

Transit Referendum Support Letter to Wake County
Commissioners

Briefing Sheet

Version #1

Update Dates: 04/17/12

Lead Department: Planning **Action Officer:** Ashley Kaade, Transportation Planner
Subject: Letter of Support to Wake County Commissioners for November 2012 Transit Tax Referendum

Briefing: 04/24/12 **Public Hearing:** None **Action:** 04/24/12

Item Schedule	Select One
Schedule 1: <i>Brief twice – vote once (six weeks)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schedule 2: <i>Brief once – vote once (two weeks)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schedule 3: <i>No briefing required (one week)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Updates/History of Briefing:

During Town Council deliberations for briefing item 2012-027 supporting the Wake County Transit Plan and Interlocal Agreement (ILA), Council directed staff to prepare a letter to the Wake County Commissioners urging them to place the one-half (½) cent sales tax on the November 2012 ballot and to make the decision in a timely manner allowing adequate time for public education. [Reference 2012-027]

Executive Summary and Background Information:

The Wake County Transit Plan is an implementation plan for a package of comprehensive transit improvements in the Triangle. The Plan is a combination of recommendations for commuter rail, light rail and enhanced bus services that could be implemented should the Wake County Board of Commissioners choose to place a sales tax referendum on next fall's ballot, and Wake County voters support said referendum. The goal of the Wake County Transit Plan is to connect all municipalities, city centers, employment centers, universities, and the airport.

The Plan consists of:

Core Services: Can be implemented with local funds (if the Wake County ½-cent sales tax is approved)

- Enhanced bus service: 2013-2017
 - New routes to unserved and underserved areas, circulators, premium transit corridors
 - Capital improvements, maintenance and operations costs
 - Essentially doubles service hours in the first five years (an additional 322,740 hours)
 - New routes in Morrisville serve key destinations like Grace Park, Bethany Village, Park West Village, and Town Hall Drive neighborhoods and campus, and connects residents to Carpenter Village, Raleigh-Durham Airport (RDU), the West Regional library and the Cary Depot
- Commuter rail: 2019-2020
 - Greenfield Parkway in Garner to Triangle Metro Center in RTP
 - 9 stations (including one at McCrimmon and NC 54 in Morrisville)

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- Services every 30 minutes peak and 60 minutes off-peak

Enhanced Services: Can be implemented with federal and state financial participation

- Enhanced bus service (same as Core Service Plan)
- Commuter Rail (same as Core Service Plan)
- Light rail: 2022-2035
 - First phase: Downtown Cary to Millbrook Road
 - Second/Third Phases: Downtown Cary to NW Cary/Milbrook to NE Regional Center

The implementation schedule for the Transit Plan is based on the assumption of a November 2012 referendum, which would allow voters to approve a one-half cent sales tax to pay for the Plan elements. The Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) and various Wake County Chambers of Commerce will be working together to educate the public on the Plan components, financial assumptions, and financial impacts to voters should the referendum pass. Ideally these agencies would be allowed several months for public education; therefore the Morrisville Town Council has directed staff to prepare a letter to the Wake County Commissioners urging them to place the sales tax on the referendum and to declare this intention as soon as possible to allow time for public education.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of RES 2012-056, which authorizes and directs the Mayor to sign, on behalf of the Town Council, a letter to the Wake County Commissioners (as seen in ATTH 01) urging them to place the one-half cent transit sales tax on the November 2012 ballot and to make this decision in a timely manner to allow adequate time for public education.

Attachments:

- 2012-056 – Draft Letter to Wake County Commissioners

Advisory Board/Committee Review:

NONE

Board/Committee Recommendation:

NOT APPLICABLE

Advisory Board/Committee Meeting Date and Minutes:

NOT APPLICABLE

Meeting Perspectives and Goals Adopted by the Council:

(Select by checking the box for all Initiatives that are met by this briefing sheet's proposal. Area for additional comments under table.)

Perspectives

Goals

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Serve the Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Promote an Environmentally Sensitive & Livable Community
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide a Safe Community
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deliver Quality Services
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster a Healthy Community
Run the Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance Community Preparedness & Responsiveness
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maximize Partnership Opportunities
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Courteous & Responsive Customer Service
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Model a Positive Town Image
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deliver Efficient Services
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultivate Community Involvement & Access
Manage the Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain Fiscal Strength
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maximize Utilization & Resources
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Invest in Infrastructure & Transportation
Develop Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop a Skilled & Diverse Workforce
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Create a Positive & Rewarding Work Culture

Perspectives and Goals Additional Comments:

NONE

Resource Impact:

Staff time required if item is approved: No Additional

Other Potential Impacts:

NONE APPLICABLE

Staff Coordination:

Check the box for those required to comment on left. To comment-click in the box and select.
(2nd Briefing is used when information has significantly changed from the first briefing.)

