



IN THIS ISSUE

Five Points Streetscape and Safety Study – Signal Modifications
Community Conversation – GoRaleigh Access Paratransit Service
Raleigh Selected for Age-Friendly ADU Design Competition
Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

Capital Boulevard Fatalities and Updates on the Vision Zero Program (Council Member Patton)

INFORMATION:

Work Session - Tuesday, September 12 - 4:00 P.M.

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in a scheduled work session at **4:00 P.M.**

The agenda for the work session was posted to the electronic agenda management system Thursday.

Public Comment Session - Tuesday, September 12 - 7:00 P.M.

Reminder that Council will also meet next **Tuesday** in the scheduled public comment session which begins at **7:00 P.M.**

Five Points Streetscape and Safety Study – Signal Modifications

*Staff Resources: Kenneth Ritchie, Transportation, 996-4112, kenneth.ritchie@raleighnc.gov
Jed Niffenegger, Transportation, 996-4039, jed.niffenegger@raleighnc.gov*

Programmed as part of the adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and kicked off in Spring 2023, the Five Points Streetscape and Safety Study aims to develop strategies and projects to improve safety and access for all road users through, across and around this intersection of Glenwood Avenue, Whitaker Mill Road, Fairview Road and Glenn Avenue. Over the past 2-plus years, staff has worked with the contracted consultant, Kittleson and Associates, as well as area residents and stakeholders in Five Points to assess current conditions and identify potential mitigations for the noted operational and safety issues. Public engagement in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 have helped the consideration of potential options for the

future of this intersection and coordination with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on the current options will continue as future recommendations to the public and Council are further refined.

Identified through this on-going assessment were potential signal phasing and timing modifications that are projected will help to incrementally improve the operations and safety of this intersection in the immediate future as the study efforts continue. In coordination with NCDOT, the City will be implementing the following changes to the signal at the Five Points intersection:

- Addition of a protected left turn signal phase, which will stop on-coming traffic crossing from east-bound Fairview Road, to increase the safety for traffic turning from Whitaker Mill Road onto southbound (toward downtown) Glenwood Avenue; and
- Addition of Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI) at the beginning of pedestrian cycles to allow pedestrians the ability to enter the crosswalk in advance of vehicular traffic being given a green light to begin their movement; and
- Extension of pedestrian walk times during pedestrian cycles to allow more time for pedestrians to cross the street.

In collaboration with the Raleigh Police Department, these signal modifications will take place during the week beginning September 11. Once implemented staff will continue to monitor the operational and safety performance of the intersection, utilizing this data to help inform the continued study and refinement of options for future improvements to this intersection.



Overhead View of Five Points Intersection

(No attachment)

Community Conversation – GoRaleigh Access Paratransit Service

Staff Resource: David Eatman, Transportation-Transit, 996-4040, david.eatman@raleighnc.gov

Transit Division staff with the Department of Transportation hosted a community conversation on Wednesday, September 6 at the Barwell Road Community Center from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. to discuss the recent changes in the GoRaleigh Access paratransit service. The event was created for GoRaleigh Access passengers and operators (taxi companies) to share past and current experiences with the system and to work on concerns with the new paratransit scheduling and dispatch technology, Ecolane.

About 70 people, including both paratransit passengers and operators, attended the session. A brief presentation was shared providing background information on the GoRaleigh Access program, Ecolane technology updates, and ongoing improvement efforts. Approximately 30 people spoke and offered comments, questions, and suggestions for the service. Staff responded to questions as best as possible and addressed specific cases as needed. All attendees were able to participate due to the 13 American Sign Language interpreters and two Spanish translators that were able to attend and provide needed assistance. Through the Q&A, staff heard from speakers that the customer experience has seen some improvement since the technology was first deployed on August 1, but that there are issues still to resolve.

As requested by Access passengers, staff prioritized the work required for passengers to receive the name of their taxi company and the taxi number in advance of pickup via the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. Passengers should receive information both the night before and while a vehicle is in route for pickup; however, the IVR is not yet configured to provide the name of the taxi company. The passenger knows that a taxi is coming, but the IVR can't yet tell the passenger which company is coming. Transit staff is assessing and developing strategies to reduce wait times for the scheduling and dispatch call centers.

