



## Board of Commissioners

### Work Session

**May 20, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

### **AGENDA**

*This meeting is designed as a work session for board members to receive, review and discuss information prepared by staff. Only staff and board members are allowed to speak during this meeting, without express special permission. Citizens are reminded that there is an opportunity during the public comment period of regular board meetings occurring during the first Tuesday of each month for questions and concerns and citizens are welcome to contact the Mayor or board at other times by phone or email.*

#### Item

#### Presenter

1. Call to Order
2. Consideration of Agenda
3. CAMPO Wake Transit Plan Update – Ben Howell & Stephanie Plancich, CAMPO Staff
4. FY25-26 Proposed Budget Presentation – Eric Marsh, Town Manager
5. Main Street Project Update - Eric Marsh, Town Manager
6. Adjourn





# 2035 Investment Strategy

**The Wake Transit Plan is Wake County's 10-year investment strategy.**

The goal of the Wake Transit Plan is to improve and expand travel choices for people living in, commuting to and traveling through Wake County. It is organized around the Four Big Moves:



Connect the Region



Connect all Wake  
County Communities



Create Frequent, Reliable  
Urban Mobility



Enhance Access to  
Transit

In the past year, community members have been sharing feedback and ideas about the Wake Transit Plan through surveys, meetings, focus groups, social media campaigns and pop-up events. The result is a clear and consistent priority to serve more people and more places through continued investment in local transit services, countywide connections and regional transit options.

The draft 10-year (2026–2035) transit investment strategy balances these community priorities with the Wake Transit Plan revenue assumptions.

Visit the Wake Transit Plan project page to explore the “now and then” Story Map, to learn more about the specific projects and transit investment goals, and provide feedback.

[www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035](http://www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035)





# 2035 Investment Strategy



Feedback from partners, stakeholders and community members is guiding how nearly \$3 billion will be invested in transit projects and services between FY 2026 and FY 2035.

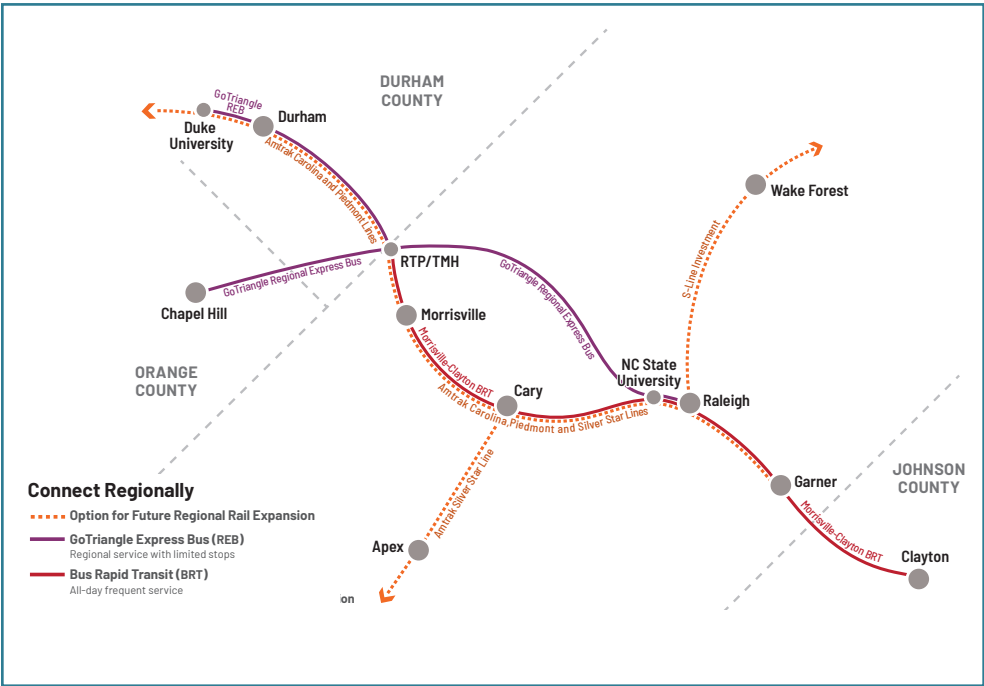
The materials below show how we are planning to make progress towards each of the Four Big Moves.

## Connect the Region



Wake Transit will continue to invest in projects and services that make it easy to travel regionally.

- Investing in the region’s rail network by building new stations, improving track and adding train service.
- Building regional BRT services with new connections from Cary to RTP and Garner to Clayton.
- Planning and building a new BRT service on I-40 that will connect Raleigh with RTP.

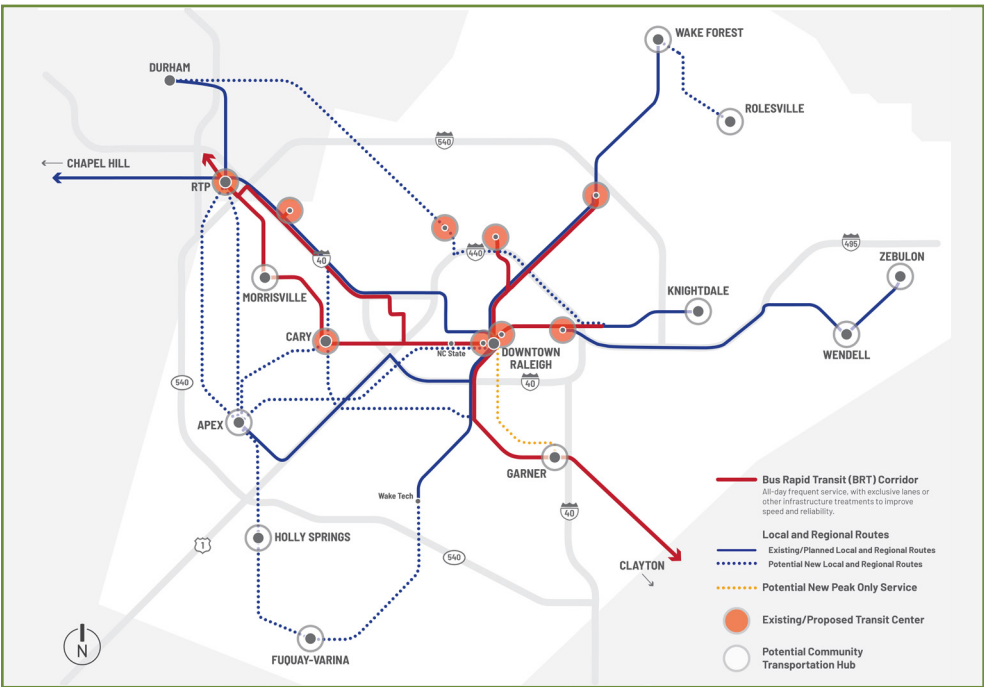


## Connect All Communities



Wake Transit will improve existing connections between and to Wake County communities.

- Expanding local and regional bus services so there is service available all day, every day.
- Connecting every town with Cary, Raleigh and/or RTP.
- Expanding local bus routes so towns are connected to each other.
- Building at least five new community transportation hubs.

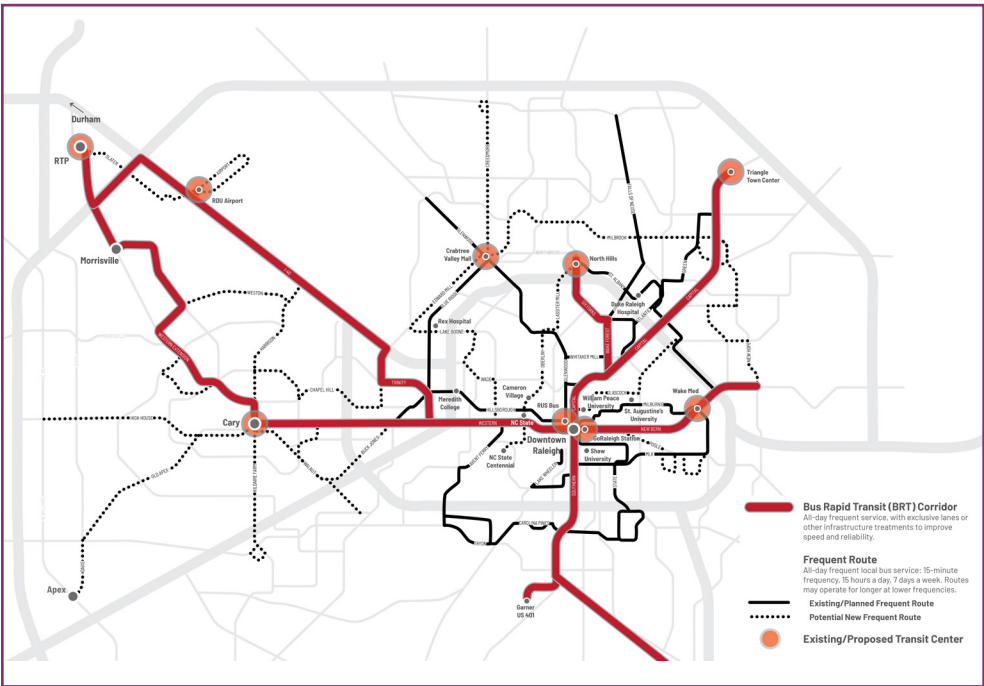


## Frequent and Reliable Urban Mobility



Wake Transit will continue to build and expand the amount of frequent service in Wake County.

- Expanding the frequent bus network by offering more frequent service in the evening and on weekends.
- Adding new frequent bus routes.

