



## Wake County Planning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.  
**Online Meeting via WebEx**

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1. Call to Order – Mr. Amos Clark, Chair
  2. Petitions and Amendments
  3. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2020
  4. CAMPO Northeast Area Study
  5. Northeast Wake County Rural Micro-Transit Study
  6. PLANWake Update
  7. Reports
    - Committee Reports
    - Staff Reports
  8. Chairman's Report
  9. Adjournment



## Planning, Development & Inspections

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### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

#### Wake County Planning Board

Wednesday January 6, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Online Meeting via WebEx

**Members Present:** (9) Mr. Amos Clark (Chair), Mr. Asa Fleming (Vice-Chair), Ms. Brenna Booker-Rouse, Mr. Daniel Kadis, Ms. Meredith Crawford, Mr. Bill Jenkins, Mr. Ted Van Dyk, Mr. Thomas Wells, Mr. Tony Yao

**Members Absent:** (1) Mr. Jason Barron

**County Staff:** (9) Mrs. Loretta Alston (Clerk to the Board), Mrs. Phoebe Brown (Community Services Accounting Technician), Mr. Steven Finn (Land Development Administrator), Mr. Tim Gardiner (Planner III), Mr. Tim Maloney (Planning, Development, Inspections Director), Mr. Akul Nishawala (Planner III), Ms. Terry Nolan (Senior Planner), Ms. Sharon Peterson (Long Range Planning Administrator), and Ms. Beth Simmons (Community Services Administrative Manager)

**County Attorney:** (1) Mr. Kenneth Murphy (Senior Assistant County Attorney)

**Guests:** (3) Mr. Will Sutton (KFH Consulting Group), Mr. Timothy Tresohlavy (Stantec), Mr. Brandon Watson (CAMPO)

**Meeting Called to Order:** Mr. Clark, Chair, called the Planning Board meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**1. Petitions and Amendments:** None

**2. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2020:** Motion to approve the minutes from December 2, 2020 was made by Mr. Wells and seconded by Mr. Jenkins. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**4. Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) Northeast Area Study**

Mr. Gardiner introduced Mr. Brandon Watson of CAMPO along with consultant, Mr. Tim Tresohlavy of Stantec. He reminded board this was the second round of the Northeast study area briefings, which is a CAMPO designation, but includes most of northeast Wake County, including Wake Forest, over to Knightdale, Wendell, and Zebulon area.

Mr. Tresohlavy provided the Board with a mid-project update on the Northeast Area Study (NEAS) that began in April 2020.

Mr. Tresohlavy stated that beginning April 15 through July 13, 2020, engagement has included DIGITAL elements such as an ArcGIS Online interactive web map, online survey, and project website that houses meeting videos and summary materials, along with VIRTUAL discussions that included

nine stakeholder interviews spread over two days in May, an online Public Symposium held on a weekday/weekend in June, and monthly Core Technical Team meetings.

Board members may visit the project website at [www.neasupdate.com](http://www.neasupdate.com) (under the Events Tab) to view summarized feedback for each event.

Mr. Tresohlavy stated that the feedback received drove the development of a few guiding principles to direct initial recommendations and to ensure that community priorities are reflected.

1. **Mobility Choice:** Everyone must have adequate transportation service, options, and safe infrastructure
2. **Access = Opportunity:** Convenient and efficient access to destinations of health and recreation as well as transport services will enhance individual opportunities for growth
3. **Redefining Infrastructure:** We must be strategic to improve key corridors and enhance mobility through retrofitting existing infrastructure
4. **Connectivity:** Work with our leadership and the development community to support enhanced connectivity for street and trail networks
5. **Preserving & Enhancing our Open Space:** Protecting sensitive areas are critical to our community, and enhancing active/passive investment in our parks
6. **Balanced Communities:** We strive to build our communities to balance live, work, and play. Placemaking and urban design will enhance opportunities for balance

Mr. Tresohlavy informed the Board that a land use scenario planning exercise was completed in Summer 2020 to evaluate possible future development patterns and how they could impact regional mobility. The alternatives were constructed to represent a plausible future of development. Mr. Tresohlavy presented four maps to represent congested roadway outputs from the Triangle Regional Model for each scenario tested, which were discussed with Core Technical Team members in Fall 2020.