A major remaining issue is that several taxi companies are not using the software, or are using the software incorrectly, creating issues with passenger trips that can result in late or missed trips. Transit staff is conducting specific outreach to those specific taxi companies to make sure they are aware of the importance of proper use of the software and to assist with additional training if needed. Training and assistance for taxi operators is available every weekday at the Access offices; staff will soon also require training for companies that continue to exhibit issues with trip performance and proper use of the software. Beginning in October, future payment to taxi operators will only be made if trips are scheduled and completed utilizing the Ecolane software.

After the presentation and Q&A, stations were setup for passengers and operators to discuss individual concerns and needs with a GoRaleigh Access representative. Each representative had a computer and access to the Ecolane software as well as access to all passenger information. This helped to update passenger profiles and needs. The interactive station aspect also helped operators to become more familiar with the Ecolane software.

Many helped with this community conversation including staff from the City Manager's Office, Communications, Community Engagement, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, Transportation, as well as representatives of RATP-Dev and Ecolane.

Transit staff are currently developing a dashboard showing call center and Access operational data. This dashboard should be available in the coming weeks. During the month of August, the Ecolane software tracked 1,179 unique clients, 33,417 client trips, and 7,165 trips to riders accompanying clients.

(No Attachment)

Raleigh Selected for Age-Friendly Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Design Competition

Staff Resource: Katie Dombrowski, Communications, 996-2683, katie.dombrowski@raleighnc.gov

The City has been selected by AARP North Carolina, the R.L. Mace Universal Design Institute (UDI), and the Better Living Design Institute (BLD) as the next city for launching the Age-Friendly ADU design competition. The same design competition is also happening in cities around the U.S., including Omaha NE; Providence RI; Tucson AZ; and Miami FL.

The competition will challenge professional designers to create buildable ADU plans with key and sufficient age-friendly universal design elements that are consistent with home styles in the Raleigh area. The project aims to improve housing options for older adults and increase the housing supply for those who desire to age in place safely and independently. Winning designs will be eligible for the city's online ADU Gallery and Fast Track program.

More information on the competition can be found on the [An ADU for U](#) website.

(No Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 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

Follow up from the August 15 Council Meeting

Capital Boulevard Fatalities and Updates on the Vision Zero Program (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Sean Driskill, Transportation, 996-4088, sean.driskill@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council asked staff to provide an update on efforts to improve transportation safety specifically along the Capital Boulevard corridor. In 2022 and thus far in 2023, there have been 13 fatal crashes on Capital Boulevard, between downtown Raleigh to the Neuse River north of the Perry Creek/Durant Road intersection. There were ten pedestrian fatalities, with seven of the fatalities occurring at or near the intersection of Capital Boulevard and Calvary Drive.

Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum with information on past and current efforts to improve the safety for all users on Capital Boulevard. Also included is sobering data on crashes occurring in Raleigh resulting in fatalities. These numbers illustrate the importance of Raleigh's Vision Zero Program to identify safety concerns, collaborate with our internal and external partners to design safety countermeasures, and implement those in an equitable manner to reduce and eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on our transportation network.

(Attachment)

Permitted Special Events

[Hopscotch Music Festival](#)

City Plaza & Moore Square

Friday, September 8 & Saturday, September 9

Event Times: 4:00pm - 11:00pm on 9-8-23; 1:00pm - 11:00pm on 9-9-23

Associated Road Closures:

- Fayetteville Street between Davie Street and the south end of City Plaza will be closed from 6:00pm on 9-8-23 until 2:00am on 9-10-23
- Martin Street between Salisbury Street and Fayetteville Street will be closed from 8:00am on 9-7-23 until 2:00am on 9-10-23
- Martin Street between Blount Street and Person Street will be closed from 6:00am on 9-9-23 until 2:00am on 9-10-23

[North Hills 5K](#)

North Hills

Saturday, September 9

Event Time: 9:00am - 10:00am

Associated Road Closures: Roads will be closed from 8:45am until 10:00am for the 5K. Note that cross-streets will be detoured one block in each direction, and view the [race route](#) for more information.

