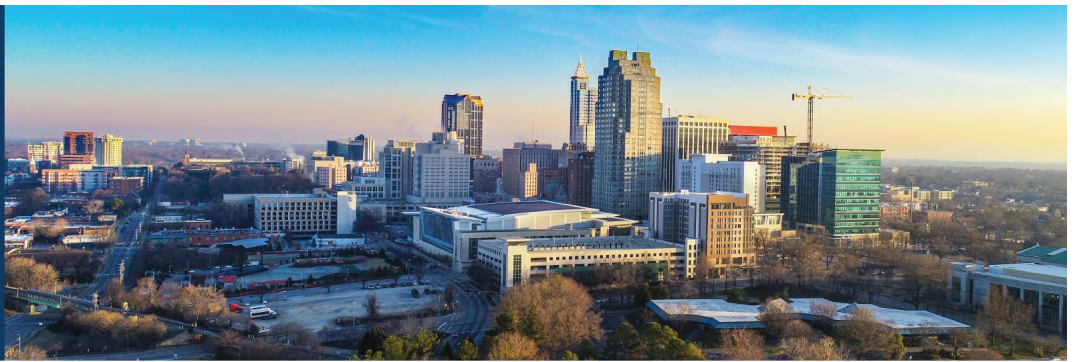


# Manager's Update

[raleighnc.gov](http://raleighnc.gov)



Issue 2021-15

April 23, 2021

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## INFORMATION:

### **Wake Bus Rapid Transit: Program Update**

*Staff Resource: Mila Vega, Transportation - Transit, 996-4123, [mila.vega@raleighnc.gov](mailto:mila.vega@raleighnc.gov)*

As the designated sponsor for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program, staff continues to advance various aspects, including planning and public engagement. An update regarding the program was last provided in Update Issue 2021-08 (March 5). This program update provides information on public engagement, the BRT Southern Corridor - Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and upcoming Council touchpoints.

### **Wake Bus Rapid Transit Public Engagement Update**

A Virtual Open House for the BRT project will be hosted from April 26 through May 21. The open house will provide the public with updates on all BRT projects including the [Western Boulevard Corridor Study](#), [New Bern Avenue](#) and Station Area Planning, [Western Boulevard](#), [Southern Corridor](#) and the [Artist-in-Residence](#) programs.

The intended purpose of the open house sessions is to:

- provide an overview of the BRT program;
- provide project-specific updates; and
- gather further public and stakeholder feedback through multiple surveys.

Live Q&A sessions will be held on three occasions in May. Project staff will be available to provide detailed updates and answer questions from the public. A recording of each live Q&A session will be posted after the meeting.

Promotional efforts for the open house will include yard signs, email blasts, and over 40,000 postcard notifications to residents along the respective BRT corridors to include apartment and condo addresses. In addition, ridership will be targeted through signage on the buses, at GoRaleigh Station and at transfer locations. Staff will continue to reach out to businesses, organizations, faith-based institutions, and schools along the corridors to share information on BRT and promote the open house sessions.

*(No attachment)*

### **Urban Heat Island Mapping Project**

*Staff Resource: Megan Anderson, Office of Sustainability, 996-4658, [megan.anderson@raleighnc.gov](mailto:megan.anderson@raleighnc.gov)*

The Office of Sustainability has partnered with several community organizations on an Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign grant proposal to map urban heat with a focus on addressing heat related issues for those most affected in the community. This update provides general information related to the grant award, including next steps staff are taking to plan for the mapping project. There are opportunities for the community to learn and to volunteer to assist with actual mapping efforts. Web links are provided below where Council can share these opportunities with the community. A [press release](#) was issued earlier this week; additional communications from the various partner organizations are also planned.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) and partners are launching new campaigns that will map the hottest parts of cities in 11 states across the country this summer. In addition to Raleigh and Durham, cities in the campaign include Albuquerque; Atlanta; New York City; Charleston; Kansas City, Missouri; San Diego; San Francisco; and parts of New Jersey, Indiana, Massachusetts, and Virginia. Teams of volunteers will place heat sensors on their personal vehicles (cars or bikes) along set routes to measure temperature in the morning, afternoon, and the evening; along with temperature sensors will record humidity, time, and the sensor locations; an NOAA [press release](#) provides additional information about the project and the participating cities.