Required	Staff Member	1 st Briefing	2 nd Briefing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Town Manager	Agree	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Town Clerk	Reviewed	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Director Business Management	Reviewed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget and Analysis Manager		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance Officer		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information Technology Director		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contracting and Purchasing Manager		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Director Development Services	Agree	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning Director		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Town Engineer		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Building Codes Administrator		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Director Community Services	Agree	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Manager/Safety Officer		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Police Chief		

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Chief		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parks & Recreation Director		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Works Director		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Information Officer	Reviewed	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Town Attorney		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources Manager		
Disagree or comment, explain:			

Public Information Plan: What will be used to notify residents or gain public involvement during the briefing process (prior to adoption)?			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing (Required by GS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing (Not Required by GS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newspaper Notice (Required by GS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newspaper Notice (Not Required by GS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Forum/Input Session	<input type="checkbox"/>	Press Release
<input type="checkbox"/>	Morrisville Connection	<input type="checkbox"/>	E-News Distribution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Website Notice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Survey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flyers Posted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None Required
Other:			

Town Council Approved Minutes:

(Staff Member/Action Officer Insert Minutes here after Council Adoption)



**RESOLUTION 2011-056 PERTAINING TO A LETTER TO THE WAKE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING A NOVEMBER 2012 TRANSIT TAX
REFERENDUM**

WHEREAS, in 2009, the region's two transportation planning organizations (Capital Area MPO and Durham, Chapel Hill, Carrboro MPO) completed work on the joint 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan which included increased bus and rail services for an ever increasing population; and

WHEREAS, the NC General Assembly authorized counties in the Triad and Triangle to hold a voter referendum on a one-half (½) cent sales tax for transit to pay for additional transit services identified in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plans; and

WHEREAS, Wake County has released a draft Transit Plan, which includes a Core Service Plan that can be implemented with regional funding if the ½ cent sales tax is approved. The Core Service Plan includes enhanced bus service and commuter rail from Greenfield Parkway in Garner to Triangle Metro Center in RTP; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the continuing growth of the region and sees the need for an enhanced transit system including commuter rail, light rail and bus services; and

WHEREAS, a number of Morrisville residents have participated in the regional transit public workshops and Town Transit Forum and flash polling activities held over the last eighteen months, and have submitted public comments expressing their desires for additional transportation options, with an emphasis on enhanced bus services in the Town; and

WHEREAS, public education is an important component for the half-cent sales tax referendum, and organizations such as Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) and local Chambers of Commerce are ready to begin these efforts:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MORRISVILLE TOWN COUNCIL hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor to sign, on behalf of the Town Council, a letter to the Wake County Commissioners, as seen in ATTH 01, urging them to place the one-half cent transit sales tax on the November 2012 ballot and to make this decision in a timely manner to allow adequate time for public education.

Adopted this the 24th day of April 2012.

J. S. Holcombe, Mayor

ATTEST:

Diana R. Davis, Town Clerk



Town of Morrisville
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April 24, 2012

Wake County Board of Commissioners
c/o Susan Banks, Clerk
P.O. Box 550, Suite 1100
Raleigh, NC 27602

Dear Wake County Commissioners:

Thank you for the work that has been done to date to plan for expanded transit service in Wake County, as embodied in the draft *Wake County Transit Plan*. We believe this is an essential investment in protecting the economic success and quality of life in Wake County as it adds another 600,000 residents by 2035. We ask that you now take the next step and put the plan to the voters this fall to decide whether to support a ½ -cent sales tax to fund new bus and rail service to serve Morrisville and communities throughout the county.

Based on our conversations with residents, business leaders, and other community stakeholders, traffic congestion is the number one issue in Morrisville. We have more than 20,000 residents and 14,000 employees who live or work in our community, and thousands more people who pass through our town limits each day to travel to Research Triangle Park, Raleigh-Durham International Airport, and other destinations. Yet currently, we have a total of one bus stop.

Increasingly, we hear from residents who can't get to work in a timely or affordable way, businesses that can't attract and retain employees because of transportation issues, and stakeholders throughout the community who are tired of being stuck in traffic. We can't afford to wait to provide more transportation choices to the community we serve. Our need is now.

Please put the *Wake County Transit Plan* to the voters in November to decide whether to fund the ½ -cent sales tax for transit. Thank you!

Sincerely,

J.S. Holcombe, Mayor
on behalf of the Morrisville Town Council

Our Mission: The Town of Morrisville is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by preserving our past and protecting our future through a collective community partnership. By balancing responsible growth with core values, we embrace a sense of membership, communication, and support.