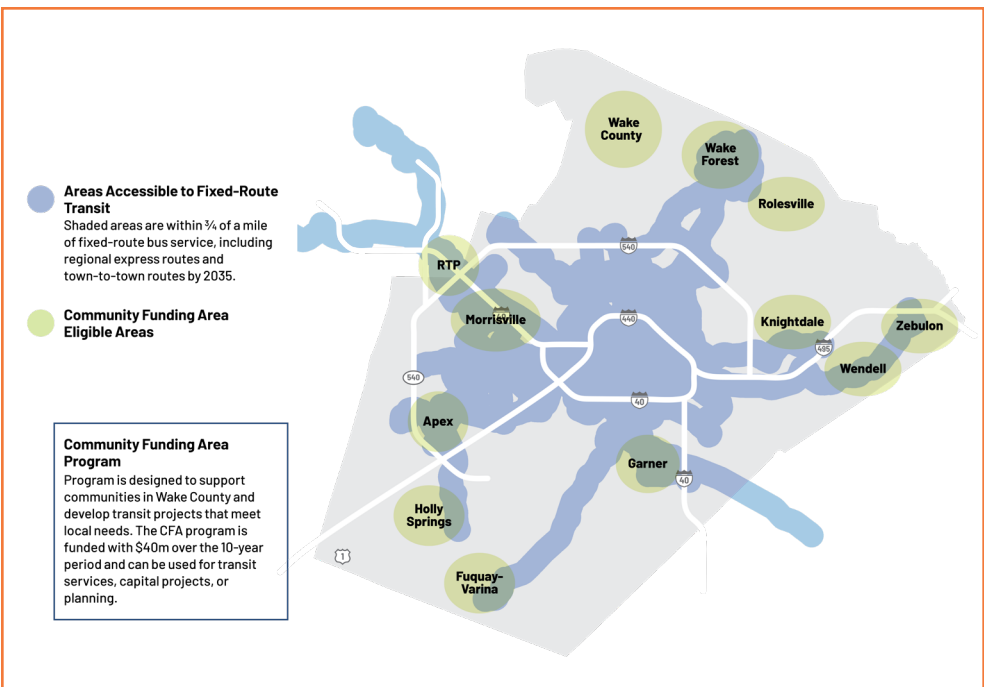


## Enhance Access to Transit

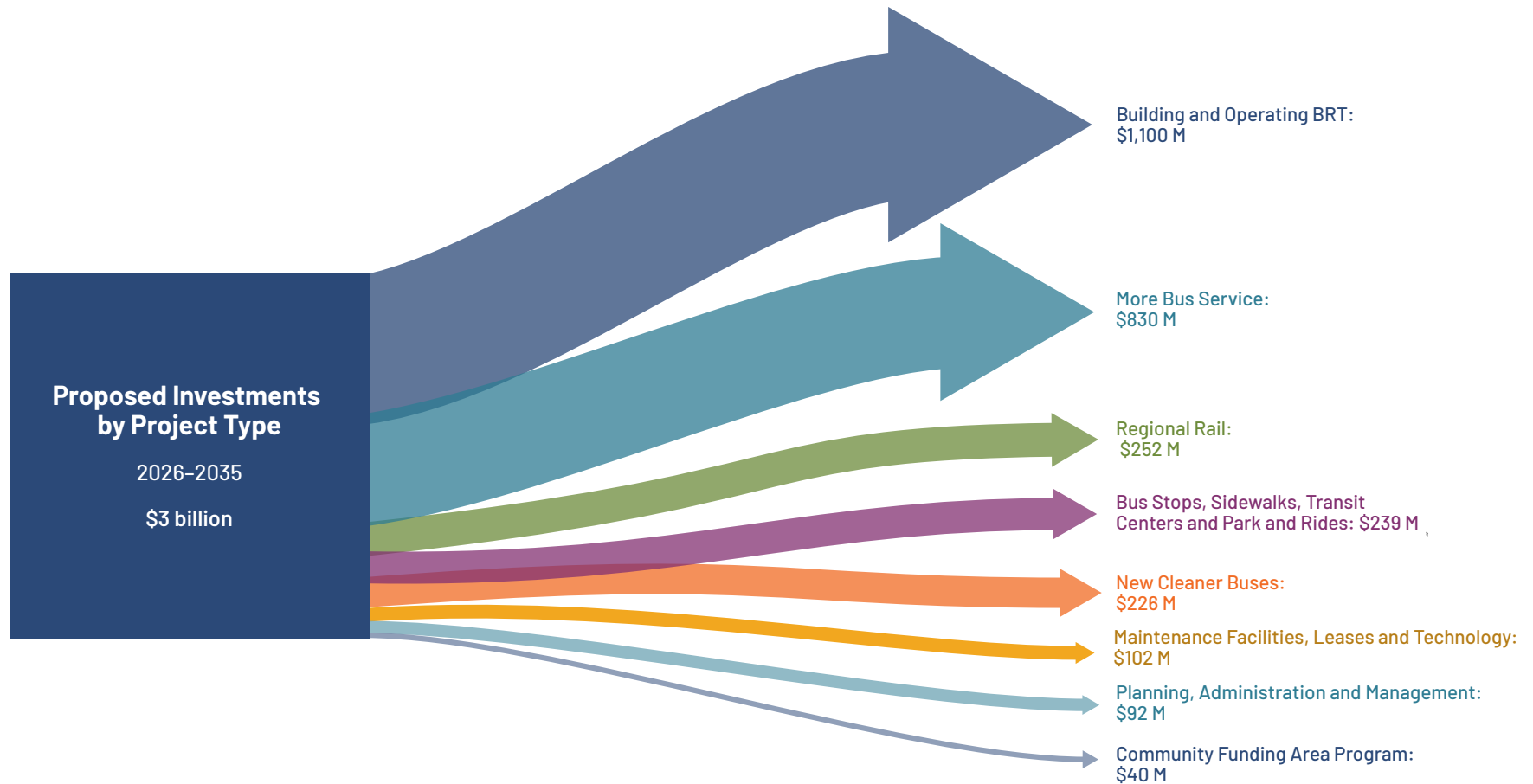


Wake Transit will continue to make it safer, easier and more comfortable to use transit.

- Increasing funding for bus stop improvements, sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Doubling funding for the Community Funding Area program to make it easier for Wake County towns to invest in local projects and services.



# The Wake Transit Plan's Next 10 Years: 2026–2035



Stay up to date on Wake Transit news, share your thoughts, and follow our progress.

[www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035](http://www.publicinput.com/waketransit2035)



**WAKE**  
TRANSIT PLAN  
UPDATE





# Wake Transit 10-Year Investment Strategy

Rolesville Town Council – May 20, 2025





# Agenda

- 1 Introduction/Overview
- 2 State of the Plan
- 3 Draft 10-Year Investment Strategy
- 4 Next Steps



# Introduction/ Overview



1

# Wake Transit Plan

- **Wake Transit Plan is a revenue stream for public transportation investment**
  - Voters approved funding package in 2016
  - Started collecting taxes and fees in April 2017
  - Wake Transit Plan started funding new transit service in August 2017
- **Wake Transit Plan investments are organized around four big moves:**



**Connect  
Regionally**



**Connect All  
Wake County  
Communities**



**Create Frequent,  
Reliable,  
Urban Mobility**



**Enhance  
Access to  
Transit**



# Wake Transit Plan

- **Wake Transit Plan is updated every four years**
  - Retains the Four Big Move Structure
  - Establishes priorities and investment direction for 10-year period
  - Built on community and stakeholder input
  - Includes financial and technical data about performance and outcomes



# Wake Transit Plan 2016-2027

## ▪ Developed with significant engagement and participation

- Phase 1 Interactions = 15,000+
  - Advisory Committee meetings, community meetings, online videos, social media and surveys
- Phase 2 Interactions = 2,000+
  - Statistically valid surveys and polls, focus groups and outreach events



## ▪ Achieve Four Big Moves Built with Strategies and Recommendations

- Commuter Rail: Durham and Garner
- Bus Rapid Transit: North, South, East, West)
- Community Funding Areas Program
- Connections from suburbs to Raleigh/Cary
- Longer hours and more days of bus service
- More frequent bus service
- More regional bus service





# Wake Transit Plan 2021-2030

- **Continued focus on stakeholder and community input**
  - In-person Interactions = 4,200+
    - Pop-ups, public meetings, presentations and community events
  - Online and Survey Participation = 7,800+
    - Completed surveys, visits to the website and
- **Updates to Strategies and Recommendations**
  - Advance Commuter Rail even with higher costs and potentially lower federal participation
  - Advance Bus Rapid Transit: (North, South, East, West)
    - Potential expansion to Research Triangle Park
  - Potential of Commute Rail or Bus Rapid Transit expansions to Johnston County (Clayton)
  - Continued investment in connections between suburbs and Raleigh/Cary
  - Continued investment in service spans and frequency
  - Continued investment in Community Funding Areas Program