Addressing urban heat islands is an identified priority within the [Raleigh Strategic Plan](#) and in the [Community Climate Action Plan](#). Participation in this project will help Raleigh identify areas where heat is experienced most strongly.

This project will raise awareness about heat risk, incorporate local perspectives to produce heat maps, and engage communities in pursuing solutions. For more information about the project, or to volunteer for the heat mapping exercise, visit <https://climate.ncsu.edu/research/uhi/>.

*(No attachment)*

**Weekly Digest of Special Events**

*Staff Resource: Derrick Remer, Special Events Office, 996-2200, [derrick.remer@raleighnc.gov](mailto:derrick.remer@raleighnc.gov)*

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

*(Attachment)*

## Council Member Follow Up Items

### Follow Up from the April 6 City Council Meeting

**Dix Park Improvements – Financing Options (Council Member Buffkin)**

*Staff Resource: : Jennifer Shonebarger, Finance, 996-4939, [jennifer.shonebarger@raleighnc.gov](mailto:jennifer.shonebarger@raleighnc.gov)*

During the meeting staff was asked to report on options for utilizing installment financing agreements to fund Dix Park improvements. While the City has historically utilized general obligation bonds to fund Parks and Recreation Facilities projects, the use of installment financing agreements is an option; however, there are additional considerations such as funding source and collateral. A staff memorandum is included with the *Update* materials which provides additional details.

*(Attachment)*

**Homeless Encampments at Capital Boulevard and I-540 (Council Member Cox)**

*Staff Resource: Larry Jarvis, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-6947, [larry.jarvis@raleighnc.gov](mailto:larry.jarvis@raleighnc.gov)*

During the meeting Council requested a report to include an update on the conditions of the homeless encampments at Capital Boulevard and I-540, as well as the City's relocation policy and if there are any ways to improve sanitation at the known encampments. In addition to the information below, a memorandum from the Police Department is included with the *Update* materials.

**Update on Homeless Encampments at Capital Boulevard and I-540**

Local nonprofit Triangle Family Services (TFS), which provides street outreach services, has been actively involved in working with the homeless camp located on NCDOT-owned land near I-540 and Capital Boulevard. Currently around 7-8 people are living in the camp, and two have been connected to services. TFS was able to secure a dumpster, which was filled with trash and has since been removed at the request of NCDOT. While an improvement, there is still more cleanup that needs to occur. TFS has coordinated another cleanup effort that will take place this Saturday, April 24. Volunteers from Journey Church will be assisting camp members in the cleanup effort as well as providing supplies.

One of the challenges in working with members of homeless camps is gaining their trust. Homeless individuals must agree to an assessment to be connected to services, and many individuals living in camps are wary of providing the needed information. While street outreach teams have the ability to do assessments in real time, gaining individuals' trust can take time. Outreach efforts are ongoing.

H&N staff consulted with Solid Waste Services, Transportation, PRCR, RPD, and TFS on the situation. The consensus was that street outreach providers continue to send in outreach teams to individual camps with sanitation supplies, PPE, and other supplies as needed. Various unintended consequences and challenges were identified in providing port-a-potties. Outreach teams also build connections with camp members and make referrals to appropriate service providers. City staff will continue to consult with TFS on the situation.

### **City Relocation Policy During COVID-19 and Recommendations for Post COVID-19**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [has issued national guidance for unsheltered homeless populations during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The CDC recommends local officials to allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain in place if individual housing options are not available. Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers, increasing the risk for infectious disease to spread.

Following these recommendations, the City of Raleigh's interim policy is to not disturb any known encampments or displace unsheltered individuals and families during COVID-19. If an encampment poses a significant public health risk, a cleanup may be conducted if the individuals encamped are able to obtain safe, alternative shelter. The Housing & Neighborhoods Department has found similar policies across the country and cites guidance issued by the [Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness](#).

The encampments located near Capital Boulevard and the I-540 corridor require a community-wide engagement effort, as these areas are not within the City's jurisdiction. The involvement of the Department of Transportation, County officials, multiple City departments, local service providers, and the Raleigh-Wake Continuum of Care (CoC) is required to address the concerns of both the unsheltered individuals and the larger community.

