

GoTriangle Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Special Session – May 18, 2016
Raleigh Convention Center, Room 402
500 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC

Board Members Present:

Will Allen III

Mary-Ann Baldwin (arr. 5:03 pm)

William V. "Bill" Bell

Fred Day IV

Ed Harrison

Vivian Jones

Bernadette Pelissier

Ellen Reckhow

Jennifer Robinson

Jeff Sheehan (arr. 5:06 pm)

Board Members Absent:

Jim Crawford Jr.

Fred Foster Jr. (excused)

I. Call to Order

Board Chair William V. "Bill" Bell called the joint meeting with the CAMPO Executive Board to order at 5:00 pm.

Baldwin arrived.

II. Wake County Transit Plan & Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement Presentation

Tim Gardiner, Wake County Transportation Planner, provided a presentation on the recommended Wake County Transit Plan and the Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement. His presentation is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Sheehan arrived.

III. Joint Public Hearing with CAMPO Executive Board

Action: Chair Bell opened the joint public hearing on the Recommended Wake County Transit Plan and Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement at 5:02 pm.

Chair Bell recognized the following speakers:

- Steve Brechbiel spoke on behalf of Quintiles and as chair of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) in support of the recommended Wake County Transit Plan. His comments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- Eric Braun spoke on behalf of Golden Corral and also as the RTA Transit Chair in support of the recommended Wake County Transit Plan. He said that the Plan is an efficient use of resources and helps with the continued economic viability of

the region. Braun thanked GoTriangle and CAMPO for their leadership and asked for a vote in support of the transit plan.

- Valerie Jordan spoke on behalf of Cisco Systems and also as the RTA Transit Vice Chair in support of the recommended Wake County Transit Plan. She said the Plan is important to Cisco to support its employees and their families with better mobility for all areas of their lives. She added that it also makes the region more attractive to the talent Cisco is trying to recruit and attract. Jordan encouraged support for the recommended plan.
- Jerome Brown spoke as Chairman of the Wake County Voter Education Coalition. His comments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- Roger Kosak, Raleigh citizen, voiced three concerns with the recommended plan: it is a major expenditure; the proposed tax is substantial and is a regressive tax, hitting the middle and lower incomes more severely; and there is no contingency plan if something goes wrong. He recommended that every five years there be an independent financial and project audit and that the tax be sunset in 20 years. He also expressed a safety concern that the BRT as recommended in the plan requires passengers to board across the road.
- Ramona McGee spoke on behalf of the Southern Environmental Law Center in support of the recommended Wake County Transit Plan. She stated their belief that this long term transportation solution will generate many benefits, including positive impacts on land use preservation of natural areas and enhanced human health and quality of the human environment. She requested that the Boards support the recommended transit plan.
- Kristin Athens also spoke on behalf of the Southern Environmental Law Center and as an Apex resident in support of the recommended transit plan. She stated that the plan brings economic benefits to Wake County and supports dynamic economic growth within the community. She added that the plan allows for mixed used and compact development, which in turn brings new businesses. Athens said that studies have shown that millennials expect public transit systems in their areas of living, allowing them to shop, eat, be entertained and live in one walkable or bikable location.
- Kathleen Sharpe on behalf of the Southern Environmental Law Center in support of the Wake County Transit Plan. She said that the plan has great potential to serve the traditionally underserved and to reach those with no access to cars, the elderly, the disabled and the impoverished. She added that it will contribute to providing more educational and employment opportunities for the entire community, particularly those individuals who experience a lack of transportation as a real obstacle to obtaining regular work, education, and even medical attention.
- Gerry Cohen, Raleigh resident, spoke in support of the Wake County Transit Plan and requested that the Boards vote in support of it.

- Steve Rao, Morrisville resident member of the Town Council, reported that the Town of Morrisville has adopted a resolution in favor of transit and is excited about being part of the plan to take congestion off the roads with frequent bus service and a rail component to provide better accessibility and more transit options. He thanked the Wake County Board of County Commissioners and members of the other boards' members for their work on the plan. He noted the economic benefits of transit and the desire of millennials who want to live, work and play here and use transit. He said in his work he knows CEOs and top executives look at transit as an important component to where they locate their global talent. Rao said the transit plan is critical in gaining a competitive advantage with other US and international cities. He encouraged citizens of Wake County to vote in support of the plan.
- Nathan Spencer and son Eli spoke in support of the transit plan. He said he has hundreds of business clients that hire thousands of people in the area and transit is a large piece of their plan and a large part of the region's ability to be competitive and to grow. He encouraged that the boards support the plan and a referendum.
- Sara Merz spoke on behalf of Advocates for Health in Action in support of the recommended Wake County Transit Plan. Her comments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- Adam Howell spoke in support of the transit plan.
- Bob Fuller spoke against public funding for the transit plan.
- Preston Peck, Raleigh resident, spoke on behalf of Tax Free North Carolina in support of the recommended Wake County Transit Plan. He stated that he has found it difficult to use the current system to get around the region. He said transportation is a necessity for life and is something that the community should invest in and appreciate. He urged the Boards to support the plan and move it forward.
- Molly McKinley, Raleigh resident, stated that as a cyclist not all places in Wake County that she needs to go can be reached easily and safely by bike. She stated her support for the plan to connect all municipalities in Wake County. She said she feels the plan will compliment Raleigh's new bike share program and make it easier for bike commuters throughout the county. She added that more transit options will mean fewer cars on the road and a less intimidating bike commute. She urged the Boards to approve the plan for Wake County.
- Jennifer Dean spoke in support of the Wake County Transit Plan. She said it will benefit residents across the county and help people who want to use transit but can't afford to live near downtown Raleigh or in the urban core. She added that housing near transit should be accessible and affordable and encouraged town and city councils in Wake County to work to align affordable housing and public transit.