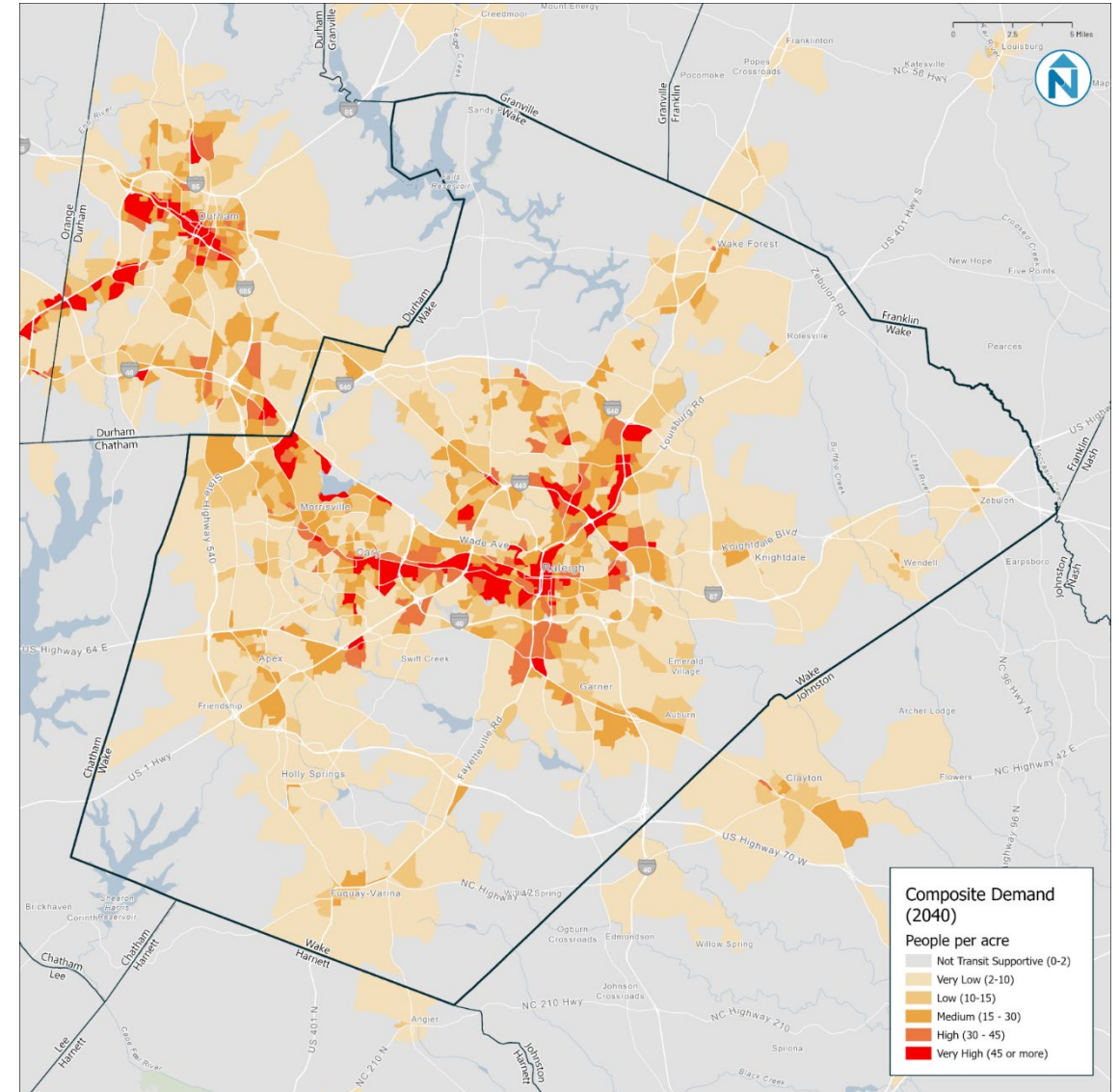
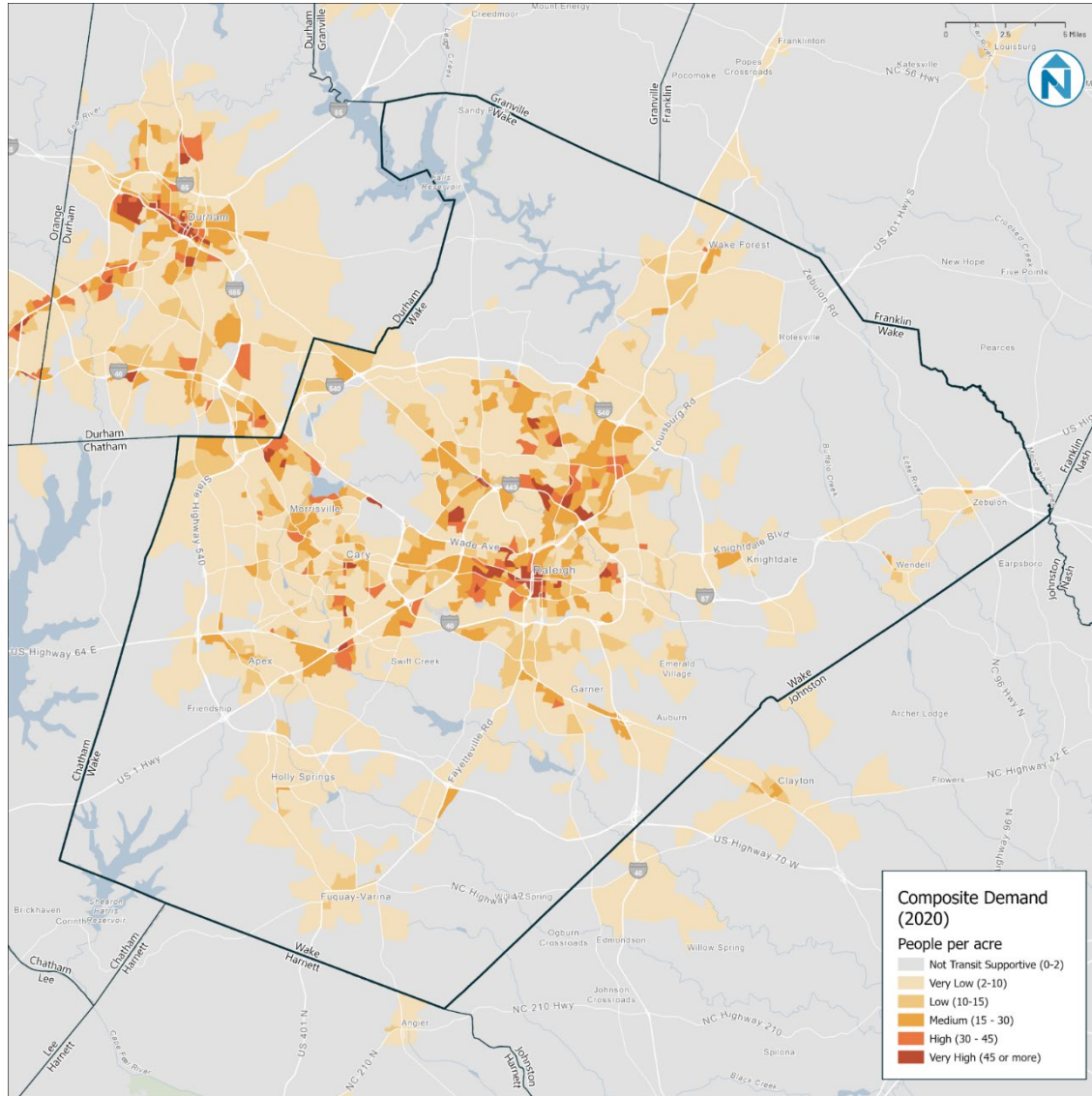


# Understanding Trade-Offs

- Wake Transit Plan is ambitious and is taking on several major projects at the same time
  - Commuter Rail
  - Bus Rapid Transit
  - New vehicles and clean fuel technology
  - Operating and maintenance facilities
  - Transit centers
  - Bus stops, sidewalks, bike paths
  - Regional fare systems
  - New technology



# Changing Transit Demand in a Growing Region





# Wake Transit Plan

- Wake Transit Plan **revenues have been consistently strong**
  - Nearly \$750 million raised to date (2017 – 2023)
- Expected to **raise another \$700 million to \$1 billion** over next ten years (2026 – 2035)
- **What are your transit priorities for the next ten years?**



# **10-Year Investment Strategy – Development Process**



**2**

# WTP Update – Engagement Approach

## Phase 1 (Spring 2024)

### Choices, Trade-Offs and Priorities

- Online survey that let people “Design Your Own Transit System”
- Budget that could spent on different transit projects and programs

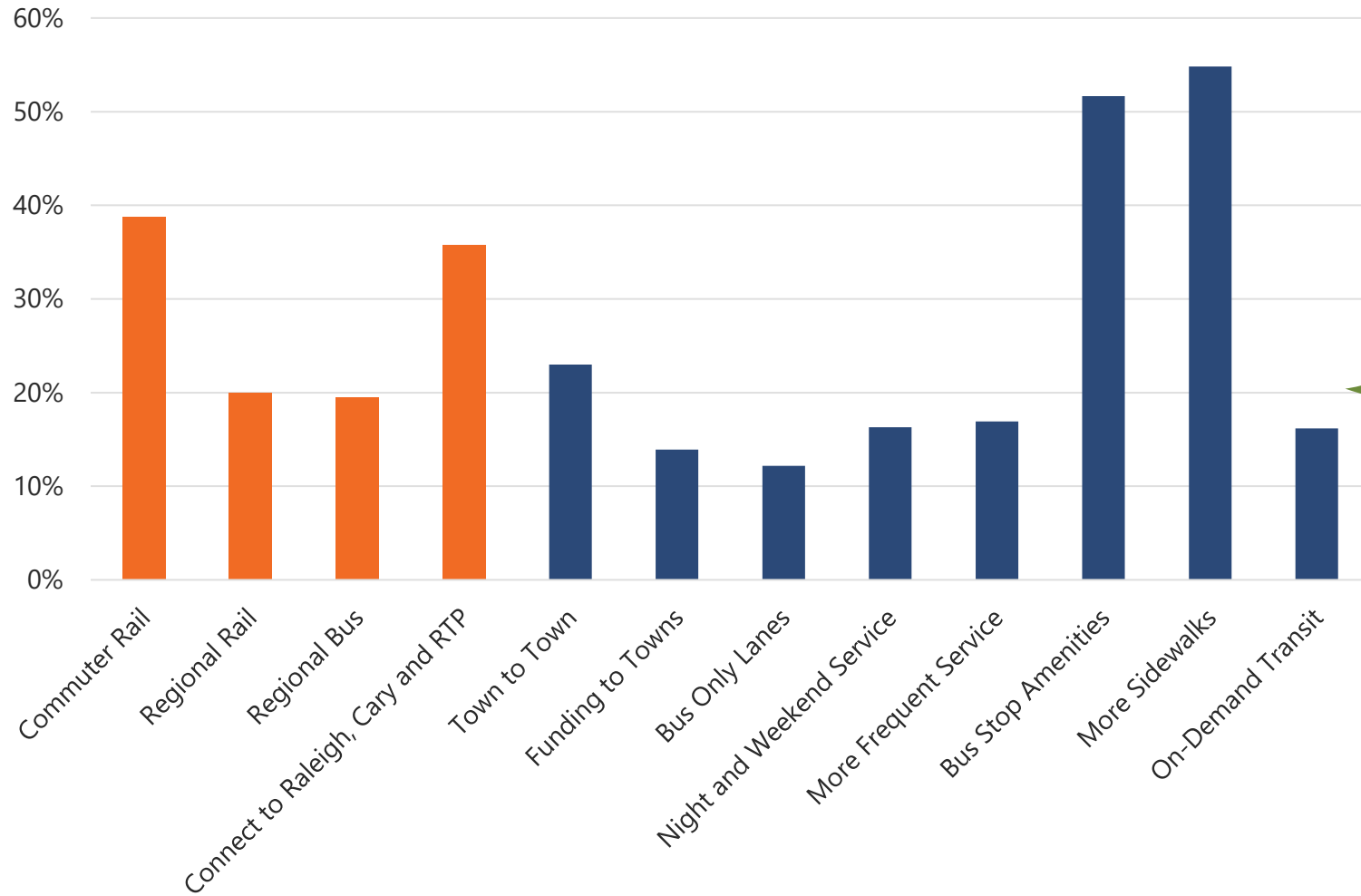
## Phase 2 (Winter 2024/2025)