The Housing & Neighborhoods Department has initiated discussions with the Raleigh/Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness and the Wake County Department of Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization on developing a community wide policy on how to address the issue of homeless encampments post COVID-19. The CoC serves as the governing body for homeless service policies in Wake County. City staff recommends that this response policy be developed by the CoC, of which the City, County, and Partnership are participating members. The proposed policy would clearly define the problem and coordinate the activities of all local, county, and community partners. There are many examples of such encampment response policies, including one issued by the [City of Durham](#). City staff can serve in an advisory role during the research and development of the proposed CoC encampment response policy.

### **City's Response to Homelessness**

The first strategy in addressing the issue of homeless encampments is preventing individuals from becoming homeless. This is accomplished through diversion and homelessness prevention which can involve providing rent assistance and supportive services and case management rather than entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness. For those individuals experiencing homelessness, it is important to quickly move them into emergency shelter and rapidly rehouse them. Street outreach is also a necessary component of addressing this issue and involves connecting unsheltered individuals to services.

The City currently funds all of these activities through federal entitlement funds (\$272,266 in ESG and \$147,500 in CDBG) and local dollars (\$317,444). In addition, \$950,338 in ESG-CV funds have been allocated to nonprofits providing emergency shelter, homelessness diversion and prevention, and rapid rehousing, and \$1,878,051 in CDBG-CV funds have been allocated to nonprofits providing eviction and foreclosure prevention and homeless diversion services. Staff are currently finalizing recommendations on allocating \$3,503,113 in ESG-CV2 funds to nonprofits providing emergency shelter, homeless diversion and prevention, rapid rehousing, and street outreach. The City will be releasing a NOFA for its remaining \$2,672,436 in CDBG-CV3 funds and plans to allocate these funds in May.

The City of Raleigh has also received \$14 million in funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to provide emergency rental and utility assistance for households financially impacted by COVID-19. The City partnered with Wake County to combine resources and launch the [House Wake! COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program](#), making nearly \$33 million in aid available. The program provides eligible households with up to 15 months of assistance for unpaid rent and utilities.

Included in the City's efforts is a new team called [ACORNS](#) (Addressing Crises through Outreach, Referrals, Networking, and Service) that was recently created by Raleigh Police Department to connect with individuals in crisis and provide them with the resources needed to meet their individual goals. The ACORNS team is also actively involved with the CoC and will continue to work toward alleviating homelessness in Raleigh.

*(No attachment)*

#### **Housing Rehabilitation Program (Council Member Branch, Council Member Cox)**

*Staff Resource: Larry Jarvis, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-6947, [larry.jarvis@raleighnc.gov](mailto:larry.jarvis@raleighnc.gov)*

During the April 6 Council meeting, Council Member Branch requested an overview of the housing rehabilitation program, including funding resources and the status of any "wait list" or backlog of owners that wish to participate. Subsequently, during the April 20 City Council Meeting and following public comment in the same topic, Council Member Cox requested similar information related to the number of homeowners/applicants in the queue to participate and the average wait time for assistance.

The Housing and Neighborhoods department administers the Homeowner Rehabilitation Program through which funding is provided to low-income owner-occupants to assist with home rehabilitation. The primary objective of the program is to retain existing owners while improving the housing stock.

Appropriations for the two most recent budgets includes \$1.2M and \$1.39M respectively for the Substantial Rehabilitation Program; the proposed budget for FY22 will allocate \$1.66M in anticipation of serving up to 20 homeowner program participants.

The City funds a separate Urgent Repair Program for elderly homeowners which is administered by Resources for Seniors. Currently, that program is funded at \$300,000 annually and the maximum amount of assistance per household is \$7,500.

#### **Background**

A major policy objective in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) plan encompassing East College Park was to ensure that long term elderly homeowners benefited equitably from the investments made in that neighborhood. Historically however, participation by elderly homeowners in the City's rehab

program had been relatively low. In 2016, following a series of meetings with homeowners in the (NRSA), Housing and Neighborhoods made a recommendation to Council to modify the Homeowner Rehabilitation Program guidelines based on feedback from those meetings. The primary concern expressed by elderly homeowners was not wanting to encumber their property for a long period of time. Council authorized the following changes to the program guidelines:

- Maximum rehab construction costs increased from \$45,000 to \$90,000
- Loan term for elderly and disabled homeowners decreased from 15 years to 5 years (loan term for non-elderly/disabled homeowners remained a 15-year forgivable loan term)
- Maximum income limits, adjusted for household size, increased from 50% AMI to 80% AMI for all qualifying homeowners

### Issues/Analysis

The Council-approved changes became effective in FY17-18. The program guideline changes limited the availability of funds through the program to homeowners in Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). Despite significant outreach to elderly homeowners in the neighborhood, ultimately only four homeowners took advantage of the program. After one year, the program was re-evaluated. Due to low participation, it was decided to modify the program guidelines once again. To increase interest and participation in the program, the guidelines were subsequently modified expanding the program to elderly and disabled homeowners city-wide. This change generated considerably more interest in the program. Staff acknowledges that the program guidelines should have been evaluated at that time to ensure that homeowners most in need in terms of both low income and housing rehabilitation needs were being prioritized.

