



IN THIS ISSUE

Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): Program Update Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

Glenwood South Area Study - Social City Assessment Update (Council Member Harrison)

City Offices Closed in Observance of Veterans Day

Please note City administrative offices will be **closed** on **Friday, November 10** in observance of the **Veterans Day** holiday.

Work Session - Tuesday, November 14 - 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, November 14 - 7:00 P.M.

In addition, Council will also meet next **Tuesday** for the scheduled public comment session at **7:00 P.M.**

The agenda was posted to the electronic agenda management system also on Thursday.

INFORMATION:

Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): Program Update

Staff Resource: Het Patel, Transportation - Transit, 996-5120 het.patel@raleighnc.gov

Cara Russell, Transportation - Transit, 996-4123 cara.russell@raleighnc.gov

As the designated sponsor for the Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program, staff continues to advance various aspects, including planning and public engagement. An update regarding the program was last provided to Council on March 20, 2023. This update focuses on upcoming Fall 2023 outreach and engagement.

Wake Bus Rapid Transit Fall 2023 Outreach & Engagement: Outreach and Engagement activities are scheduled for the BRT program from Nov. 13 – Dec.15, 2023. This round of engagement will focus specifically on the BRT Northern Corridor Major Investment Study (MIS). The purpose of the MIS is to identify two preferred routes: one route alternative from Downtown Raleigh to Midtown Raleigh and another route alternative from Downtown Raleigh to Triangle Town Center.

The Wake BRT Project website has undergone changes to prepare for the fall outreach and engagement. It marks the launch of the Project Connect Site, specifically focusing on the survey and engagement opportunity for Northern Corridor. The other corridor pages will also receive a project status update along with updated one-page project handout.

Engagement activities are planned both in person and online to solicit feedback on the initial screening of Northern Corridor route alternatives. Three (3) in person open houses for the project will be held in person in November and December at Seroma Arts Center, Durant Nature Preserve and Raleigh Union Station. Project staff will be available to provide updates and answer questions from the public. Additionally, a Virtual Ask a Planner will be held on Dec. 14 and a recording of the live virtual Q&A session will be posted on the City's website.

Promotional and marketing efforts for the open house include yard signs, posting flyers at city and county facilities including City of Raleigh Park Community Centers and Wake County libraries. In addition, gov-delivery, GoRaleigh newsletters, and social media will be utilized to spread the word. Postcard notifications will be mailed to property owners and tenants directly along the respective BRT corridors to notify community members about project updates available as well as additional notification specific to the Northern Corridor study area property owners and tenants. Ridership will be targeted through signage at transit shelters in the Northern Corridor study area as well as pop-up engagement events. Staff will also be looking to coordinate tabling at community and city events such as the Western and Southern Corridor Station Area Planning meetings in the month of December 2023.

(No attachments)

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 June 20 Council Meeting

Glenwood South Area Study - Social City Assessment Update (Council Member Harrison)

Staff Resources: Bradley Kimbrell, Transportation, 996-4112, bradley.kimbrell@raleighnc.gov

Dhanya Sandeep, Planning & Development, 996-2659, dhanya.sandeep@raleighnc.gov

Whitney Schoenfeld, Office of Special Events, 996-2204, whitney.schoenfeld@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council requested staff develop a scope of work and estimate for a Glenwood South Area Study to include streetscape, traffic, parking and safety as considered elements. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response to this request.

(Attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, November 10 – Thursday, November 16

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

Permitted Special Events

[IKE Digital Kiosk Ribbon Cutting](#)

Market Plaza

Tuesday, November 14

Event Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Market Plaza will be used from 9:00am until 1:00pm.

[Pickleball in the Plaza](#)

City Plaza

Through Thursday, November 30

Event Times: 9:00am - 9:00pm daily

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. The off-street, westside portion of City Plaza behind Shish Kabob will be used until 5:00pm on 11-30-23.

Other Upcoming Events

[Duelo De Acordeones](#)

Friday, November 10

Memorial Auditorium

[NC Master Chorale – This Love Between Us](#)

Friday, November 10

Meymandi Concert Hall

[Abilene Christian vs. NC State](#)

Friday, November 10

PNC Arena

[Veterans Day Luncheon](#)

Saturday, November 11

John Chavis Memorial Park

[Daniel Barksdale's Sunday Morning \(The Stage Play\)](#)

Saturday, November 11

Fletcher Opera Theater

[Women's History Month Historic Raleigh Trolley Tour](#)

Sunday, November 12

Mordecai Historic Park

[Active Adult Murder Mystery Party](#)