### Focus on Three Questions

1. Confirm that we are postponing Commuter Rail to invest in Regional Rail, at least for the time being.
2. Develop BRT between Raleigh and Durham to meet regional needs
3. Serve more people or serve more places

*Both phases provide insights into **preferences and priorities***

# Phase 1 Survey Says.....

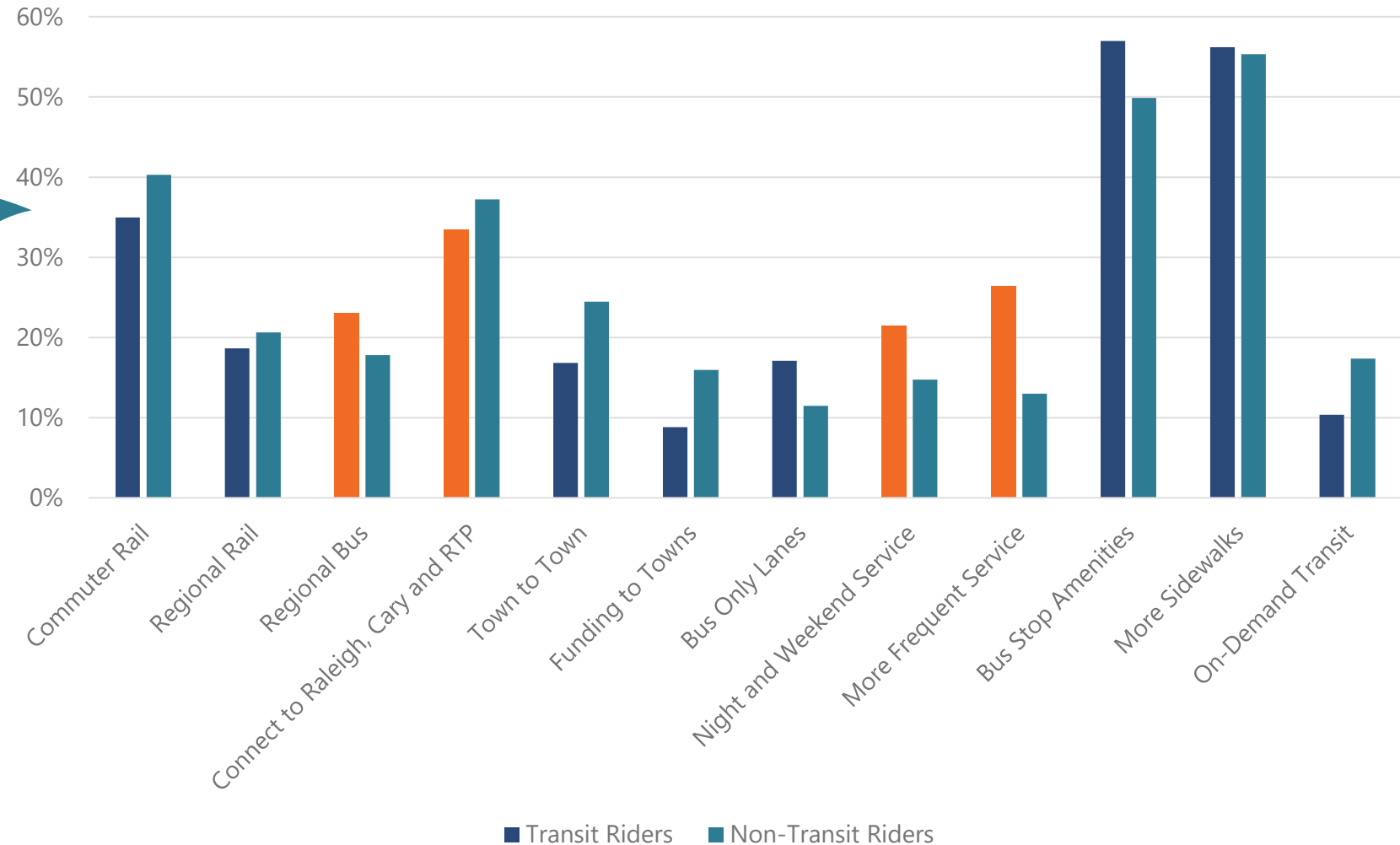


1. Regional connections are important.... regardless of mode.
2. Rail projects, especially Commuter Rail, continue to be prioritized.



# In Phase 1 Transit Riders Say.....

1. They want better bus service (more frequency and longer hours).
2. Are less interested in Commuter Rail
3. Also care about regional service.



# Phase 2 Approach and Activities

- **Online Survey**
  - 3 questions plus demographics
- **24 Pop-up Outreach Events**
  - 5 Local Partner Presentations
- **Advertisements:**
  - Social Media
  - Qué Pasa Media
  - Rider App Push
- **4 Focus Groups Meetings:**
  - Mobility/Human Service Providers
  - ADA
  - Educational Institutions
  - Transit Riders
- **Stakeholder Outreach and Leveraged Engagement**



**WAKE TRANSIT PLAN UPDATE**

**¡NECESITAMOS TU OPINIÓN!**

**Actualización sobre el Progreso del Plan de Tránsito 2035 de Wake**

El Plan de Tránsito 2035 de Wake detalla una estrategia de 10 años para invertir cerca de mil millones de dólares en mejorar y expandir el transporte público en el condado de Wake. Visita esta página para obtener más información y compartir tus comentarios.

La primavera y el verano pasados (2024), recibimos opiniones de más de 2,000 personas. Tus ideas ahora se reflejan en la Fase 2.

**SCAN ME**

**Actualización sobre el Progreso del Plan de Tránsito 2035 de Wake**

El Plan de Tránsito 2035 de Wake describe la estrategia de inversión en transporte público a diez años para el condado de Wake. Este plan guiará cómo invertiremos cerca de mil millones de dólares para mejorar y expandir nuestro sistema de transporte, haciendo que sea más fácil para las personas del condado de Wake utilizar el transporte público. En esta página web puedes obtener más información sobre el proceso de planificación y compartir tus ideas y opiniones.

Recibimos comentarios la primavera y el verano pasados (2024) y escuchamos a más de 2,000 personas. Tus ideas se reflejan en la información que estamos compartiendo ahora en la Fase 2.

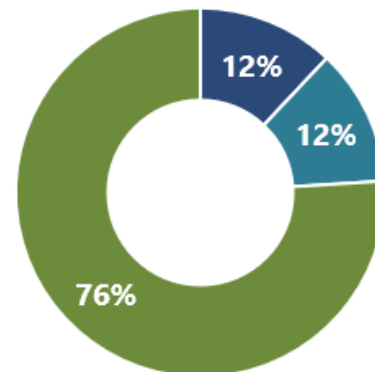
**Ayude a diseñar nuestro futuro en transporte público.**  
**Responda nuestra encuesta escaneando este código QR:**

# Invest in Regional Rail

- Typically understood the funding constraints of building new rail
- Excited to learn about S-Line
- Supportive of enhancing existing service but concerned about access and reliability

Question 1: Expanding Our Existing Rail Service is a Good Way of Investing in Rail in Wake County?

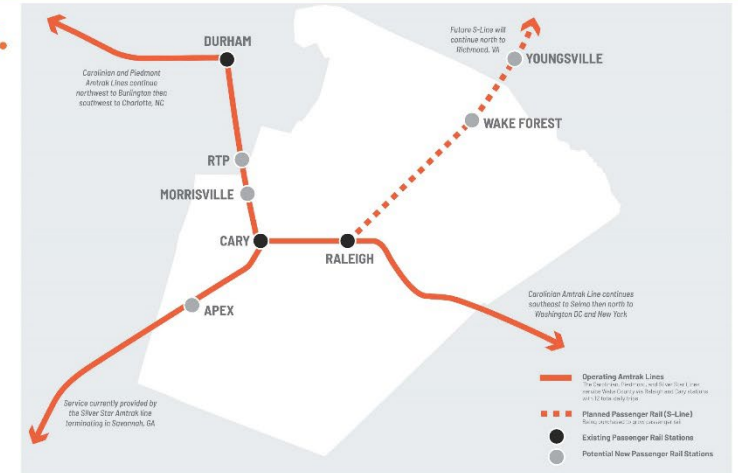
■ Disagree ■ Unsure ■ Agree



## You told us you would like rail service in Wake County.

### Here's what's happening.

- Amtrak is and will continue to operate passenger rail service in Wake County. These trains provide regional connections with stops in Durham, Cary, and Raleigh.
- There are a lot of rail projects planned in Wake County, including plans to purchase and/or upgrade tracks between:
  - Raleigh and Wake Forest.
  - Raleigh, Cary and RTP.
- The Wake Transit Plan could help improve the existing services or help new projects happen sooner by:
  - Providing funding for additional trains in Wake County.
  - Improving train infrastructure (tracks, stations, etc.).