[Black Flea Market](#)

Raleigh Union Station Plaza

Sunday, September 10

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

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Union Station Plaza will be used from 12:00pm until 6:00pm every Sunday through 10-29-23.

Other Upcoming Events

[Party in the Park](#)

Friday, September 8

Kiwanis Park

[Outlaw Music Festival](#)

Friday, September 8

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[Foodie Friday](#)

Friday, September 8

Dorothea Dix Park, Flowers Field

[Transportation Job Fair](#)

Friday, September 8 & Saturday, September 9

Raleigh Central Operations Facility

[Noir Bizarre's IHaveADreamPop! Festival](#)

Friday, September 8 & Saturday, September 9

VAE Raleigh

[NC International Auto Expo](#)

Friday, September 8 – Sunday, September 10
Raleigh Convention Center

[Eric Johnson](#)

Saturday, September 9
Fletcher Opera Theater

[Sam Hunt](#)

Saturday, September 9
Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[Eddie Izzard](#)

Saturday, September 9
Memorial Auditorium

[Summer Concert Series](#)

Sunday, September 10
Fred Fletcher Park

[Moore Square Market](#)

Sunday, September 10
Moore Square

[LL COOL J: The F.O.R.C.E. Live](#)

Sunday, September 10
PNC Arena

[Volunteer Day of Service](#)

Monday, September 11
Walnut Creek Trail

[Lil Baby](#)

Monday, September 11
PNC Arena

[Steve-O](#)

Tuesday, September 12
Meymandi Concert Hall

[Jazz in the Square](#)

Thursday, September 14
Moore Square

[Nickelback](#)

Thursday, September 14
Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[Bert Kreischer](#)

Thursday, September 14
PNC Arena

[The Nature of Oaks: An Author's Talk with Douglas W. Tallamy](#)

Thursday, September 14
Dorothea Dix Park, Chapel

[Firebird – Carolina Ballet](#)

Thursday, September 14 – Sunday, October 1
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 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

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Michael Moore, Assistant City Manager
From	Sean Driskill, Vision Zero Program Manager
Department	Transportation
Date	September 6, 2023
Subject	Capital Boulevard Fatalities and Updates on the Vision Zero Program

Current Reported Crash Data

All Vision Zero Programs consider crash statistics. The worst outcome of a crash is a fatality. In 2022, Capital Boulevard accounted for 9 of the 59 total fatalities. Of these 9 fatalities, 6 were pedestrians. So far in 2023, there have been 22 fatalities on our transportation network. Of these, 8 were pedestrians and 4 of these pedestrian fatalities were on Capital Boulevard. In 2022, Capital Boulevard accounted for 25% of the pedestrian fatalities. Thus far in 2023, Capital Boulevard has accounted for 50% of the pedestrian fatalities. Staff has been diligently working both internally and with our partners at NCDOT to identify safety countermeasures at locations along the entire corridor. Low-cost high impact safety countermeasures are being pursued immediately and the larger more comprehensive countermeasures are slated to be installed using various sources including NCDOT's spot safety funding, private development and Vision Zero.

Capital Boulevard & Calvary Drive Intersection

The Capital Blvd./Calvary Dr. intersection has had a frequency of crashes. A low-cost high impact project is underway and will be nearing completion in the next few weeks. This project is a collaboration between NCDOT and the city. High-visibility crosswalks have been installed and flexible delineators will also be added at 3 of the 4 corners of the Capital Blvd./Calvary Dr. intersection. This will shorten the crosswalk length for pedestrians and tighten the turning radii, slowing down traffic turning at this intersection. The addition of more streetlights around this intersection and other darker areas of Capital Blvd. are currently being investigated with our partners at Duke Energy and NCDOT. In addition to this project, there is design work currently underway as well at this intersection for the following improvements.

- Relocate the existing transit stops closer to the intersection.
- Upgrades to the signal design to make it more pedestrian friendly.
- Realign and shorten pedestrian crosswalk lengths.
- Add reflective backplates for all signal heads.
- Add median refuges on both sides of the intersection to shorten the Capital Blvd. crossing.