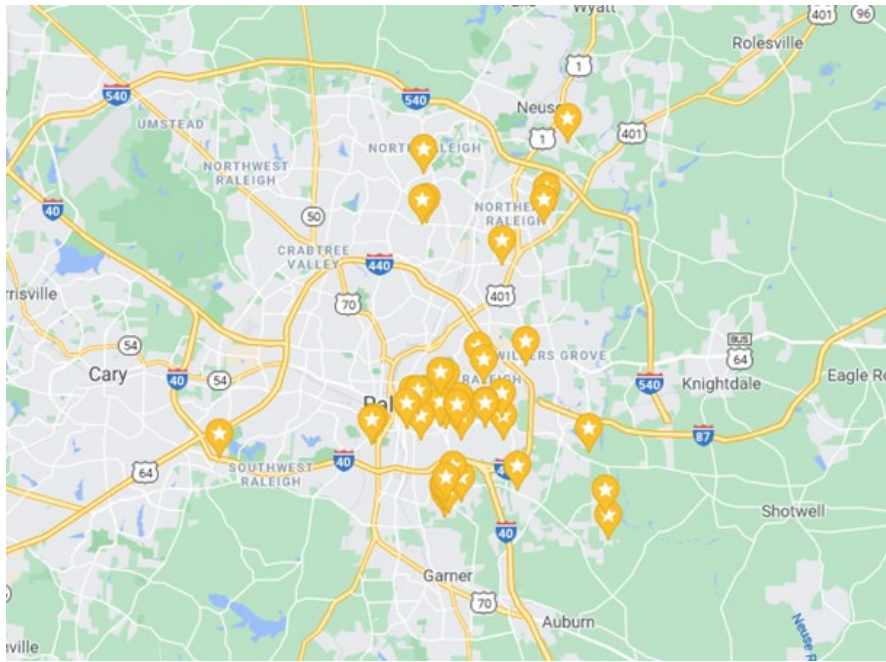
Staff stopped accepting applications for the program in 2020 and currently has a list of 100+ homeowners waiting to apply. There are currently 11 approved applications in the queue for rehab and 5 in construction. The average wait time for approved applicants is 4-6 months.

The City uses federal HOME and CDBG funds for homeowner rehab. In addition to federal funding constraints, fewer contractors are actively participating in the program, which we attribute to favorable market conditions in Raleigh. At this time, 15 contractors have been approved to participate in the program, but only 4 of them actively participate in our rehab bid processes.

One of the recent challenges during COVID-19 has been attracting new contractors to the program. Due to the federal requirement for registration with SAM.gov, new contractors have an extensive wait time before they can be approved to do work on the program. The SAM.gov registration process involves review by the IRS. We have been notified that the SAM.gov registration is currently being delayed by the IRS review process. Subsequently, the addition of new contractors who have expressed interest in program participation has been delayed.

Due to COVID-19 and the contractor shortage, our goal of 20 rehabs for FY20-21 will not be met and we project 13 will be completed this fiscal year. An additional complicating factor is that homeowners have understandably been reluctant to have workers in their homes during the pandemic.

As noted above, further program design changes should have been recommended earlier.