Tuesday, November 14

Five Points Center for Active Adults

[Rod Wave](#)

Tuesday, November 14

PNC Arena

[The Kingston Trio](#)

Tuesday, November 14
Fletcher Opera Theater

[Philadelphia Flyers vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Wednesday, November 15
PNC Arena

[Vivaldi's Four Seasons – Carolina Ballet](#)

Thursday, November 16 – Sunday, November 19
Memorial Auditorium

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 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	Paul Kallam, Director
From	Kenneth Ritchie, Mobility Strategy, and Infrastructure Manager
Department	Transportation
Date	November 6, 2023
Subject	City Council Follow Up Item/Glenwood South Area Study & Sociable City Assessment – Scope and Cost Estimate Considerations

Background

The Glenwood South corridor is unique to Raleigh and is experiencing renewed development interest contributing significantly to the downtown growth trend. This trend was evident even back in December of 1997, when the City Council adopted the Glenwood South Small Area Plan and authorized staff to prepare a streetscape and parking plan for the Glenwood Avenue commercial area. The goals of the Streetscape Plan were to create a coordinated streetscape concept, recommend parking improvements and to fine tune code standards necessary to support a pedestrian oriented urban development pattern.

The Glenwood South streetscape plan was initially adopted in 2000 and amended in 2008 and 2009, to address off-street parking requirements and maximum building heights. The plan boundary included Hillsborough Street to the south, Peace Street to the north, Boylan Avenue to the west and Capital Boulevard to the east. A participatory planning process involved local business and property owners in the identification of streetscape improvements and the coordination of parking to support business investment. The main objective was to emphasize the unique identity of the area as an urban entertainment and business destination within the downtown region. To support continued development investment in the area and an efficient urban pattern, the plan included improvements to the pedestrian environment and connections to adjacent employment centers, transit stops, and parking. A link to the original Glenwood South Streetscape Plan is provided below.

https://cityofraleigh0drupal.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/drupal-prod/COR22/Glenwood_South_Streetscape_Plan.pdf

Almost two decades later, much of the recommendations of the plan have been implemented and contributes to the continuing success and vibrancy of this corridor. Overhead utility lines have been placed underground, parking streamlined, zoning

regulations amended for new development pattern, sidewalk and streetscape elements established as redevelopment evolved.

With the evolution of downtown and emergence of other modes of transportation, there is an opportunity to conduct further analysis of the parking options, multimodal mobility connections, and other emerging impacts to the streetscape conditions along this corridor to ensure that it continues to serve the needs of the community as a safe, vibrant, and entertainment corridor in Raleigh.

Draft Scope of Work

The City Council has asked staff to develop a scope of work and cost estimate for a Glenwood South Area Study to include streetscape, traffic, parking, and safety as considered elements. The scope of work and costs considered by staff is described briefly here.

Glenwood South Area Study – Cost \$250,000 - \$500,000 (Based on scope)

Goals of the study are to:

- Create a new streetscape plan to guide decisions for enhancing the streetscape along Glenwood South corridor for future generations.
- Develop a unifying urban design language and streetscape plan for this section of the corridor incorporating many elements from the rebuild section.
- Create a more flexible and “useable” streetscape that allows for more opportunities for seating, gathering, festivals, and outdoor dining.
- Promote safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all centered around Vision Zero.

Inventory and Analysis of existing conditions

Evaluate the existing streetscape conditions within the project area. Identify assets, opportunities and challenges that relate to multimodal access and use of the corridor, with special emphasis on the pedestrian and curb zones. Scope could include the following:

- Confirm the boundary of the streetscape plan and any adjustments needed.
- Inventory will include typically repeating features, their dimensions, and the measures in-between them.
 - o Presence, materials, and typical locations of street furnishings (benches, light poles, traffic lights, bike racks, bike lockers, scooter parking, planter pots, signage, parking, and other streetscape elements).
 - o Seat walls, planting areas, and tree grates.
 - o Utility boxes.
 - o Pedestrian paving and street curb measures and materials.
 - o Curb ramp dimensions, design, and materials.
 - o Plant material (typical street trees, groundcover, and potted plants).
 - o Predominant material and color of building façades on each block of

Glenwood South Corridor.