Other work along Capital Boulevard

Multiple intersections along Capital Blvd. were upgraded with high-visibility crosswalks earlier this year. NCDOT also has a project funded to install guardrail at the Fairview Road underpass near downtown Raleigh. This is the location in which 1 crash resulted in 5 fatalities in 2021. The Capital Blvd. at Highwoods Blvd. and Capital Blvd. at New Hope Church Rd./Buffaloe Rd. intersections also have traffic & pedestrian safety improvements identified and the city will be pursuing funding through NCDOT.

Update on Vision Zero Program

It has been approximately 6 months since staff introduced the Vision Zero program to Council. Since this Manager's Update touches on numerous parts of the program, staff felt it prudent to provide an update on work/projects that are underway.

SS4A Grant

At the February 14th, 2023 Council Works Session, staff notified Council that Raleigh had been selected to receive a \$1 million SS4A grant. The grant award was for Raleigh to hire an engineering firm to help develop a Vision Zero Comprehensive Safety Action plan.

- Grant agreement with FHWA has been signed and approved by Council at the July 5th, 2023 meeting.
- FHWA executed the grant agreement on July 25th.
- Staff is actively developing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select a firm to help develop the Action Plan.
- In late Fall 2023, staff will be selecting a firm through the RFQ process and seeking Council approval including execution of a contract.
- The firm selected for the Action Plan will develop a comprehensive, data driven, equitable action plan with input from numerous stakeholders in our community. This action plan will identify projects based on a matrix of items, designed to significantly lower the number of serious fatal crashes.
- Once the City of Raleigh Comprehensive Safety Action Plan is completed and adopted, the city can seek addition SS4A grant implementation funding, up to \$30 million, to build safety projects identified in the plan.

Communications

Since the February 14th, 2023 City Council Work Session, staff has been diligently working with the Communications Department to develop a webpage. A major component of any Vision Zero program is public outreach and storytelling. The webpage will grow and expand as the program continues. The webpage is active on the RaleighNC.gov website. It explains Vision Zero, highlights the guiding principles/commitments, list completed safety project improvements, and spotlights upcoming improvements.

<https://raleighnc.gov/transit-streets-and-sidewalks/services/vision-zero>

Planned & Implemented Work

In addition to launching the Vision Zero program, the transportation safety program has continually been making improvements throughout the city and below is a comprehensive list of projects that are in the pipeline, under construction and completed.

Spot Safety Projects

City staff work consistently with NCDOT to find locations with established crash patterns and develop solutions. Since the last update, the city has submitted multiple projects to NCDOT for competitive funding. NCDOT has successfully acquired funding for 9 safety improvement projects totaling \$2.43M. The locations and improvements are listed below:

- Eva Mae Dr./New Hope Rd.- \$900k- Installation of traffic signal and construction of left turn lanes.
- Cole St./Glenwood Ave./Wade Ave. Turn Lanes- \$384k- Installation of left turn lanes with associated traffic signal improvements.
- Person St./Polk St.- \$158k- Installation of a traffic signal.
- Fidelity Blvd./Gulf Ct./Westgate Rd.- \$110K- Installation of a traffic signal.
- Trinity Rd./Edwards Mill Rd. - \$128k- Traffic signal modifications to provide pedestrian accommodations.
- Glenwood Ave./Blue Ridge Rd./Lead Mine Rd.- \$178k- Traffic signal modifications to provide pedestrian accommodations.
- South Saunders St./I-40/I-440- \$425k- Traffic signal and sidewalk/ramp modifications to provide a signalized pedestrian route (north to south) along South Saunders St. at the I-40/I-440 interchange.
- Capital Blvd. (Fairview Rd. Underpass) & Buffaloe Rd./Tallyhoe Dr.- \$150k- Guardrail improvements.

Intersection Signalization:

Staff has identified 10 intersections on the City’s network that have crash patterns correctable by signalization. Engineering Services is currently managing the construction of traffic signals at the following 3 intersections:

- Atlantic Ave./Atlantic Springs Rd.
- Hillsborough St./Park Ave.
- Atlantic Ave./Industrial Dr.

