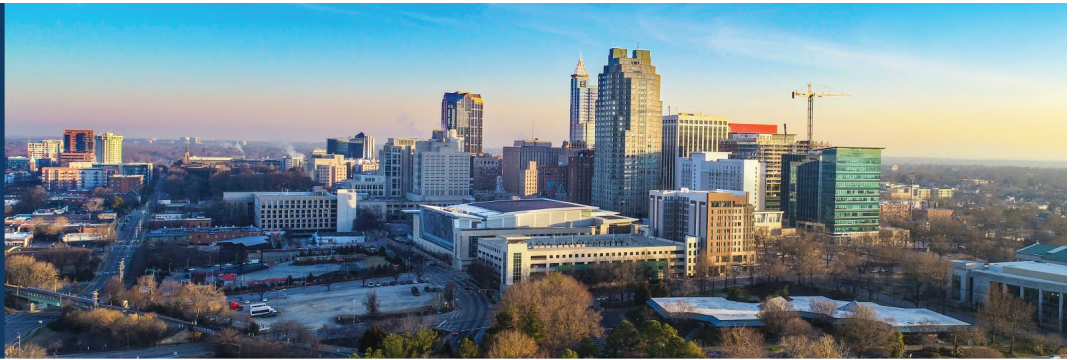


Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2021-30

August 13, 2021

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Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, August 17; Lunch Work Session at 11:30

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the meeting was published Thursday:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/Board.nsf>

Please note there will be a **Closed Session** immediately following the afternoon session of the Council meeting.

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to have pulled from the consent agenda for discussion, please send an e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

You will be receiving information on joining the WebEx Events session on Monday; staff will be available to assist with log ins and joining the virtual City Council meeting.

INFORMATION:

"Vaccine Bus" Scheduled for GoRaleigh Station

Staff Resource: David Eatman, RDOT-Transit, 996.4040, david.eatman@raleighnc.gov

GoRaleigh staff have collaborated with Wake County and the NC Counts Coalition to bring the "Vaccination Bus" to GoRaleigh Station in downtown, across from Moore Square.

The public will be able to receive free COVID-19 vaccinations; no appointment, ID, or insurance is required to receive the vaccine. The public will be able to select the vaccine including the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson variety.

The vaccination bus will be at GoRaleigh Station from Noon to 6:00 P.M., as follows:

- Tuesday, August 17
- Friday, August 27
- Friday, September 3
- Friday, September 10
- Friday, September 17
- Friday, September 24

(No attachment)

Rating Agency Review Reaffirms Highest Rating on Revenue Bonds

Staff Resource: Allison Bradsher, Finance, 996-4970, allison.bradsher@raleighnc.gov

Rating agencies periodically conduct reviews and issue reports that serve to provide the bond market with updated credit information for US municipalities and other local governments. Last Friday afternoon Fitch Ratings released an update report.

Fitch Maintains Highest AAA Rating on Utility Bonds

After the completion of a ratings review of Raleigh Water's credit profile, Fitch Ratings published a Rating Action Commentary late last week, maintaining the highest AAA rating and stable outlook on outstanding utility bonds. The report highlights "the system's extremely low leverage position in relation to very strong revenue defensibility and very low operating risk". Key rating drivers include:

- Broad and diverse customer base with very favorable demographic trends
- Low-Cost Burden, Strong System Reinvestment
- Very strong Financial Profile
- The highest level of ESG credit relevance

Maintaining the highest possible credit rating ensures the City borrows at the lowest interest rates and has access to markets during downturns in the economy such as we are currently experiencing. Included with the *Update* materials is an excerpt from the Fitch Raleigh Water report.

(Attachment)

GoGreen – A City Sustainability Event

Staff Resource: Andrea Epstein, RDOT-Transit, 996-4186, andrea.epstein@raleighnc.gov

GoRaleigh Transit will be hosting a free, citywide sustainability-themed event Saturday, August 21 at the Greg Poole, Jr. All Faiths Chapel at Dorothea Dix Park, 1030 Richardson Drive, from 10:00 A.M. until Noon.

The event has been to showcase the City goal of reducing community wide greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050, and to debut the first electric GoRaleigh bus.

The GoGreen event will highlight how the City is taking action to meet this goal through new transportation options and vehicles. GoGreen will showcase many of the City's environmentally friendly vehicles, debuting the new GoRaleigh electric buses and other City environmentally friendly vehicles including, GoRaleigh compressed natural gas buses, Citrix Cycle bikes, Bolt, Lime and Spin scooters and the electric carts that the Transportation department uses throughout downtown.

