning and zoning decisions? Shannon said that yes, applicants would be made aware. Andy followed up to ask, is there any possibility that a development would be denied if it doesn't match this potential vision? Amanda explained that until there's an adopted



plan, there is less leverage. We rely on the adopted plans for rezonings. But rezonings are approved or denied by Council so it is their decision. Staff can help to inform and work with developers, though.

Mr. Gantt asked if the staff would come to Planning Board with a mixed-use land use map amendment? Like if NC55 was currently commercial, would it be rezoned to mixed use? Amanda said it does get a little complicated with the current mixed-use requirements. Anything in the Small Town Character area is limited to 36 feet in height, except for the Central Business District – with certain design standards they can get some more height. But they could submit a PUD with a zoning condition that allows more height.

Mr. Gantt thought that sounded like perhaps too many barriers, and maybe we need to think about barriers to redevelopment in this area – at least the information barriers – at least in his opinion. Amanda thought that when this plan is completed, the Town may have more information to inform next steps. Shannon said that for the S-Line Mobility Hub RAISE Grant Initiative, NCDOT has said they anticipated hearing the decisions for the grant awards in August 2022.

Shannon provided a quick update on the Wake Bus Plan. They are currently working to identify new bus projects and route concepts. Shannon said there is a trend that has been observed to move towards all-day service rather than peak-only service, to attract riders.

The four routes that are relevant to Apex are:

- Route 305 (GoTriangle)
  - Proposed service expansion to all-day service
- Route 311 (GoTriangle)
  - Proposed reinstatement and move to all-day service
- Route 12 (ACX) (GoCary)
  - New all-day service to replace the ACX
- Route 10 (GoCary)
  - New route from Apex to Crossroads via Ten Ten Rd

Andy asked about the timing of the Wake Bus Plan. Katie said it was looking like it would be completed early next year. The projects will then have to be packaged for particular planning years for funding purposes.

Mr. Gantt asked if the new service projects would include the stops as well, and would it be hourly service. Shannon responded that the 305 would be 30-minute service during peak hours and hourly the rest of the day. This plan doesn't get to the level of bus stop locations.

## 6. Other Business

- Katie updated the group that the reappointment requests for Andy, Stuart, and Nick might go forward for the July 26<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. The new Town Clerk was considering some updates to the reappointment process.
- Katie also shared the next meeting date, tentatively set for October 13, 2022.
- Katie also shared some tentative agenda items for that meeting, including discussing initial performance of the GoApex service, safe routes to transit improvements possibilities, and next steps for transit in town.
- Andy asked about if it was time to start discussing what additional services may be needed,



such as last mile connections or other service. Katie thought it was a good time to start discussing these things and it could be included as an item.

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:27pm.



## Town of Apex Transit Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022

4:00pm-5:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room, Apex Town Hall

### Meeting Purpose

The main purposes of this meeting were to: update the TAC members on the GoApex initial performance data and transit-related projects in Town and in the region, as well as discuss other Town project and regional projects.

### Meeting Outcomes

Town staff will prepare for additional discussion at the January meeting on next steps for transit in Apex. Staff will also follow up with additional ridership data and updates on the Bus Stop Sidewalk Art project with the selection committee members.

### Attendees

Committee members:

- Linda Barrett
- Nick Bryant
- Amanda Bunce,  
ex officio
- Joanna Helms,  
ex officio
- Kurt Pfeifer
- Angela Reincke,  
ex officio
- Stuart Wagner
- Andrew Werking

Staff support:

- Katie Schwing

Guests:

- Councilor Brett Gantt (Apex  
Town Council)

Absent:

- David Yokum

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Stuart Wagner opened the meeting at 4:06 pm and welcomed the members and guests.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

*(Action Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)*

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the July 13, 2022 meeting. There were no



corrections noted.

*Requested Action: Approve meeting minutes from the July 13, 2022 meeting.*

- Member Werking made a motion to approve the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes.
- Member Bryant seconded the motion to approve the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

### **3. GoApex Updates**

*(Informational Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)*

Katie Schwing provided updates on GoApex ridership and performance data. Members asked questions about the on-time percentage goal of 85%. Katie commented that it is a pretty standard target nationally and for the Wake Transit program.

Member Werking suggested we review the lowest utilized bus stop at the next meeting and talk about how often we should evaluate the ridership data.

Joanna Helms asked which stops are on Mason St at the Apex Community Center. Staff responded that there are two stops at that location.

Member Bryant asked if Route 305 ridership was up due to GoApex 1 coming online. Staff noted that they had heard verbally from GoTriangle that an increase in ridership was noticed after adjustments were made to the Route 305 schedule to help facilitate transfers with GoApex Route 1, and which included a few additional trips per day.

Discussion was had about driver shortages in the region. Staff commented that GoTriangle just announced a wage increase for drivers.