**Location of Substantial Rehabilitation Activity, Past Two Years**

**To address these issues, staff proposes to:**

- Suspend the current program to be replaced July 1 with revised program guidelines
- Evaluate potential program design changes for future Council consideration which may include:
  - Change of loan terms for households above 50% AMI (moderate income)
  - Refocus of program priority to households below 50% AMI (low income)
  - Refocus of program priority to households in neighborhoods experiencing gentrification
  - Change of qualifying homes based on the physical conditions to ensure those properties most in need of repair (but still feasible for rehabilitation) are being addressed
- Increase the \$7,500 allowance to \$15,000 for the limited repair program currently administered by Resources for Seniors to address homes with more than one (1) system deficiency
- Increase efforts to recruit and retain more contractors

*(No attachment)*

## Follow Up from the April 13 Work Session

### Impact of Tax Increase - Capital Maintenance Needs (Council Member Branch)

Staff Resource: Mary Vigue, Budget and Management Services, 996-4270, [mary.vigue@raleighnc.gov](mailto:mary.vigue@raleighnc.gov)

During the Work Session, Council requested information on the impact of a tax increase associated with park, transportation, and general capital maintenance. Based on an analysis of long-term facility, park system, and transportation maintenance needs, staff identified the following annual capital needs:

Capital Area	Annual Capital Needs	Tax Rate Impact	Annual Impact to Homeowner
Transportation	\$12.0m	\$0.0158	\$40.42
Facilities (Engineering Services)	\$2.0m	\$0.0026	\$6.65
Parks	\$12.0m - \$15.0m	\$0.0158 - \$0.0197	\$40.42 - \$50.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>Up to \$29.0m</b>	<b>Up to \$0.0381</b>	<b>Up to \$97.47</b>

Should City Council adjust the property tax rate to fund additional capital maintenance, every 1-cent increase would generate approximately \$7.6M. The impact to the homeowner based on the Wake County median value home (\$255,811) is estimated at \$25.60 for every one-cent property tax rate increase.

If Council funded all identified maintenance needs, the property tax increase would equate to \$0.0381 or 3.81 cents. The impact to the homeowner based on the Wake County median value home (\$255,811) would be up to \$97.47.

Staff continue to identify one-time funding sources to meet capital maintenance needs outside of bond referendums. These one-time sources include general fund transfers, two-thirds bonds, or grants. The City continues the prior commitment to street resurfacing and affordable housing based on prior tax rate adjustments.

*(No attachment)*

## Weekly Events Digest

Friday, April 23 – Thursday, April 29

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events  
[specialevents@raleighnc.gov](mailto:specialevents@raleighnc.gov) | (919) 996-2200 | [raleighnc.gov/special-events-office](http://raleighnc.gov/special-events-office)

*\*All permitted special events are subject to mass gathering limitations and Statewide requirements for face coverings and social distancing. For questions regarding the safe return of special events, please contact the Office of Emergency Management and Special events at 919-996-2200 or [specialevents@raleighnc.gov](mailto:specialevents@raleighnc.gov).*

### Permitted Special Events

#### Note in the Pocket Socks and Undie 5K Rundie

Dorothea Dix Park

Saturday, April 24

Event Time: 8:00am – 11:00am

Associated Road Closures: Biggs Drive between Ruggles Drive and Palmer Drive will be closed from 6:00am until 12:00pm. The following route will be closed from 7:50am until 11:00am:

Start on Biggs Drive east of Ruggles Drive; Left onto Palmer Drive; Right into the Black Parking Lot; Right onto Black Drive; Left onto Umstead Drive; Right onto Dwire Drive; Continue onto Richardson Drive; Right onto Umstead Drive; Right onto Barbour Drive; Right onto Kendall Circle; Left onto Barbour Drive; Right onto Bender Street; Continue onto Kilpatrick Drive; Continue onto Dorsett Street; Right onto Barbour Drive; Continue onto Biggs Drive to finish

#### Dine Out Downtown Fayetteville Street

Fayetteville Street

Saturday, April 24

Event Time: 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Hargett Street and Martin Street, and Hargett Street and Martin Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 3:00pm until 11:00pm. Note that local vehicular traffic will have access to the 100 and 300 blocks of Fayetteville Street.

### Raleigh Union Station Community Yoga Programs

Raleigh Union Station Plaza

Sunday, April 25 through Thursday, April 29

Event Times: 5:00pm – 8:00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; 6:00pm - 8:00pm on Tuesdays; and 9:30am – 11:00am on Sundays

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the events. Raleigh Union Station Plaza will be used during the above dates and times from 3-22-21 until 11-24-21. Details regarding class registration can be found through [Yoga Soul·lect·tive](#) for Mondays, [Oak City Yoga](#) for Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and [Current Wellness](#) for Thursdays and Sundays.