A panel discussion of experts will discuss the importance transportation has in meeting the City's climate goals. City departments joining GoGreen to promote the effort include the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, [Office of Sustainability](#), [Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources](#), [Planning and Development](#), [Raleigh Fire Department](#), [Raleigh Police Department](#) and Raleigh Water.

GoRaleigh transit will be providing 15-minute service to and from the event beginning at 9:30 A.M., concluding at 1:30 P.M. This service will leave from Platform C at GoRaleigh Station.

(No attachment)

Wenchelsea Place – Additional Parking Restrictions for Emergency and Service Vehicle Access

Staff Resource: Matthew Currier, Transportation, 996-4041, matthew.currier@raleighnc.gov

In June 2020, staff received a request from both Raleigh Fire and the Police departments to restrict on-street parking on Wenchelsea Place along the cul-de-sac. These requests stemmed directly from an incident where emergency personnel needed to access one of the properties in the cul-de-sac but were unable to do so due the presence of vehicles parked along Wenchelsea Place. During this event emergency responders were required to park down the block and walk to the property, slowing the response time.

In February 2021, Transportation staff completed a review of Wenchelsea Place to determine the amount of on-street parking needed to be removed in order to ensure public safety access in the event of future emergencies. The staff review determined that due to the presence of a large traffic island in the center of the cul-de-sac of Wenchelsea Place, all parking in the entirety of the cul-de-sac would need to be restricted. The travel lane around the cul-de-sac is only fifteen feet wide, and when vehicles are parked the travel lane is reduced to a mere seven feet. This width is grossly insufficient for emergency vehicles to safely navigate. Staff determined this area should immediately be restricted to No Parking Anytime, based on authority in the City Code (section 11-2171 (a) – Obstructing Traffic), as follows:

Sec. 11-2171. - PARKING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN PLACES.

(a) Obstructing traffic.

It shall be unlawful for any person to stop, stand or park any motor vehicle upon a street, alley or parking facility owned, leased, maintained, or controlled by the City in such manner or under such conditions as to obstruct the free movement of vehicular traffic, except as otherwise provided by City Code or law.

Also as a result of the staff review of existing conditions, a determination was made that parking would need to be restricted away from the cul-de-sac as well in order to create efficient space for emergency vehicles (as well as Solid Waste Service vehicles) to safely ingress and egress the cul-de-sac. In an effort to preserve

parking, staff restricted parking for only 20 feet of curb, or one car length. Restrictive signage was installed in both locations on February 8, 2021.

During the March 2, 2021 City Council meeting the property owners of 4516 Wenchelsea Place (Mr. Kesel and Ms. Voronsky) spoke during public comment asking the City to look into the roadway and cul-de-sac to see if any accommodations could be made to preserve their ability to park on the street. Staff evaluated this and provided Council a preliminary cost estimate of between \$350,000 and \$500,000 to remove the green area within the cul-de-sac. There is not clear evidence that the neighborhood would be supportive of removal of the greenspace in favor of additional on-street parking. Residents have added benches and tables to the area to serve as an active green space. Similar greenspace cul-de-sacs exist on several other streets in the neighborhood and in other areas of the City. These haven't been brought to our attention to address because homeowners have chosen to utilize their property rather than the street to store their vehicles.

In the months following the installation of the no parking signage Solid Waste Services reached back out to Transportation staff explaining that while the new parking restrictions did assist with ingress to the cul-de-sac they are still being prevented from safely exiting the cul-de-sac due to parked cars. This has resulted in delayed and missed pickup for refuse and recycling. Furthermore, if Solid Waste Services vehicles are unable to navigate an area, the larger emergency services vehicles will experience the same constraint.

Transportation staff met with Solid Waste Services staff in July 2021 on site with one of the City's Solid Waste Services trucks and found that further parking restrictions were needed to ensure safe ingress and egress. In order to correct the access issues, staff will be implementing an additional parking restriction along the south side of 6 feet and the parking on the north side (due to the driveway locations) will be restricted an additional 88 feet. Staff is confident that these updated parking restrictions will provide the necessary roadway widths to ensure safe access for both Solid Waste Services and emergency access. Below are images taken during the site visit:



Solid Waste Services Loader, Wenchelsea Place, July 2021

On July 28, 2021 staff sent mailers to all affected property owners duly notifying them of the proposed changes and provided three weeks to respond the additional parking restrictions with any concerns. The notification period will end on August 20, 2021 at which time staff will place a work order to further restrict the parking.