Members were interested in what would be involved in the Town handling the GoApex route rather than contracting with the Town of Cary or other options so that we could have more control over drivers. Staff responded that it would probably be a very involved process, considering the regulations around reporting, vehicle maintenance, etc, and with only one route, might not be as efficient as the current setup.

Members asked if there were repercussions regarding Federal grants when route standards are not met or if the 85% on time rate is not met. Staff explained that while 85% is a pretty standard performance target, they are not aware of a legal requirement to maintain it. Staff did note that on-time performance should be monitored to ensure equitable service delivery per Title VI.

Staff gave an update on ADA Paratransit service ridership and noted that there is more interest than applications received, but many people live outside the service area. GoWake Access has an overlapping service that could explain why ridership is lower. Apex contracts with GoWake and only pays for service rendered which benefits the Town. Member Werking asked if the low ridership could be due to lack of awareness. Staff reviewed awareness efforts that have been made to date and possible additional efforts that could be made.



Member Werking asked if we could determine the demographics of the typical user so that we can improve our outreach to those segments of the population that aren't riding. Staff discussed a regional onboard transit survey that GoApex Route 1 may be able to be part of this Fall, and if not, the Town could do its own community survey in the Spring. With paratransit service, there is a concern about using personal information, since all riders must register for the service, but staff could look into it more. Member Werking suggested that reaching out to young people for a social media type push to encourage riders in that age group might be good. Ideas were shared about ways to spread the word about GoApex in general.

Members asked if a stop could be added closer to the Senior Center to reduce the distance needed to walk from the stop to the front door. Staff can investigate if an option is available for a stop at the front door of the Community Center.

#### **4. Town Project Updates**

*(Informational Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)*

Katie provided updates on the following projects:

- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application and "Safe Routes to Transit" Considerations
  - Town applied for this Federal grant for 6 different projects, one of which is for creating safe stops and routes to transit. Grant, if awarded, requires a 20% local or state match. Awards will be announced end of this year or early next year.
- Bus Stop Sidewalk Art Project
  - NCDOT provided preliminary comments on 8/24. Staff summarized the feedback received and said that it seems promising at this point that NCDOT will approve the needed encroachment agreement.
  - The public survey closed on 9/20/22 and resulted in 72 responses. Staff provided a summary of the responses.
  - Staff reviewed next steps which includes issuing a call for artists and the NCDOT encroachment process. Member Bryant suggested that artists could respond to provide art at a specific location so that the art can be contextual.
- Veridea Master Subdivision Plan Application
  - Staff provided an update on a potential future transit route that would serve this development and other areas, a possible transit hub, and the potential for rail based on the reservation requirement in the approved zoning conditions. Staff needs to take another look at what services are actually needed to serve the area based on current conditions, the actual development proposals within Veridea, and the timeline in the zoning condition. This will determine whether changes to the Transit Map should be made to reflect a type and level of service that can be supported.

Members asked about the feasibility of rail and what was originally envisioned for the development. Staff mentioned that new rail would have to be constructed to serve this development which makes this more difficult/expensive. Staff mentioned that other options



like BRT could be considered here rather than rail. Some members expressed that this location could be better for an S-line stop than in downtown for a variety of reasons. No concerns were expressed about a stop in downtown, more rather the location of a hub where parking is needed.

Staff: The immediate question is what right of way is needed to reserve within the West Village part of Veridea. Staff will conduct a desktop analysis to determine what the proposed development can support.

Staff reiterated that the purpose of this update was informational. Staff will likely have an update on the study at the next meeting.

- **Next Steps for Transit in Apex**

Staff discussed whether it makes sense to look at possible transit service expansion in Apex. Staff reviewed the next steps in what needs to be evaluated to make this determination. At the next meeting, staff will have more data that will allow the committee to make a recommendation on potential projects. A potential timeline was reviewed for obtaining public input.

Committee commented that the approach seemed to be good. Council member Gantt asked if a project to increase route to 30-minute service could be submitted for the next budget. Staff indicated that the timeline doesn't fit that schedule.

Member Bryant asked how many people reside within the service area of Go Apex 1 and what the gap is for GoWake Access. He wondered if it was even half of the Town.

Member Werking stated that the current Transit Plan Map may be outdated. We need to evaluate higher population areas and new developments now versus then to determine if changes are needed.

## **5. Regional Project Updates**

*(Informational Item: Katie Schwing, Town of Apex)*

Staff will provide an email update on this agenda item due to time constraints in the meeting:

- S-Line TOD Study and RAISE Mobility Hub Grant
- Wake Bus Plan

## **6. Other Business**

*(Informational Item, Stuart Wagner, TAC Chair)*

Stuart and Katie introduced a form that the TAC will need to use when there is a recommendation made from the TAC to the Town Planning Board and/or Town Council.

Staff explained the purpose and use of the form.



The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.