- Heather Brutz, Chapel Hill resident, spoke as a daily commuter on the CRX to North Carolina State University. She characterized the GoTriangle service as reliable, pleasant and having great customer service. She said that this plan will help those less fortunate who work the night shift, have longer hours, and weekend hours going to job centers and to hospitals.
- Susan Parry, Raleigh resident, spoke in support of the plan that she said nurtures high quality, sustainable future development and honors the history and the people that help define Raleigh. She stated that for Raleigh to be a dynamic and interesting world class city, it is essential to have a transportation system that keeps the city attractive to older people, young creatives, students and families. She thanked those who worked on the plan and the Boards' responsible consideration of the plan.
- David Dean spoke representing the Hillsborough Street Community Service Corporation and the Blue Ridge Corridor Alliance in support of the recommended Wake County Transit Plan. His comments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- Elizabeth Adams spoke representing the Sierra Club Capital Group in support the Wake County Transit Plan. Her comments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- David Powe, Durham resident and daily commuter on the DRX, stated his support for the proposed Wake County Transit Plan. He said it is an essential step towards creating an even more robust, frequent and reliable public transportation system. He said it is increasingly difficult for millennials to achieve the high quality of life that attracted them to this area with wonderful schools, colleges, companies and a high standard of living. He said that adequate transit is missing and a barrier for many students, older Americans, and others. He said a Harvard study shows that commuting time has emerged as the single strongest factor in the odds of escaping poverty; the longer an average commute in a given county, the worse the chances of low-income families there moving up the ladder. He notes that at the end of this plan, 50% of residents and 70% of jobs in Wake County will be within a half 2 mile of a transit stop, providing more access to opportunities.
- Julia Lee spoke as chair of the Board for WakeUp Wake County, endorsing the transit plan. She said public transportation is a necessity to provide access to employment and services, to guide development and to keep the economy strong. She added that WakeUp Wake County's vision for a healthy, environmentally sustainable and economically vibrant future for the community can only be achieved with a long range plan and investment in this plan and that the proposed sales tax referendum is the best option for making a smart investment in that future.
- John Hodges, Assistant Town Manager for Development Services for the Town of Garner, said that in addition to the support of the mayor and elected officials have shown for this plan, he brings the excitement and support from town staff for the

transit plan. He said the staff's vision for over 20 years has been to reactivate the rail line that runs through town to be a more active part of the community the way it was 115 years ago when the town was founded around it. He said this transit plan gives the opportunity to do that. Hodges stated that in anticipation of the adoption of the plan and other transportation improvements, Garner is investing in a comprehensive land use and transportation plan to include the transit plan.

- Sarah Gaskill, President of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce, encouraged all community leaders to support the Wake County Transit Plan. She stated that our region's growth requires additional infrastructure and the regional business community has been a proponent of enhanced transit for many years because more travel options give a competitive advantage in attracting and retaining top talent; help with congestion and parking; allow access to jobs, health care, education and social and cultural events; and focused land use supports sustainable and walkable development. Gaskill said the Wake County Transit Plan will provide significant transit improvements across the county, will enhance the quality and quantity of transit service and provide flexibility amid rapid growth and technology change.
- Robert "Bob" Wasson spoke in opposition to the Recommended Wake County Transit Plan. His comments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- Beth Reed, Cary resident, stated that her employer recently moved to downtown highlighting that transportation options for those living further out are somewhat limited. She stated her support for the plan for those people who want alternative transportation, for the opportunity to take more cars off the roads which will reduce air emissions and benefit water quality and for the opportunity to control future growth.
- Maria Cervania, Cary resident, stated that the recommended transit plan will support Cary's vision for a range of lifespans including millennials, families with children of all ages, college students and grandparents and giving them options for traveling to and from work and also to and from events and attractions across the county. She said she support the plan that will connect Cary and the whole county.
- Helen Tart who offered suggestions for improving the Plan. Her comments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.
- Jeff Smith, Raleigh resident, stated that he depends on public transportation because he does not drive. He stated his happiness that Wake County residents will have the opportunity to vote on the half cent sales tax to increase public transit in Wake County which he added is long overdue.
- Jacquie Ayala spoke in support of the recommended Wake County Transit Plan. Her comments are attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

- Eric Sconiers, Fuquay-Varina resident, stated his interest in and appreciation for the transit plan. He shared that after finding a job in Durham his car broke down and he now has to commute on multiple buses. He encouraged the Boards to support the plan and stated his appreciation for the service now provided in Fuquay-Varina, but said he would like even more.
- Annabelle Fisher, Raleigh resident, stated that she is a supporter of public transportation but raised concerns about the funding from increased sales tax.
- Allison Clonch reiterated previous comments and said she has heard few to no drawbacks to the plan. She stated that in order to stay a competitive place, drawing young talent from the best schools, something is needed to draw in people, which is increased livability achieved by increasing access to transit.

Action: Chair Bell closed the public hearing at 6:33 pm.

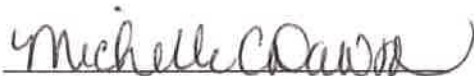
IV. Adjournment

Action: Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.



William V. "Bill" Bell, Chair

Attest:



Michelle C. Dawson, CMC
Clerk to the Board