Staff have received calls and spoken with Mr. Kesel who has expressed his displeasure with additional reductions in on-street parking. Staff anticipates both he and Ms. Voronsky will attend public comment at the August 17 Council meeting to ask the City to make changes to the street to provide additional space for vehicle parking.

Below is a graphic illustration of the existing and proposed parking restriction areas on Wenchelsea Place.



(No attachments)

Holiday Special Events Leaf Collection Program

Staff Resource: Chris McGee, Transportation, 996-6446, christopher.mcgee@raleighnc.gov

City staff recognizes that there are long-standing holiday celebrations in some Raleigh communities that engage neighbors in celebration and invite others from outside the neighborhood to join the festivities. These activities generate increases in vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and an increased need for parking and open, passable sidewalks.

To assist these communities with bulk leaf removal, the Holiday Special Events Leaf Collection, was piloted in the fall of 2020. The program allows communities with legacy holiday programs to apply for special “out-of-sequence” bulk leaf collections to help keep streets and sidewalks open for event visitors. The program also provides Transportation staff with the number and locations of communities requesting this service in advance so that the overall leaf collection program can be adjusted accordingly.

As bulk leaf collection resources are limited, communities must meet certain requirements to qualify for this program. Requirements are listed below, along with instructions for completing the application process.

Participation Requirements

- This program seeks to recognize long established public celebrations. The event must have been in place for five years or more as of January 2021.
- The event may not be prohibitive in any way, and applicants must demonstrate evidence of the celebration's availability to the general public.
- A clearly defined geographical area must be identified that includes a minimum of forty (40) adjacent residential dwelling units.
- Applications and additional requirements can be found at:
<https://raleighnc.gov/news/2021-08-10-holiday-special-events-leaf-collections-program>
- Completed applications must be received by September 7, 2021.

Applications that are approved for participation in the Holiday Special Events Leaf Collection program will be informed directly of scheduled pickup times.

2021 bulk leaf collection is scheduled to begin November 8; the preceding week will be utilized to test equipment and train new staff in the field. For more information on bulk leaf collection, please visit us at: <https://raleighnc.gov/services/content/PublicWorks/Articles/AnnualLeafCollection.html>

(No attachment)

Dix Park Rocky Branch Enhancement Project Update

Staff Resource: Kate Pearce, Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources, 996-4855, kate.pearce@raleighnc.gov

The Rocky Branch Enhancement Project Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was advertised in January on the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System. The intent of the RFQ was to seek statement of qualifications from multi-disciplinary design teams with significant experience in managing complex urban park projects of similar scope and scale. The project is one of priority Phase 1 projects identified in the Dorothea Dix Park Master Plan, adopted by the City Council in February 2019. This first phase of feasibility work is supported by four grants; two grants directly awarded to the Dix Park Conservancy, and two grants awarded directly to the City of Raleigh. During the December 1, 2020 City Council meeting, staff was authorized staff to accept the grant awards, execute the grants, and allocate requisite matching funds to the project. Additionally, a budget amendment for the NC Land and Water Fund to allocate matching funds was authorized January 28, 2021.

The ultimate objective of this work is to understand the feasibility for restoring Rocky Branch to create a nature escape for park-goers in the heart of the city, enhance aquatic habitat and ecosystem functioning, and highlight the ecology of the Piedmont. The Master Plan proposes enhancing the creek by realigning the channel to approximate its original meandering path, widen and reconnect the floodplain, replace the stormwater drainage pipes that empty directly into the stream with uphill green stormwater management practices, remove invasive species along the banks, and stabilize the banks with native plants for habitat creation and ecosystem services. This analysis will help clarify future scope, order of magnitude costs, permitting requirements and other factors that will help City Council and staff further understand this complex project. The feasibility work also includes public engagement, cost estimates and a permitting plan. A staff memorandum which provides additional detail and information is included with the *Update* materials.

(Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Special Events Office, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

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

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

No Items this Week



RATING ACTION COMMENTARY

Fitch Affirms Raleigh, NC Revs at 'AAA'; Outlook Stable

Fri 06 Aug, 2021 - 2:14 PM ET

Fitch Ratings - New York - 06 Aug 2021: Fitch Ratings has affirmed the 'AAA' rating on the following Raleigh, NC (the city) bonds:

--Approximately \$638 million water and sewer revenue and revenue refunding bonds.