In addition to the land use scenarios, Mr. Tresohlavy prepared an Evaluation Measures table that compares the relative increases or decreases between scenarios. Mr. Tresohlavy presented a table that rated the desirability of the scenarios as compared with local comprehensive plans.

Mr. Tresohlavy informed the Board that he is beginning on draft recommendations on policy and physical infrastructure. In order to draft recommendations for roadway improvements, Mr. Tresohlavy is evaluating future traffic congestion on a corridor-by-corridor basis, validating the current 2045 MTP projects and whether they necessarily improve congestion, incorporating local transportation plan projects, and finally, identifying any new improvements that may still be needed, such as widenings or new locations, access management projects, or 2-lane collector streets.

Mr. Tresohlavy stated that recommendations for alternative modes of transportation are advancing as well. Because this is a long-range plan, Mr. Tresohlavy stated that he plans to include all feasible recommendations for a 2050 timeline, and further stated that a framework has been developed for classifying bicycle and pedestrian connections into Near-, Mid-, and Long-term buckets.

Mr. Tresohlavy is also considering Rails with Trails opportunities along two existing corridors, by way of recommending a variety of service enhancements, extensions of existing routes, improved amenities and technology enhancements that would benefit the first-last mile and exploring both a community circulator route and commuter rail possibilities.

Mr. Tresohlavy stated that the next phase of the project is to refine the recommendations with the Core Technical Team and seeking public engagement on prioritization. This second round of public engagement will be kicking off in mid-February 2021 with a virtual Open House and second online survey. Information about the open house can be found on the website under the events tab.

Mr. Tresohlavy informed the Board that revised recommendations will be available in March 2021, and these projects would be further evaluated during the development of the 2050 MTP process (following our NEAS project). Tentative completion is scheduled for June 2021.

In closing, Mr. Tresohlavy commented that Covid-19 has shifted public engagement strategies to virtual platforms. Moving forward, he requested assistance in reaching and informing under-represented members of the community, and how NEAS can partner with those efforts.

### **Board Discussion**

Mr. Clark opened the floor for board discussion.

Mr. Van Dyk asked Mr. Tresohlavy if there were any difference in responses because of COVID lockdown regarding traffic congestion and funding. Mr. Tresohlavy responded that there was higher attendance and participation just because we've had to diversify our methods. Certainly because of Covid-19, people were spending more time at home and awareness of other modes of transportation was important while still making the roadway improvement.

Ms. Crawford shared concerns whether citizens of lower income had access to computers and would possibly not be able to voice their concerns about traffic, especially since they are usually the ones stuck in traffic the most because they tend to live in more rural areas. Mr. Watson shared that efforts were made during the April to June timeframe to reach out to under-represented populations to make sure not only, they were aware of online surveys, but to also encourage them to participate in some of those group discussions.

Mr. Watson again encouraged the Board to provide names of organizations or in-person events where NEAS could be present. Mr. Watson also informed the board about an upcoming stakeholder oversight team meeting on February 1, 2021, to get feedback before the next public engagement effort.

Mr. Kadis suggested DHIC downtown Raleigh and Wake-Up Wake County. Ms. Booker-Rouse suggested religious leaders of the community, Greek organizations, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Women's League of Raleigh. She pointed out that in addition to getting people to go out and spread the word, it is key to identify where this information is being posted so that more people are aware that feedback is requested.

### **5. Northeast Wake County Rural Micro-Transit Study**

Ms. Sharon Peterson addressed the board and introduced Mr. Will Sutton of KFH Consulting Group. Mr. Sutton's firm was selected by Go Wake Access Transportation Services to prepare a transit study of the northeast area of the County. Mr. Peterson is on the project team on Go Wake Access Transportation Services and the study is funded by a federal grant from the Federal Transit Administration awarded last year to Go Wake called Integrated Mobility Innovation Grant.

Mr. Sutton shared with the board that the purpose of the project is to improve access to jobs, school, healthcare, and other services for northeast county residents, by launching micro-transit services that provide first 5-mile and last 5-mile for rural residents.

Mr. Sutton gave a quick overview of micro transit and generally what that term encompasses. He stated that micro-transit leverages your smartphone with new technology to provide more direct, quicker, and convenient trips. Mr. Sutton shared a map that outlined a zone selected by the County, that includes the towns of Rolesville, Zebulon, and Wendell, with a total estimated population of just over 21,067, with about 38% of that population being transportation-disadvantaged. Mr. Sutton also presented a map that outlines the current transit services in that area and a map that shows trip activity through the county.