What do you think? Is this a good way of building rail service in Wake County?

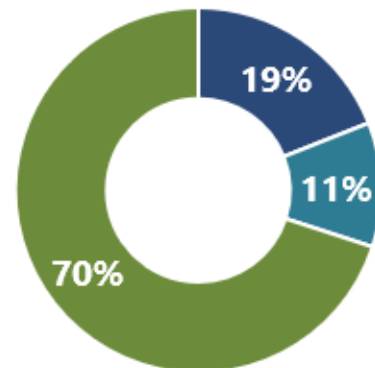


# Connect Raleigh and Durham with BRT

- 70% agreed that BRT between Raleigh and Durham is a good idea.
- More education/information about BRT is needed.
- Some concerns that BRT won't solve Raleigh – Durham problem.

Question 2: BRT Will be a Good Way to Connect Raleigh and Durham

■ Disagree ■ Unsure ■ Agree

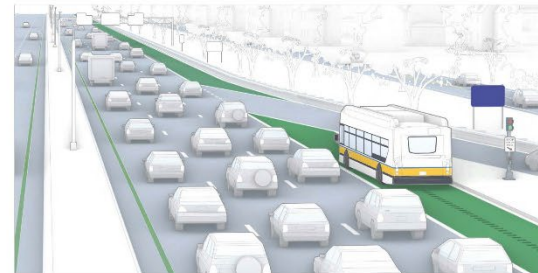


## You told us you want fast, reliable connections between Raleigh and Durham.



### Here's what we can do.

- The region could build Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along I-40 to provide fast, frequent, reliable connections between Raleigh and Durham. This service could include:
  - Buses every 15 minutes all day, every day.
  - Widening and improving highway shoulders so buses can travel faster for the full way between Raleigh and Durham.
  - Making it easier and faster for buses to get on and off I-40.
  - Building new transfer points, including an Airport transit hub close to the on/off ramp.



	Time to Get Started	Estimated Travel Time (One-way peak period Raleigh to Durham)	Weekday Service	Weekend Service
Express Bus Service	Expansion starts in 2026 and 2027	60-70 minutes	15 minutes peak 30 minutes evenings	Every 15 minutes
BRT on I-40	5-10 years	50-60 minutes	30 minutes daytime 60 minutes evening	Every 20 minutes

### How often do you travel between Raleigh and Durham?

Every day      Once a week or so      Every month or so      Rarely or Never

### Do you think BRT will be a good way to connect Raleigh and Durham?

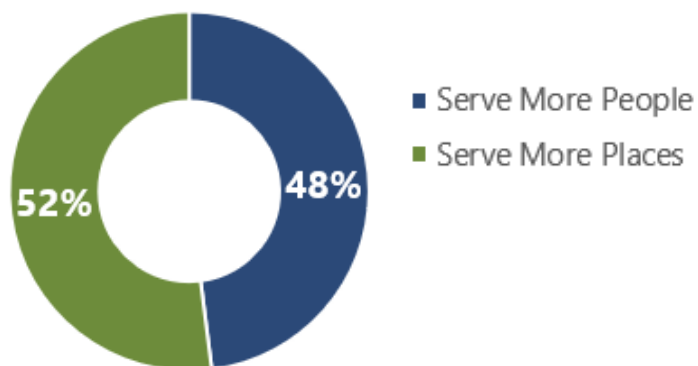




# Serve More People or More Places

- Not everyone liked the trade-off, and preference is to do both
- Desire to expand regional access without transfer in Raleigh
- Existing bus riders were more interested in serving people first.

Question 3: Which Approach Do You Think We Should Do First, Serve More People or More Places?



Here's what we can do.



## Different Ways of Building a Transit Network

### What should we do first?

#### OPTION 1

Expand bus service in Cary and Raleigh, so buses come more often and are available for longer hours and more days.

This option would serve more **people**.

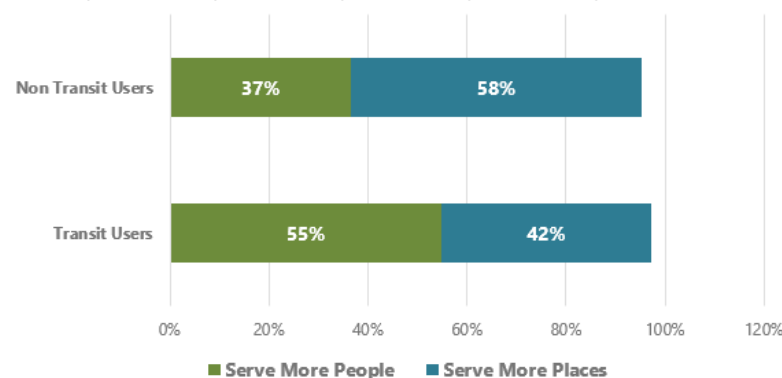
#### OPTION 2

Create new bus routes and build new projects like mobility hubs to connect Wake County towns with Cary, Raleigh and other regional destinations.

This option would serve more **places**.