The 7 remaining intersections are being designed by engineering consultant firms. Once designed, construction will be managed by in-house staff. The 7 intersections are the following:

- Poplarwood Ct./Highwoods Blvd.
- Wakefield Pines Dr./Mabry Mills St. (Wakefield Middle School)
- Wakefield Pines Dr./Schoolhouse Dr. (Wakefield High School)
- Perry Creek Rd./Midtown Market Ave. (Riverbend Elementary)
- Glenwood Ave./Washington St.
- Glenwood Ave./W. Lane St.
- Gorman St. at Jackson St./Wolf Village Way

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)

RRFB’s are pedestrian actuated beacons that flash rapidly, greatly improving the safety for pedestrians crossing the street. A large order of RRFBs was made in early Spring 2023 for twelve locations. Installation of these devices will start shortly with most being completed this upcoming Fall 2023/Winter 2024. The twelve locations are the following:

- Blount St./Bragg St.
- Blount St./GoRaleigh Station
- Dillard Dr./Orabelle Ct.
- Salisbury St./The Performing Arts Center
- Wakefield Pines Dr./Mabry Mills St.

- Lake Boone Trl./Myron Dr.
- Centennial Blvd./Nazareth St.
- Person St./Bragg St.
- Wakefield Pines Dr./Schoolhouse Dr.
- Wilmington St./One Exchange Plaza
- Buck Jones Rd./Grace Christian School
- Wilmington St./Shaw University

Expansion of Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs)

LPIs allow pedestrians to enter the intersection several seconds before the concurrent vehicle gets a green light. This gives pedestrians a head start and increases their visibility to drivers. LPIs were implemented within the entire downtown core as part of the Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project Phase 1. Since then, staff have developed new signal plans and implemented LPI's at twenty-three new locations listed below.

- Anderson Dr./Glenwood Ave./St. Mary's St.
- Boylan Ave./Morgan St.
- Capital Blvd. (NB Ramp)/Peace St.
- Chapanoke Dr./Wilmington St.
- Franklin St./Person St.
- Glenwood Ave./Tucker St.
- Harrington St./Peace St.
- Hillsborough St./West St.
- MLK Blvd./Person St.
- MLK Blvd./Salisbury St./Wilmington St.
- Newton Rd./Six Forks Rd
- Peace St./West St.
- Blount St./MLK Blvd.
- Capital Blvd./Crabtree Blvd.
- Carriage Tour Ln./Strickland Rd.
- Creedmoor Rd./Plaza Pl.
- Glenwood Ave./Jones St.
- Halifax St./Peace St./Salisbury St./Wilmington St.
- Hillsborough St./Meredith College
- Lake Wheeler Rd./Tryon Rd.
- MLK Blvd./Raleigh Blvd.
- New Bern Ave./Raleigh Blvd.
- Oberlin Rd./Wayland Dr.

Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project Phase 2

The City and NCDOT Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Phase 1 Project was a major accomplishment in terms of making the downtown core safer for pedestrians. Some of the work accomplished included lowering the speed limit to 25 mph, addition of LPI's, removal of most dual turning movements, and prohibition of right turns on red lights. Staff has continued to work with NCDOT to develop a Phase 2. This phase will focus primarily on the uncontrolled mid-block crossings (approx. 20) scattered throughout the downtown. Staff will provide more information once a scope is finalized, and funding is secured.

School Related Improvements

Roadway improvements around schools are a priority for any Vision Zero Program. School zones can have a high concentration of children that walk and bike to school. Staff has worked to improve the signing and delineation at 33 school zones. In addition, staff is leveraging Safe Routes to School funding to improve the safety of school zones. This funding was meant to be a match for Federal Highway's Safe Routes to School program, however that program hasn't been funded for several years. Instead, the funding is being used to address a lot of smaller safety improvement projects. Some of the schools being addressed are the following:

- Dillard Middle School
- Broughton Magnet High School
- Grace Christian School
- Joyner Magnet Elementary School
- Lacy Elementary School
- Lead Mine Elementary School
- Oberlin Middle School
- Riverbend Elementary School
- RISE SE Raleigh Charter School
- Sycamore Creek Elementary
- Wildwood Forest Elementary School
- Wiley Elementary School
- West Millbrook Magnet Middle School
- Wakefield Middle and Wakefield Elementary Schools