

# Special Board Meeting Summary

The GoTriangle Board of Trustees met in a special meeting Wednesday, April 19, to consider an agenda that included the following highlights. The board votes are summarized below. The meeting minutes will be available at [gotriangle.org/publications](https://gotriangle.org/publications).

## **Wake County Transit's Governance Interlocal Agreement**

The board voted to adopt the meeting's agenda and to go into a closed session to consult with their attorney regarding the Wake County Transit's Governance Interlocal agreement. Board members did not vote after coming out of closed session.

## **Reinstatement of Fares**

The board did not vote on whether to restore fare collection for the FY2024 budget year but provided direction for GoTriangle to work on developing a program to defray costs for low-income riders.

## **Background**

GoTriangle suspended fare collection at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and has committed to continue the fare suspension through at least June 30, 2023. At its January 2023 meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to instruct staff to begin the process to perform a fare equity analysis and public engagement to inform a future decision by the board on whether to reinstate fare collection for FY2024. Staff presented the results of the equity analysis at GoTriangle's March Operations and Finance Committee meeting and conducted 30-day public engagement between March 8 and April 6. The equity analysis found that although there are differences in usage rates of discount programs by minority and low-income customers compared to non-minority and non-low-income customers, there is no disparate impact and no disproportionate burden identified according to GoTriangle's board-adopted policy definitions.

Although no disparate impacts or disproportionate burdens were identified, GoTriangle staff is looking into voluntary mitigation strategies to maximize access to discount fare programs for minority and low-income customers in the event that the Board decides to restore fare collection.

GoTriangle used a combination of online and in-person engagement strategies to obtain input from riders and the general public about the potential to return-to-fare collection. More than 1,100 people provided input to the survey, across a range of demographic categories. About one-third of respondents indicated that they ride GoTriangle daily, and another one-third indicated that they ride GoTriangle several times per week. More than 90 percent of respondents indicated that reliable transit service is very important to them. More than 75 percent of respondents indicated that they would be willing to pay fares. In response to a question about balancing a desire to remain fare free with the need for reliable transit service, more than half of respondents (59 percent) expressed support for creating a reduced fare option for low income riders.