### Which Approach Should We Invest in First?

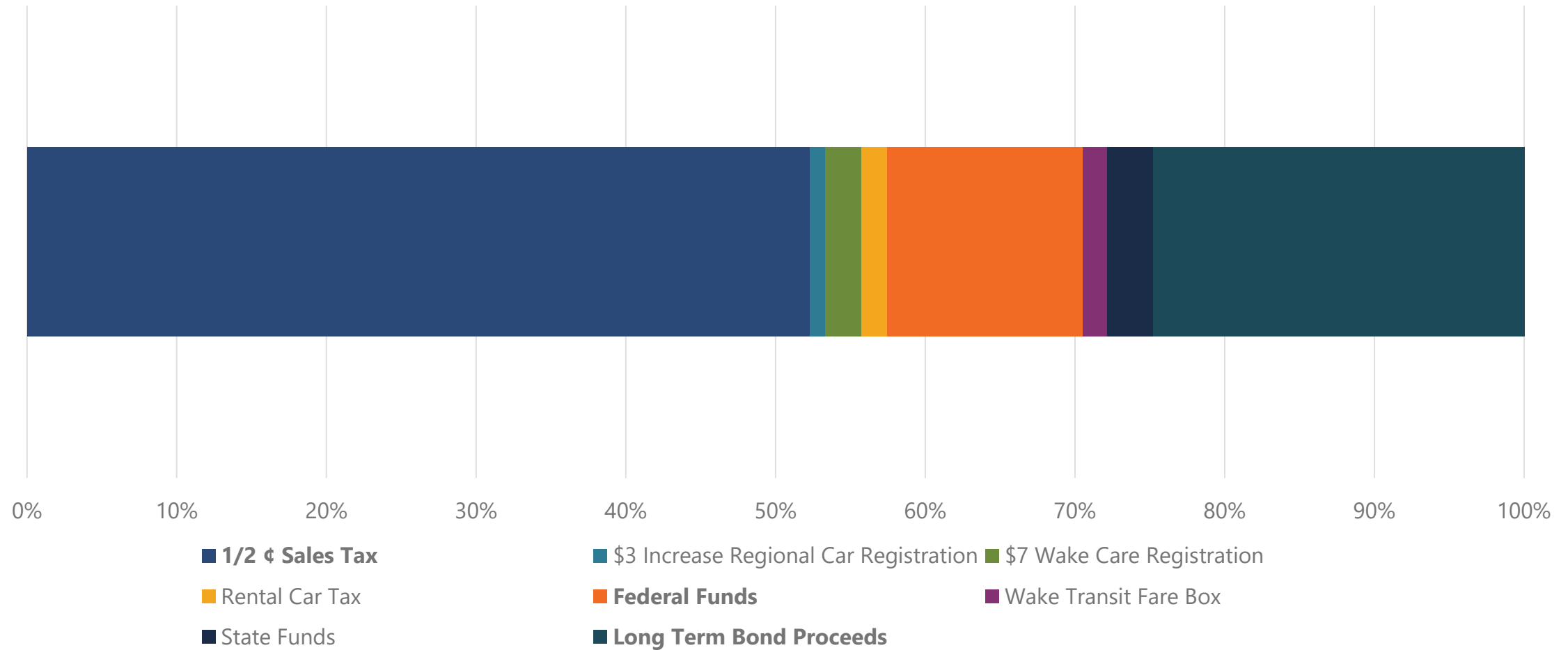


# **DRAFT** **10-Year Investment Strategy**



**3**

# Projected Revenue FY26 - FY35 = \$3.3 billion

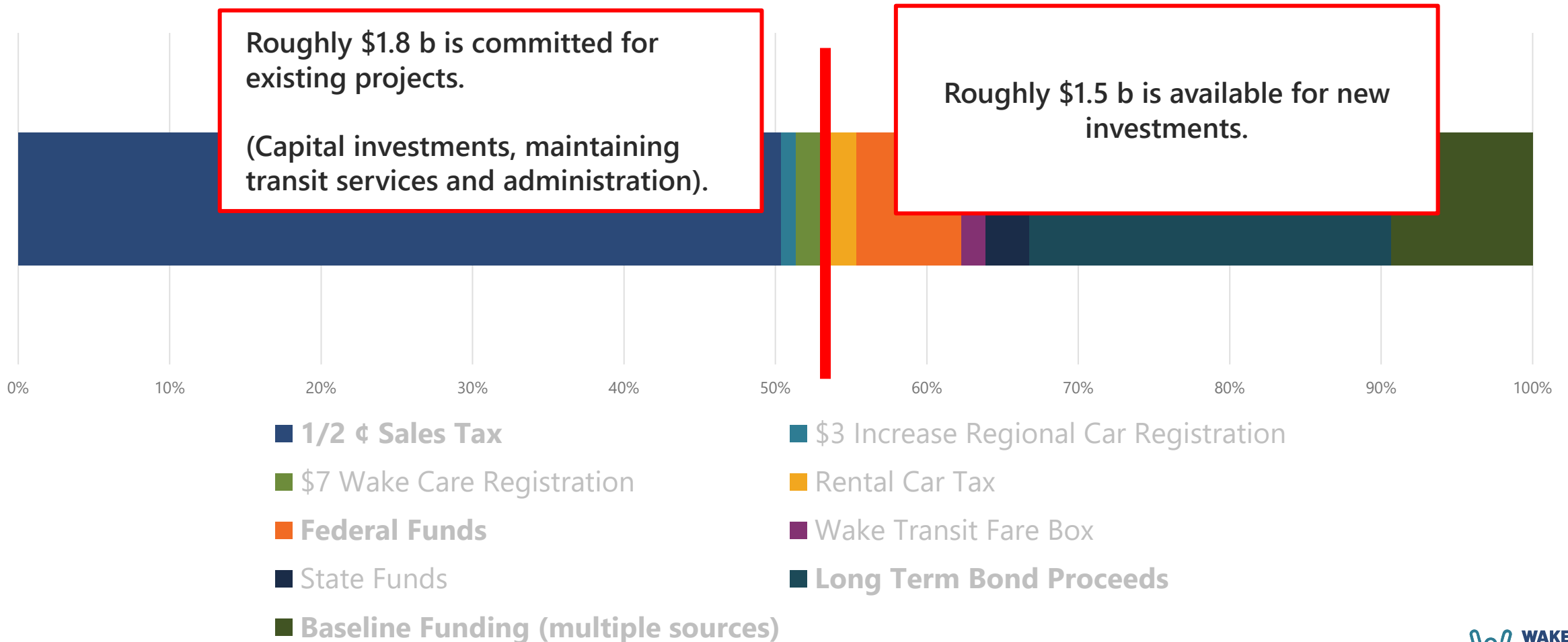




# 10-Year Revenue – Overview

- **FY26–FY35 Revenue estimated at \$3.3b**
- **90% of funds are from three sources:**
  1. Sales Tax - 52%
  2. Long Term Bond Proceeds - 25%
  3. Federal funds (multiple sources) - 13%
- **Remaining 10% of funding equals \$330m (still a lot of funding)**
- **Potential challenges with funding assumptions ~ \$112m**
  - Vehicle Rental Tax revenue = \$58m
  - Wake Transit Fare Box revenue = \$54m

# Roughly half of estimated revenue has been programmed.



# Developing the Investment Strategy

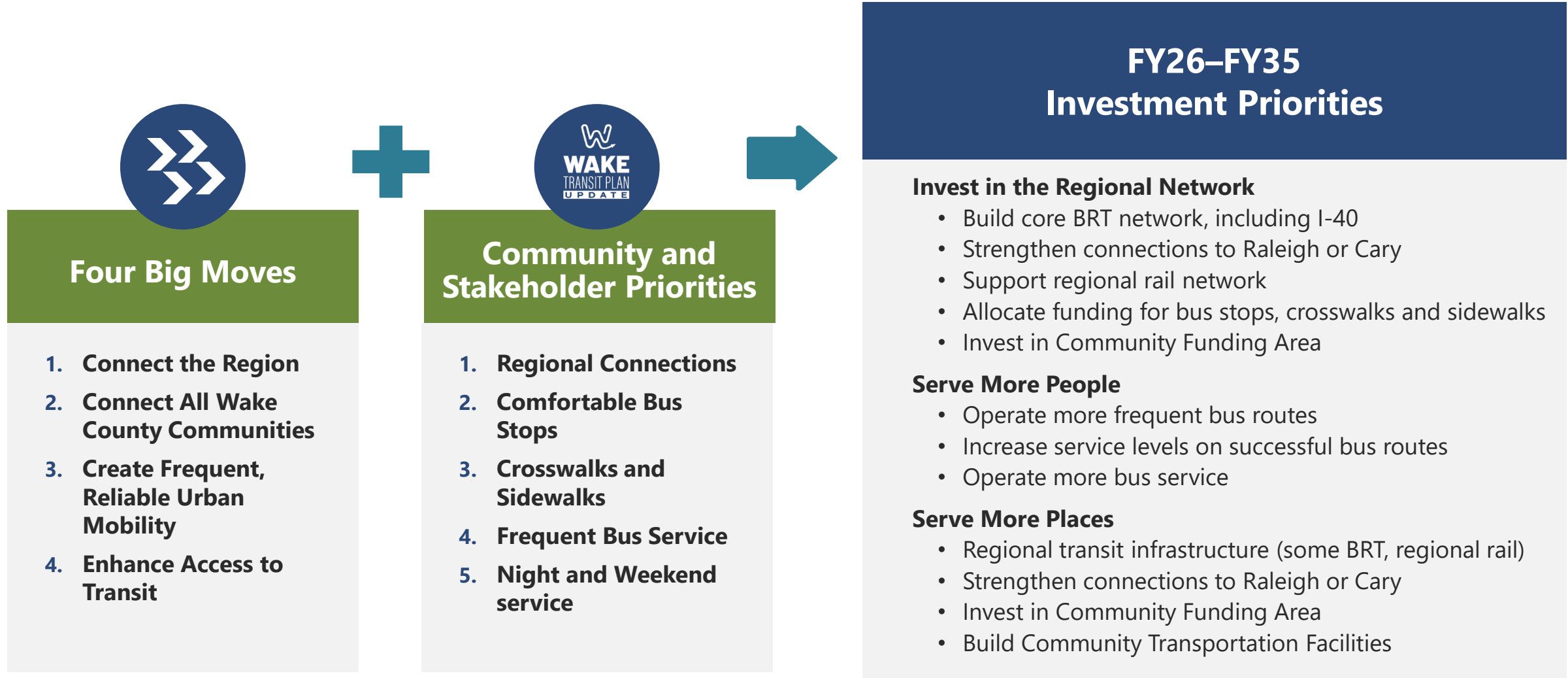
1. **Identify Transit Priorities** (community, stakeholders, Wake Transit Plan team)
2. **Use Priorities to Select Projects, Programs and Services**
3. **Estimate Costs and Confirm Revenues**
  - Align revenues and spending and adhere to agreed financial management guidelines
4. **Draft 2035 Investment Strategy**
  - Share projects, programs and services (lists and maps)
  - Investment strategy type of investment (spending breakdown)
5. **Outcomes and Expected Results**



# Wake Transit Plan Investment Strategy

- **Proposed Investment strategy = \$3.3 billion (includes debt funding)**
- **Estimated revenues = \$3.3 billion (with VRT and Fares)**