### Other Events This Weekend

#### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Community Conference

Friday, April 23

Virtual

#### **Justice for Andrew Brown and Ma'Khia Bryant Protest**

Friday, April 23

Location to be determined

**Annual Mordecai Plant Sale**

Friday, April 23 & Saturday, April 24  
Mordecai Historic Park

**BMW Ultimate Driving Experience**

Friday, April 23 – Sunday, April 25  
PNC Arena

**Community Fitness Class – Yoga Flow**

Saturday, April 24  
Moore Square

**Community Fitness with Camp Gladiator**

Saturday, April 24  
Moore Square

**Stream Monitoring Workshop**

Saturday, April 24  
Virtual

**Think Clean Raleigh Roadside Litter Cleanup**

Saturday, April 24  
Various Locations

**Ragtime Kings – North Carolina Symphony (streaming)**

Saturday, April 24  
Streaming from Meymandi Concert Hall

**Justice for Andrew Brown and Ma'Khia Bryant Vigil**

Sunday, April 25  
Moore Square

**Public Resources**

**Pilot Text Alert Program**: Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

**Event Feedback Form**: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

**Road Closure and Road Race Map**: A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

**Online Events Calendar**: View all currently scheduled events that impact City streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.

# Council Member Follow Up



**Raleigh**

## MEMO

TO: Marchell Adams-David, City Manager

FROM: Jennifer Shonebarger, Debt Manager, Finance

CC: Allison E. Bradsher, Chief Financial Officer, Finance

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DATE: April 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Dix Park Improvements – Funding Options

Staff was asked to report on options for utilizing installment financing agreements to fund certain Dix Park improvements in place of general obligation bonds.

Below is a summary of the key types and characteristics associated with the various types of debt financing commonly used by the City:

	General Obligation Bonds	Revenue Bonds	Installment Financings
<b>Security</b>	Full faith and credit of City (taxing power)	Revenues from revenue-producing system	Some or all of the financed property
<b>Authorized Projects</b>	Most capital projects	Revenue-generating capital projects	Most capital projects
<b>Voter Approval</b>	Usually	No	No
<b>LGC Approval</b>	Always	Always	Sometimes
<b>Special Limitations</b>	Net Debt Limit	Covenants	Net Debt Limit
<b>City Uses</b>	Parks, Transportation, Housing	Raleigh Water	Fire stations, equipment, government buildings

### Installment Financing Agreements (IFA)

The City has a long history of utilizing this financing option and it is used by many peer jurisdictions in North Carolina. An IFA to fund improvement at Dix Park would likely be in the form of a 20-year Limited Obligation Bond and would utilize capacity from the general debt model as a funding source for repayment of the debt.

There are numerous considerations specific to this type of financing, including but not limited to: pledging of collateral, role of any private party and impact on the ability to issue debt on a tax-exempt basis, and funding source for repayment of the debt. Staff collaborates with the City's financial advisor and bond counsel on these financing agreements.

The City has used IFAs for many projects including: the Critical Public Safety Center, Remote Operations facilities, multiple fire stations, and the Law Enforcement Training Center currently under construction. In addition, the City plans to continue utilizing this type of financing on upcoming projects including the police evidence building, the Civic Campus, and an emergency operations course.

Municipal Building  
222 West Hargett Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

One Exchange Plaza  
1 Exchange Plaza,  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

City of Raleigh  
Post Office Box 590 • Raleigh  
North Carolina 27602-0590  
(Mailing Address)

Manager's Update

### Initial Purchase of Dix Park through an Installment Financing Agreement

The initial purchase of Dix Park was completed via a 10-year private placement IFA in the amount of \$52,000,000 in July 2015. As of April 1, 2021, the outstanding principal balance is \$26,000,000 and is scheduled to be paid off in July 2025 (\$5.2M paid annually on July 1<sup>st</sup>). Portions of Dix Park were pledged as collateral as part of the initial purchase. The City allocated one penny of property tax revenue to fund the debt service associated with the financing.