Mr. Sutton talked about the service concepts in which there will be zone based service to increase efficiency, shorter advanced notice and connections to fixed route regional transportation, and partnerships with City of Raleigh and Wake County to provide Mobility-On-Demand tools via cost-sharing.

Mr. Sutton shared the current and future community outreach efforts. There is a community survey open that Board members are encouraged to share with constituents. The survey is open from December 16, 2020, to January 15, 2021. The survey can be accessed via [www.surveymonkey.com/r/northeastwakemicrotransit](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/northeastwakemicrotransit) and is open for a short period due to an aggressive timeline. Mr. Sutton stated that they will be conducting stakeholder interviews with groups identified by Wake County, informational briefings and focus groups soon.

Mr. Sutton stated that the Study is divided into two different parts: the development of the Micro-transit Service Plan and the Request for Proposals, that can be used by Wake County to solicit proposals for the service itself. The deadline for project completion is February 1, 2021.

In closing Mr. Sutton reminded board this is a very aggressive timeframe but pointed out the main motivation behind this project is building a foundation and also providing a menu of options that we can consider when they want to build the micro transit service.

### **Board Discussion**

Mr. Van Dyk asked if there is any data of people willing to take two modes of transportation at a time. Mr. Sutton responded that there are multiple uses especially with the transportation disadvantaged population, and the Study is trying to look for opportunities for efficiency in that underserved area.

Mr. Bill Jenkins asked if the study will be coordinating with the Bus Rapid Transit to connect the area with others. Mr. Sutton stated that they do not have any plans to coordinate with the BRT, but there have been discussions about potentially building additional infrastructure in the Knightdale area.

## **6. PLANWake Update**

Mr. Maloney reminded the board that on November 9, 2020, staff presented the draft plan to the Board of Commissioners at the work session, to get approval to move forward with acquiring final feedback. In November and December, the Plan was open for final public review and input, and presentations have been given to Fuquay Varina Town Board, Wake Forest Town Board, Holly Springs Town Board, homebuilders, realtors, Soil and Water, Ag District, and Farm Bureau with more to come over the next several weeks. Mr. Maloney stated that a draft should be ready for the Planning Board in February with the intention to take it to the Board of Commissioners for final approval at their second meeting in February. This timeline is tentative, to ensure that there is an adequate amount of feedback received via the survey, which is still accessible on social media and on the County's website.

Ms. Peterson added that staff has been meeting with municipal planners, as the town council's have some recommendation and questions around some changes they feel need to be made before final approval.

Mr. Tim Gardiner added that there will be ongoing work after the new plan is approved, about making the County's tools work for the municipalities.

### **Board Discussion**

Mr. Van Dyk asked if there will be any updated traffic data, as we enter a year of working from home and having virtual meetings, has there been any reassessment of what our traffic and roadway needs are going to be. Mr. Gardiner stated that he will request the most recent VMT data from NC Department of Transportation.

Mr. Kadis asked if there are certain areas of the Plan that the Board should concentrate on and give additional feedback. Mr. Maloney stated that staff is looking at parts of the Plan again, and meeting with pertinent partners, including the City of Raleigh and with Fuquay Varina about growth and ETJ.

For additional information, visit [planwake.org](http://planwake.org).

## **7. Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

### **Staff Reports**

Ms. Peterson reported that staff is tracking a Land Use Plan Amendment stemming in Knightdale short range urban surface area for an increase in density. The Land Use Committee will hear it in either February or March 2021. Ms. Peterson also reported that the UDO Text Amendment and the Swift Creek/Raleigh ETJ relinquishment will go before the Board of Commissioners on January 19, 2021.

Mr. Maloney informed the Board that meetings will continue to be virtual until further notice. He also reminded members that those who are up for reappointment and would like to be considered for reappointment, should have received letters and to please send them to the Commissioner's office.

## **8. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Clark reminded board members to review PLANWake updates which will be presented at the next Planning Board meeting, February 3, 2021.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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REGULAR MEETING  
WAKE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD  
January 6, 2021

Chair Amos Clark declared the regular meeting  
of the Wake County Planning Board for  
Wednesday, January 6, 2021 adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amos Clark  
Wake County Planning Board

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