# Wake Transit Plan Priorities

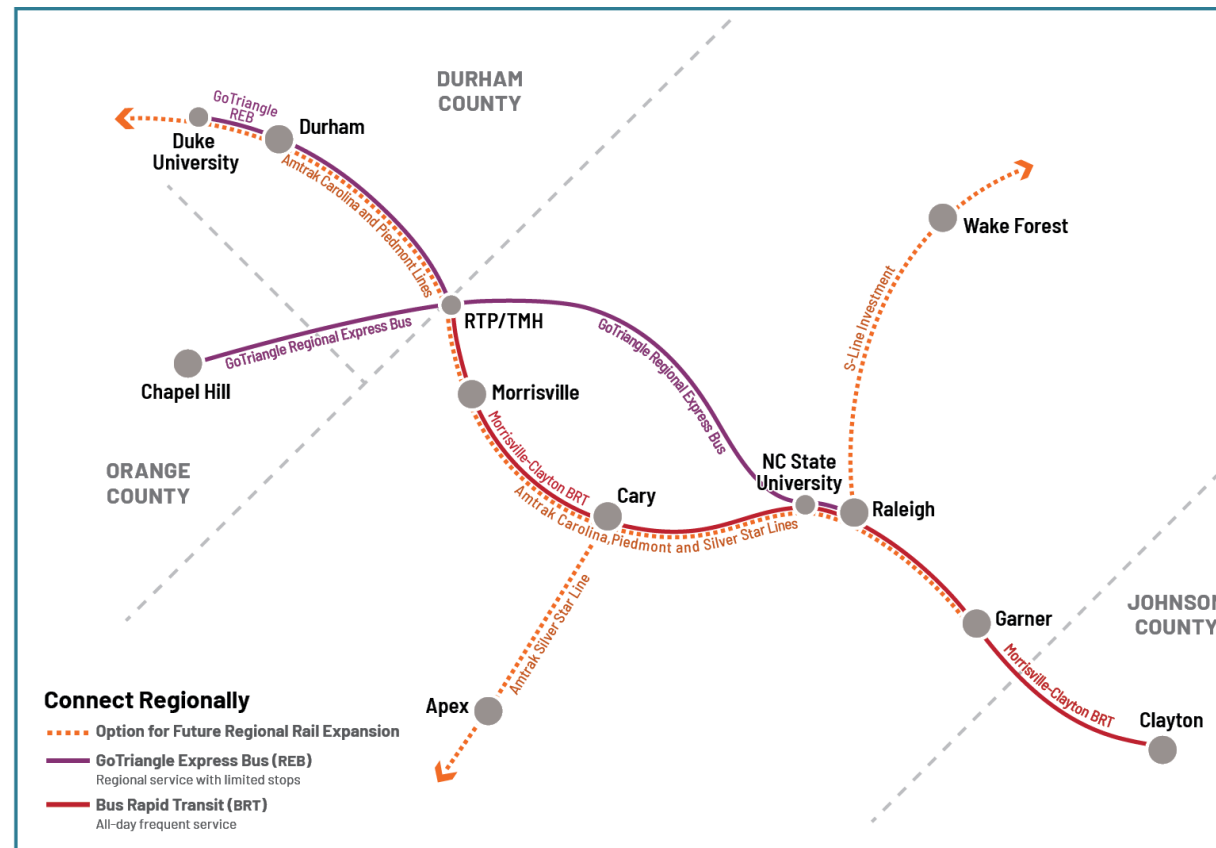


## Connect the Region



**Wake Transit will continue to invest in projects and services that make it easy to travel regionally.**

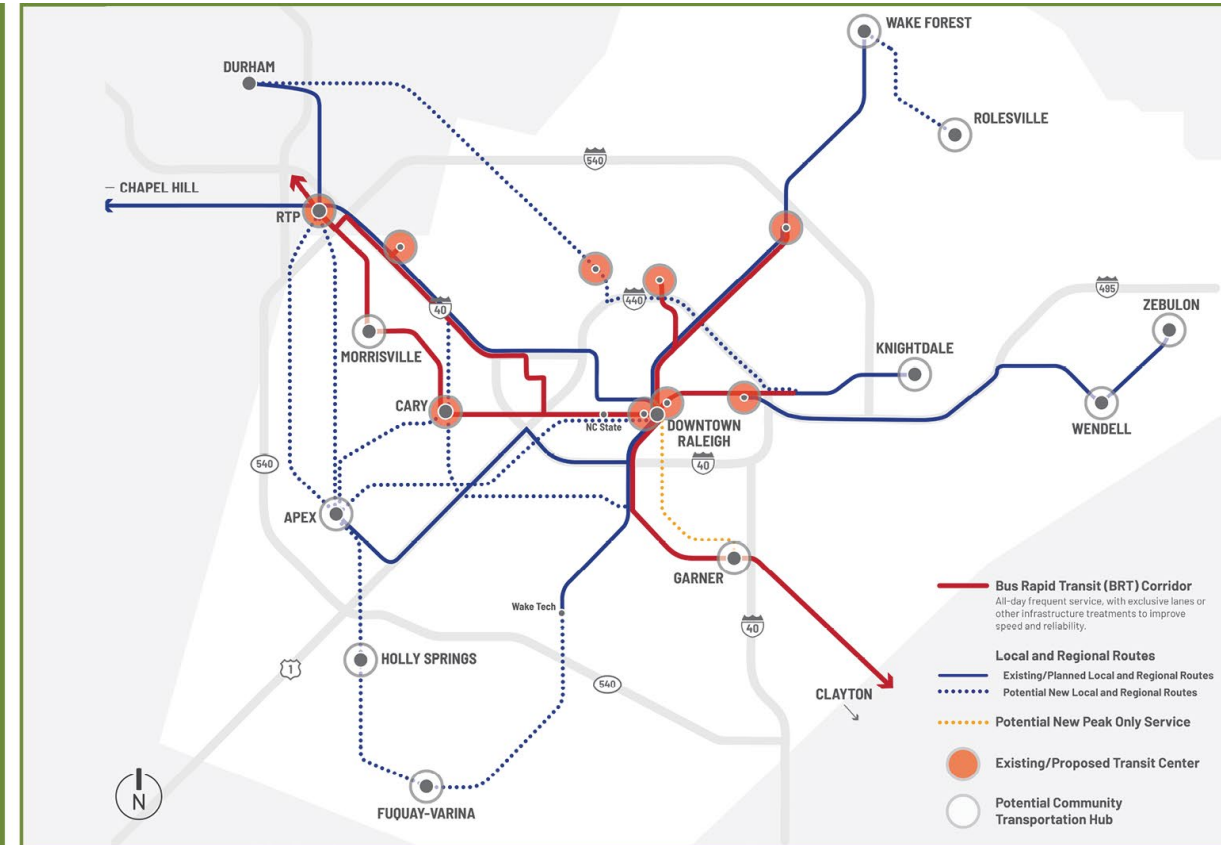
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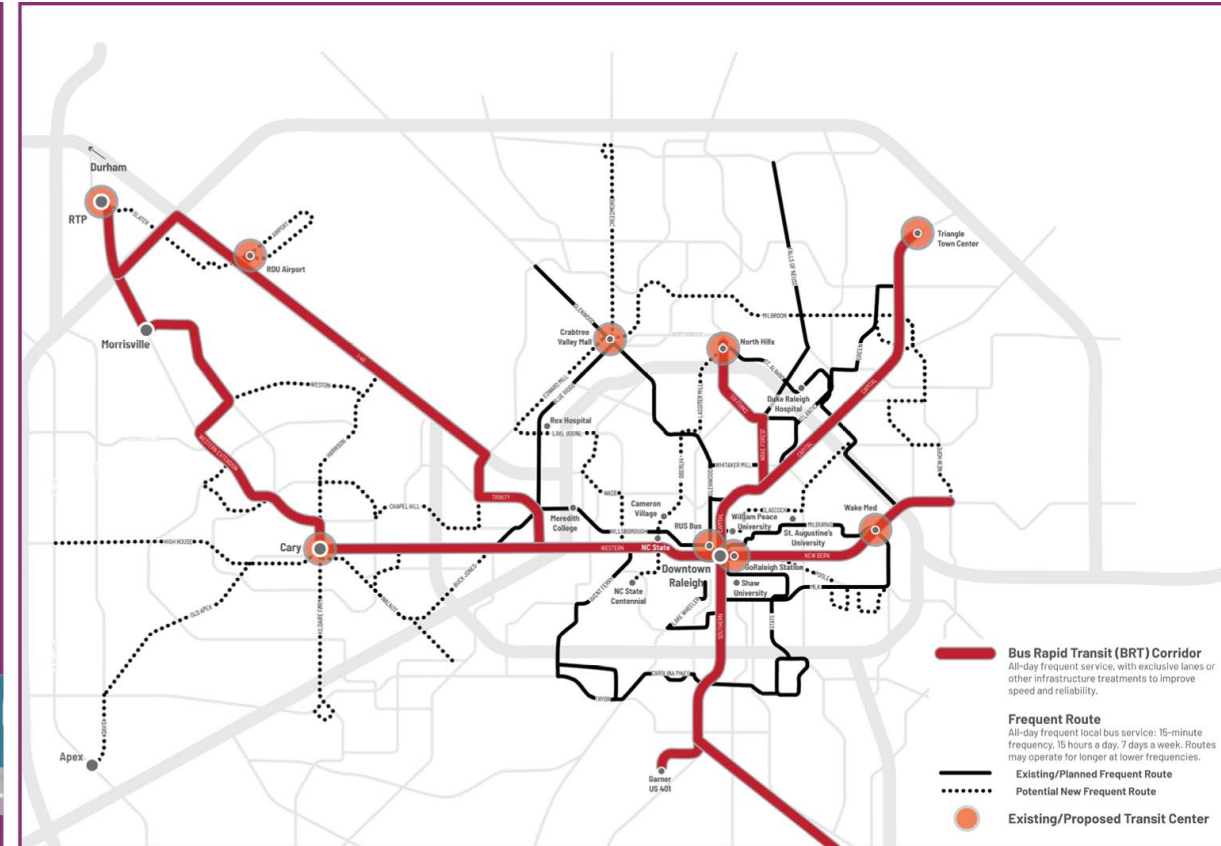




## Frequent and Reliable Urban Mobility

Wake Transit will continue to build and expand the amount of frequent service in Wake County.

- Expanding the frequent bus network by offering more frequent service in the evening and on weekends.
- Adding new frequent bus routes.



## Enhance Access to Transit



Wake Transit will continue to make it safer, easier and more comfortable to use transit.

- Increasing funding for bus stop improvements, sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Doubling funding for the Community Funding Area program to make it easier for Wake County towns to invest in local projects and services.

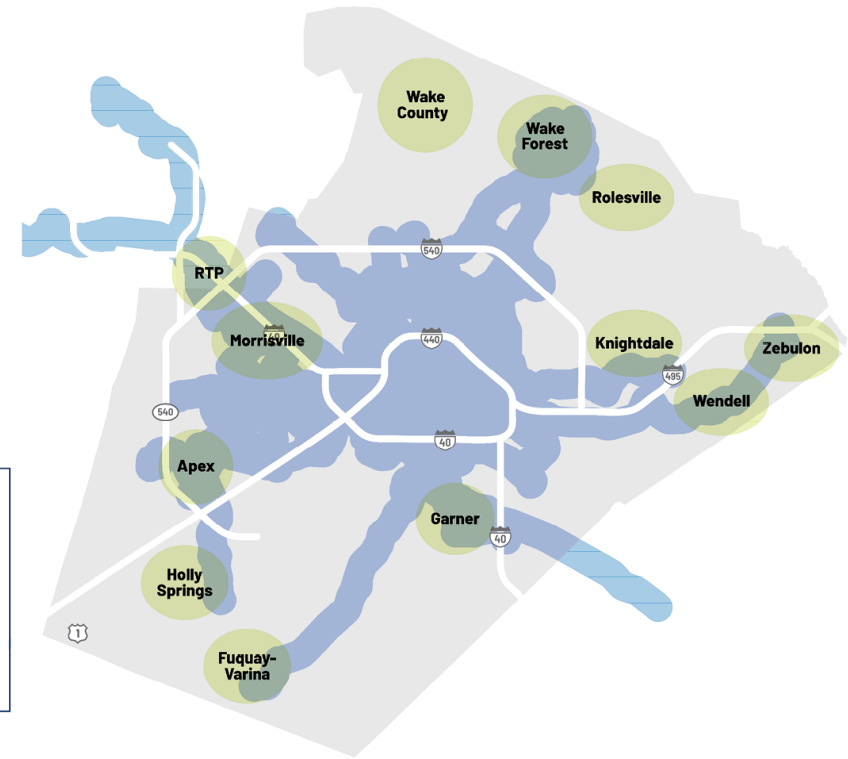


**Areas Accessible to Fixed-Route Transit**  
Shaded areas are within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of fixed-route bus service, including regional express routes and town-to-town routes by 2035.