Fitch has also assessed the system's Standalone Credit Profile (SCP) at 'aaa'. The SCP represents the credit profile of the Raleigh water and sewer system (the system) on a standalone basis irrespective of its relationship with, and the credit quality of, the city of Raleigh (Issuer Default Rating [IDR] AAA/Stable).

The Rating Outlook is Stable.

ANALYTICAL CONCLUSION

The 'AAA' bond rating and assessment of a 'aaa' SCP reflect the system's extremely low leverage position in relation to very strong revenue defensibility and very low operating risk, the latter two both assessed at 'aa'. Fiscal 2020 leverage (calculated as net adjusted debt to adjusted funds available for debt service [FADS]) of 2.0x marks a steady yoy improvement since 2016 due to increasing FADS, ongoing debt amortization and refunding activity outpacing new issuance. The strength of the system's revenue defensibility is rooted in the city's strong revenue-raising ability, supported by a broad and diverse

customer base and very strong rate flexibility. The system's operating risk profile is considered very strong, bolstered by a very low operating cost burden and moderate investment needs.

The city's steady population growth in recent years has necessitated substantial investment in expansion and rehabilitation, and this is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. The system's budgeted fiscal 2021-2025 capital investment plan (CIP) includes \$1.3 billion in capex through fiscal 2025, which is almost 3.0x the amount of spending over the last five years. Based on this level of spending, leverage exceeds 5.0x by fiscal 2024 in Fitch's stress case scenario. Historically, the city has only spent about 70% of its annual capital budget, although the city indicated the budget-to-actual execution rate through the forecast period is expected to more closely align. Over the near term, if the city's level of capital spending approximates planned spending it will be important for the city to take offsetting actions to increase FADS to alleviate possible rating pressure.

CREDIT PROFILE

The city of Raleigh is the county seat of Wake County (IDR AAA/Stable) and the capital of North Carolina, located in the north-central portion of the state. The city forms one point of the Research Triangle Park created in 1959 for industrial, governmental and scientific research, with Chapel Hill and Durham at the other two points. The city is the home of the principal executive, judicial and regulatory offices of state government, as well as six public and private institutions of higher education, including North Carolina State University, the largest university in the state. State, city, county and county schools account for the bulk of the city's employment.

The city owns and operates a potable water distribution and wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system and a reuse water component. The service territory includes the city of Raleigh, several communities adjacent to the city, and portions of Wake County. The system's customer base is growing and is 94% residential.

Water supply is derived primarily from Falls Lake, a multipurpose reservoir owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and to a lesser extent Wheeler and Benson lakes. The system's two water treatment facilities have a combined capacity to treat nearly twice the average daily demand and well in excess of typical peak usage. The wastewater treatment plants are capable of meeting current customer demands, with expansion being added that will ensure capacity for the foreseeable future.

To	Lou Buonpane, Chief of Staff
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Assistant Director, PRCR
From	Kate Pearce, Planning Supervisor, PRCR
Department	PRCR
Date	August 3, 2021
Subject	City Manager's Update: Rocky Branch Enhancement Project

The Rocky Branch Enhancement Project Request for Qualifications was advertised on January 8, 2021 on the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System. The intent of the RFQ was to seek statement of qualifications from multi-disciplinary design teams with significant experience in managing complex urban park projects of similar scope and scale.

The project is one of priority Phase 1 projects identified in the Dorothea Dix Park Master Plan, which was adopted by Raleigh City Council February 19, 2019. This first phase of feasibility work is supported by four grants; two grants directly awarded to the Dix Park Conservancy, and two grants awarded directly to the City of Raleigh. On December 1, 2020, City Council approved staff to accept the grant awards, execute the grants, and allocate requisite matching funds to the project. Additionally, a budget amendment for the NC Land and Water Fund to allocate matching funds was approved by Council on January 28, 2021.

The ultimate objective of this work is to understand the feasibility for restoring Rocky Branch to create a nature escape for park-goers in the heart of the city, enhance aquatic habitat and ecosystem functioning, and highlight the ecology of the Piedmont. The Master Plan proposes enhancing the creek by realigning the channel to approximate its original meandering path, widen and reconnect the floodplain, replace the stormwater drainage pipes that empty directly into the stream with uphill green stormwater management practices, remove invasive species along the banks, and stabilize the banks with native plants for habitat creation and ecosystem services. This analysis will help clarify future scope, order of magnitude costs, permitting requirements and other factors that will help City Council and staff further understand this complex project. The feasibility work also includes public engagement, cost estimates and a permitting plan.



