Wake County’s population is now more than a million and growing by 67 people each day, adding traffic on already congested roads. But with investments from voters, the Wake Transit Plan aims to connect Wake County communities and the region with reliable public transit services that will provide choices to avoid that congestion.

Through the collaborative work of GoTriangle, GoRaleigh, GoCary, and representatives of agencies including the City of Raleigh, Town of Cary, Wake County, N.C. State University, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and Research Triangle Park Foundation, the 10-year plan will:

- Triple bus service throughout the county.
- Implement bus rapid transit (BRT) with dedicated bus lanes on some highly congested corridors.
- Build a 37-mile commuter rail transit system connecting Garner and Durham with stops that include downtown Raleigh, N.C. State University, Cary, Morrisville and Research Triangle Park.

FISCAL YEAR 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BEYOND

The main funding source for the Wake Transit Plan is a local half-cent sales tax that Wake County voters approved in November 2016. Since the tax went into effect April 1, 2017, it has provided $20,177,574, which allowed GoRaleigh, GoCary and GoTriangle to expand bus service in August 2017, including new Sunday service and increased frequency on some existing routes.

During December 2016, the Wake County Board of Commissioners also approved a new $7 county vehicle registration tax and increased the regional transit authority registration tax that GoTriangle levies by $3. Both changes took effect summer of 2017. Beginning in the fourth quarter of 2017, GoTriangle collected $1 million — a portion of the 5 percent vehicle rental tax — to support Wake Transit investments. For fiscal year 2018, Wake Transit’s budget includes the full year’s expected impact of the new revenue sources.
STRATEGIC MOVES

Other important achievements during fiscal year 2017 have positioned Wake County to successfully roll out the Wake Transit Plan over the next 10 years. These milestones include:

- Establishing and developing the governance structure for implementing services and projects under the plan.
- Launching further studies to define the year-by-year implementation of the 10-year vision plan.
- Adopting the first annual work plan that funded transit improvements for fiscal year 2018.

NEXT STEPS

In addition to the service expansion mentioned above, here are some transit projects that are anticipated in fiscal year 2018:

- The continuation of the Wake Transit Commuter Rail and Bus Rapid Transit Studies to aid in developing high-capacity transit corridors for both the bus rapid transit projects and the rail corridor.
- The continuation of the Wake Transit Bus Plan that will create procedures for prioritizing and managing bus projects, standards for designing and evaluating bus routes and 10-year service plans for each operating agency.
- A Community Funding Area plan that sets up processes for Wake County municipalities to apply for transit funding.
- A Web-based customer feedback system.

Feedback from public meetings held in fall 2017 will also help guide the plan’s next steps.

To learn more about the Wake Transit Plan, visit WakeTransit.com.