- Develop draft recommendations for streetscape elements for different blocks of the Glenwood South Corridor. The standards should try to build upon the previous plan and achieve some level of uniformity and maintain the unique and special entertainment character for the entire corridor.
 - o The document will include detailed construction details for each element and furnishings, along with color and finishings. For each element more than two material options will be provided. This will be used for material specifications for future development proposals.
- Review all existing as-built plans for streetscape layouts and construction details.
- Evaluate the overall conditions related to traffic and safety within the project area, and the anticipated effects to surrounding corridors. This would include:
 - o Analyze the existing context and challenges for all modes of transportation.
 - o Work closely with other on-going studies to identify comprehensive findings and provide aligned recommendations.
 - o Crash analysis.
 - o Mode counts (including vehicle, pedestrian, bikes, and scooters).
 - o Assess transit demand.
 - o Traffic operations analysis.
 - o Forecasting demand and any shifts related to future infrastructure projects, such as NCDOT's S-Line Rail Service project.
- Evaluate opportunities to improve:
 - o Sidewalk design and dimensions, street cross sections, ADA accessibility and safe crossings, on-street parking, loading zones, street trees and stormwater management, street lighting and building frontage lighting requirements, transit stop location and design, public amenities including seating and other furnishings.
- Evaluate moving the curb-line to widen the sidewalks to improve the pedestrian experience.
- Evaluate the pros/cons of amending vehicular parking and circulation patterns.
- Right-of-way standards to guide redevelopment and future capital investments.
- Development of an implementation strategy to fund streetscape elements.
- Opportunities for short-term improvements and community-led placemaking.
- Project development - level costs for different elements.

Sociable City Assessment – Estimated Cost \$100,000

With the rapid influx of visitors to downtown in the wake of the pandemic, Raleigh's robust nightlife scene could benefit from a holistic analysis of its strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. With this in mind, in August, staff in the Office of Special Events and the Urban Projects Group met with staff from Savannah, Georgia, who highly recommended doing a Sociable City Assessment with the [Responsible Hospitality Institute](#) (RHI) and found great value in the process. RHI is a non-profit organization that has been providing hospitality and nightlife solutions for 40 years. Their mission is to help communities create safe, vibrant, and well-managed places to

socialize. Many cities in the US and globally have worked with RHI, with Savannah being the most recent.

RHI conducts a yearlong assessment of a city's social economy including core measures of *safety, community, culture, development, hospitality, and administration*. The Sociable City Assessment is led by RHI staff and includes the involvement of 100+ stakeholders through community engagement. Stakeholders include city staff, property owners, businesses, patrons, residents, etc. who can bring different insights and perspectives about nightlife and the social economy. At the end of the study, a final report is provided to the city detailing an action plan with implementation strategies and steps.

Staff have shared this opportunity with others in Transportation, Planning and Development, and the City Manager's Office. Staff will continue to pursue this study in tandem with the Glenwood South Area Study pending Council authorization and funding.

Attached is additional information on the Social City Assessment, as provided by RHI.

Attachment

Raleigh's Sociable City Assessment (SCA)

Develop a Comprehensive Action Plan for Long-Term Success

The Sociable City Assessment is an in-depth analysis of your city's social economy. The process will identify trends, strengths and challenges in RHI's Six Core Measures of a Sociable City. You'll receive a detailed Action Plan to serve as a blueprint for city and community leaders to enhance vibrancy, assure safety and refine systems for governance and planning.

Community Engagement: Stakeholder Perspectives

The SCA is a robust community engagement process. RHI will help build bridges of trust and communication among 100+ stakeholders who care about Raleigh's social economy and the future of your city.

HOSPITALITY	SAFETY	DEVELOPMENT	CULTURE	COMMUNITY	ADMINISTRATION
Restaurant Café Bar/Pub/Tavern Entertainment Tourism Conventions Suppliers Trainers	Police – Fire City Manager Traffic Safety Regulatory Attorney Code Compliance Risk Management Security Training	Planning Developer Property Owner Bank/Finance Transportation Parking/Valet Sanitation/Trash Public Works	Musicians DJ's Promoters Arts/Culture Cinema/Theater Media Festivals/Events Commissions	Residents Colleges Students Realtors Rental Agents Prevention Elected Officials Social Services	City Manager City Council Mayor's Office City Attorney Department Heads Economic Data Jobs Data Crime Data

Framework for Analysis

RHI's conceptual framework will be used to assess strengths, challenges and areas for improvement in nightlife and social economy management.



Timeline: 9-12 Months | 4 On Site Visits | Virtual Interviews | Research

Deliverables: Analysis of Strengths and Challenges | Action Plan Report | Policy Review

About RHI

The Responsible Hospitality Institute (RHI) is a non-profit organization founded in 1983. RHI is the leading source of information on trends and strategies in social economy safety management in North America. RHI's expertise has provided direct technical assistance to more than 80 U.S. and Canadian cities to facilitate collaborative solutions to nightlife challenges.

Cost: \$100,000