### Funding Source / Capacity for IFA

The City has historically utilized the general debt model as a funding source for IFAs. There are key metrics in place to measure the fiscal health of the City and are consistent with rating agency expectations for a AAA-rated city. The general debt model is managed with two key policies:

- Annual general fund support for general debt service should not exceed 15% of the general fund budget
- Fund balance in the general debt model should be maintained at no less than 50% of the annual debt service expenditures total

Capacity within the City's general debt model builds through various manners:

- Timing differences between the receipt of tax revenues and the issuance of debt
- Higher than forecast interest income
- Lower than forecast variable rate interest expense
- Lower than modeled fixed-rate debt expense
- Debt issuances that occur later in time than originally forecast

Capacity within the City's general debt model is/has been used for the following purposes:

- Payment of 2/3rds debt
- "Buy-down" of referenda (the 2017 Transportation referendum utilized \$120M of capacity to offset property tax increases, meaning that the tax increase only supported \$86.7M of the \$206.7M referendum)
- Payment of IFAs
- Planned payment of future debt service on IFAs (police evidence building, Civic Campus, fire stations, emergency operations course)
- To fund budget shortfalls and CIP project overruns (through a smaller general fund transfer)

### Future Considerations

There is ~\$55M in capacity within the general debt model that could be used to service the debt associated with an IFA issuance for Dix Park improvements. Should Council elect to utilize the full balance of capacity, there would be no capacity for any additional general capital improvement plan needs (such as overruns on already planned projects, fire stations, police needs, general governmental buildings, etc).

A future funding source could include the penny that was originally dedicated for the initial purchase of the park, which will no longer be accounted for within the debt model after fiscal year 2026 when the initial purchase is fully paid.



Raleigh

## MEMO

TO: Marchell Adams David, City Manager

FROM: Cassandra Deck-Brown, Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT: Police

DATE: April 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Council Response – Capital / I-540 Encampment

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This memo serves as a response to a request by Council Member Cox for information concerning the homeless encampment at I-540 at Capital Boulevard. The following is an updated version of the memorandum sent to Chief of Staff Buonpane on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

The Raleigh Police Department was alerted to an encampment frequented by homeless persons near Capital Boulevard and I-540 on February 8th, 2021. This location is on the west side of Capital Boulevard, between eastbound I-540 and the eastbound off-ramp onto Capital Boulevard. A visit to the area revealed numerous small tents occupying the area and a significant amount of debris and trash.

Raleigh/Wake Dispatch and Wake County GIS confirmed that the encampment is located outside the city limits of Raleigh and within the jurisdiction of the Wake County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). WCSO personnel were provided with the NCDOT contact information in order to coordinate their outreach efforts within the area.

On February 17th, 2021, contact was made with Jonathan Arnold, Assistant Division Maintenance Engineer for the NCDOT. They were aware of the camp and confirmed it was outside Raleigh's city limits. On February 26th, 2021, Mr. Arnold spoke with RPD personnel and indicated he would visit the site during the first week of March to verify the reports. He also stated that the NCDOT would be deploying an unmanned aerial platform in an attempt to gauge the complexity of the issue. Mr. Arnold further noted that the new standing order from the Secretary of NCDOT states that there will be no action by NCDOT regarding these camps unless they are deemed an immediate safety risk to the public. Additionally, if action is taken, it must be consistent with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

RPD completed a review of call for service data in the area of the encampment for September 1st, 2020 through March 1st, 2021. This inquiry revealed a total of 29 calls for service between RPD and WCSO, which included calls for begging, welfare checks, suspicious activity, warrant service, drug law violations, suspicious persons, a weapons violation, and one assault.

On March 3, 2021, North District Community Officers contacted personnel from NCDHHS and discussed the issues concerning the encampment.

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222 West Hargett Street  
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One Exchange Plaza  
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(Mailing Address)

Manager's Update

DHHS personnel advised that they would research a medical approach to provide care to the persons who frequent the state property.

On March 5, 2021, North District Community Officers contacted the office of the Director of State Environmental Health for DHHS to make them aware of the issue and seek their input. Subsequently, contact was made with COR Emergency Management personnel and Dorothy Cilenti, the Wake County Public Health Director, to solicit their assistance. Triangle Family Services contacted RPD on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, and requested RPD support during a trash collection event at the camp site on April 3, 2021. RPD and WCSO provided support to Triangle Family Services and a team of local outreach groups as they conducted a trash collection initiative within the encampment. Volunteers from Seven Marks Church (formerly Journey Church) cleaned up trash near the entrance adjacent to Capital Boulevard. A large dumpster was used to collect the trash and a skid-steer loader was utilized by volunteers to create a second pile of debris behind the dumpster. Additionally, approximately 80 shopping carts were returned to local businesses by the volunteers. North District Community Officers will continue providing support to WCSO and Triangle Family Services as additional trash collection events and other services are provided to the resident at the encampment.