**Community Funding Area Eligible Areas**

### Community Funding Area Program

Program is designed to support communities in Wake County and develop transit projects that meet local needs. The CFA program is funded with \$40m over the 10-year period and can be used for transit services, capital projects, or planning.



# Invest in the Regional Network



## Rail Ready Projects

- **Available in annual increments (funding rolls over)**
- **Regional Rail Implementation Plan will be completed in June 2025**
- **Potential investments may include**
  - Stations
  - Track Improvements
  - Increased Rail Service
  - *Additional study may be needed*



## Implement and Expand BRT Network

- **Core Network** (New Bern, Western, Southern and Northern with 2 endpoints)
- **BRT Extensions** (Cary to RTP and Garner to Clayton)
- **BRT Development** (I-40 Raleigh to TMH)
- **BRT Next Gen** (study 5 to 6 corridors)

# Serve More People



## Expand Frequent Bus Service

- **Increase hours and days of operation for existing bus services**
  - Frequent and Local Routes
- **Add at least one New Frequent Route each year**



## Support Bus Service Investments

- **5% Contingency for Unanticipated projects**
- **15% for ADA**
- **+40 Expansion Vehicles and Ongoing Replacement Vehicles**
- **\$3m/year Bus Stops, Sidewalks and Crosswalks**
- **10 Connection Points where frequent routes intersect (\$750k per)**
- **Maintenance Facility Study**



# Serve More Places



## More Community Connections

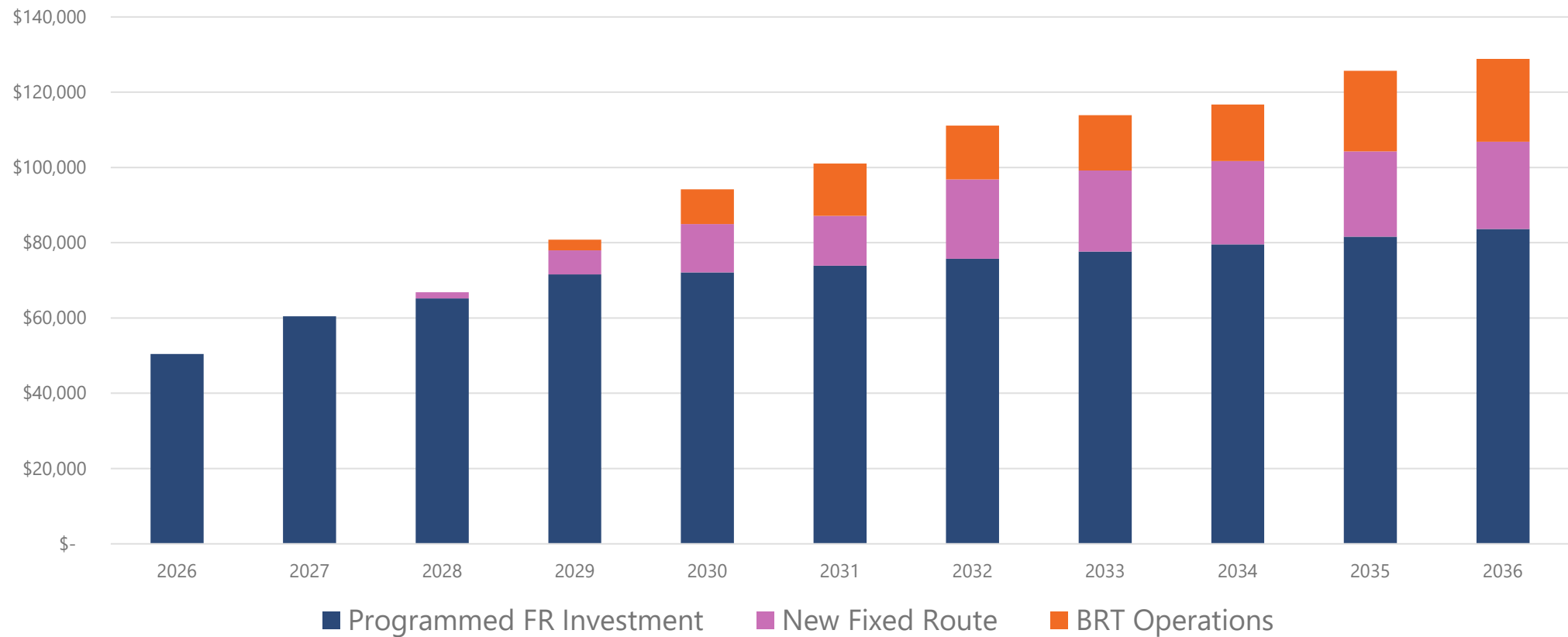
- **Increase hours/days of existing regional bus routes**
- **Add New Regional Routes (including some of the following)**
  1. Apex to RTP/TMH via Davis Drive
  2. Apex to Raleigh Express
  3. Triangle Town Center to Durham via Briar Creek and TMH
  4. Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Apex to RTP/TMH
  5. Southern Connector: Tryon Road
  6. Knightdale to Crabtree
- **New Town-to-Town Route**
  - Rolesville to Wake Forest
- **New Commuter Route to Amazon Facility in Garner**



## More Community Facilities

- **Invest in Community Transportation Facilities/Hubs (5 hubs at \$6m each)**
- **Increased Investment in Community Funding Area Program (\$40m over 10-years)**
- **Airport Interchange Facility off I-40 (\$50m)**

# Increased Investment in Bus Service *Proposed*

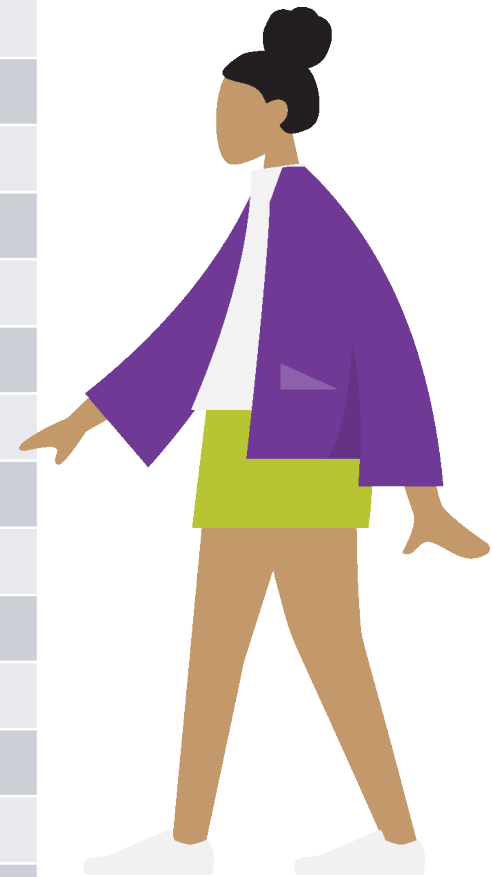


# Next Steps



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Parter	Event Type	Date	Details
Wake Forest	Pop-Up	May 3	<b>12- 2 PM</b> Meeting in the Streets in Downtown Wake Forest
Apex	Pop-Up	May 3	<b>9 – 11 AM</b> PeakFest Downtown Apex
Wake Forest	Presentation	May 6	<b>6 PM</b> Wake Forest Commissioners Work Session
Raleigh	Presentation	May 8	<b>3:30 PM</b> Raleigh Transit Authority Meeting
Zebulon	Pop-Up	May 9	<b>5:30 – 6:30 PM</b> Movie Night at Five County Stadium
Cary	Pop-Up	May 10	<b>3 PM to 5 PM</b> Ritmo Latino Festival in Downtown Cary
Apex	Presentation	May 13	<b>6 PM</b> Apex Town Council Meeting
NC State	Pop-Up	May 15	<b>7:30 to 9 AM</b> NCSU Bike to Work Day Pit Stop
Raleigh	Pop-Up	May 15	<b>7 to 9 AM</b> GoRaleigh Station
Morrisville	Pop-Up	May 17	<b>10 AM to 2 PM</b> SpringFest in Downtown Morrisville
Rolesville	Presentation	May 20	<b>7 PM</b> Rolesville Town Board of Commissioners
Knightdale	Presentation	May 21	<b>7 PM</b> Knightdale Town Council Meeting
Durham	Pop-Up	May 22	<b>7 to 9 AM</b> Regional Transit Center
Holly Springs	Pop-Up	May 22	<b>8 to 10 AM</b> Holly Springs Farmers Market
Garner	Presentation	May 27	<b>6 PM</b> Garner Town Council Meeting
Wendell	Presentation	May 27	<b>7 PM</b> Wendell Town Board of Commissioners
Garner	Pop-Up	May 31	<b>11 AM to 1 PM</b> Southeast Regional Library





# Finalizing the 10-Year Investment Strategy





**Thank you!**