Figure 1- Project Extents

The City of Raleigh’s RFP/RFQ Evaluation Committee Guide and Request for Qualifications Instructions were used throughout the selection process. An interdepartmental city staff evaluation team participated in the selection process. The evaluation team included the following departments: Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources, Planning and Development, Engineering Services, Solid Waste Services, and Public Utilities.

Ten submittals, in the form of a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ), were received in February 2021. The evaluation team independently reviewed the ten submittals and scored each SOQ package based on criteria presented in the RFQ.

Following an evaluation team meeting and review of scores, the group short listed four consultant teams and conducted interviews in March. These interviews also consisted of representatives from multiple City departments. The short-listed consultant teams gave a short presentation, answered specific questions about their qualifications and responded to the interview team’s requests. Key questions related to project understanding, previous experience on like projects (large urban parks, stream restoration and enhancement projects, landfill and brownfield sites), team structure and previous collaboration, community engagement strategy, and grant management experience were asked. Reference checks were also completed for all finalists from former and existing clients.

Staff also gave regular updates to the Dix Park Leadership Committee and Community Committee to keep them informed of the process.

Following interviews, the evaluation team ranked the consultant teams in the following order:

1. Surface 678
2. McAdams | Michael Van Valkenburg Associates
3. Nelson Byrd Woltz
4. VHB

Over the past couple of months, City staff have been negotiating a scope of work with Surface 678. Due to the complexity of this work and amount and scale of existing data and plans completed over the past several decades, staff is recommending an initial contract with a scope of work that is focused on a plan and data review as well as the requisite regulatory coordination with local and state agencies whose involvement in this work is critical. The results of this initial scope of work will provide for an efficient and focused development of the remaining scope to be completed. It is anticipated that this initial scope of work will take 12 weeks to complete at a cost of \$211,068. Future contracts that exceed City Manager Office's administrative approval will require City Council approval.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, August 13 – Thursday, August 19

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

Permitted Special Events

Fayetteville Plaza – Micro Soccer

City Plaza

Friday, August 13 through Monday, September 6

Event Times: 9:00am - 10:00pm daily (times for special programs vary)

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. The off-street, east-side portion of City Plaza will be used through 9-7-21.

South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo

Cabarrus Street

Friday, August 13 & Saturday, August 14

Event Times: 9:00am - 5:00pm on 8-13-21 & 9:00am - 2:00pm on 8-14-21

Associated Road Closures: Cabarrus Street between S. McDowell Street and S. Salisbury Street will be closed from 7:00am on 8-12-21 until 5:00pm on 8-14-21.

Moonlight Howl & Run

Pullen Road & NCSU Campus

Friday, August 13

Event Time: 9:00pm on 8-13-21 to 1:30am on 8-14-21

Associated Road Closures: Pullen Road between Hillsborough Street and Stinson Drive will be closed from 11:40pm on 8-13-21 until 12:30am on 8-14-21. Note that additional roads on NC State Campus will be impacted by the event.

The Wright Village Grand Opening & Anniversary Event

Hubert Street

Sunday, August 15

Event Time: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Associated Road Closures: The final block of Hubert Street west to the dead end will be closed from 10:00am until 6:00pm.

Black Flea Market

Raleigh Union Station Plaza

Sunday, August 15

Event Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Union Station Plaza will be used from 11:00am until 7:00pm.

Other Upcoming Events

Chris Stapleton

Friday, August 13

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

Back to School Supply Drive

Saturday, August 14

Sanderford Road Park

[Giving Back: School Supply Giveaway](#)

Saturday, August 14
Roberts Park

[Guided Walking Tour](#)

Sunday, August 15
Dorothea Dix Park

[Moore Square Market](#)

Sunday, August 15
Moore Square

[Dead and Company](#)

Monday, August 16
Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[Blackberry Smoke](#)

Tuesday, August 17
Red Hat Amphitheater

[Dix Edge Area Study Workshop – Future Development & Housing for All](#)

Tuesday, August 17
Virtual

[Raleigh Rockers Breakdancing in Moore Square](#)

Wednesday, August 18
Moore Square

[GRCVB Annual Meeting](#)

Thursday, August 19
Fletcher Opera Theater

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.