

Manager's Update

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IN THIS ISSUE

Monthly Update on Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

GoRaleigh Transit – Services Changes Next Month

Try Transit Week 2025

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

Park Safety Update (Council Member Branch)

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, September 16; Lunch Work Session at 11:30 - Lunch Will be Provided

Council will meet in regular work session at **11:30 A.M.** in the **Council Chamber**. Please note the agenda for the lunch work session is included with the regular meeting agenda and may be accessed via the eScribe electronic agenda system:

<https://pub-raleighnc.escribemeetings.com/>

The **regular** Council meeting begins at **1:00 P.M.**

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

INFORMATION:

Monthly Update on Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

Staff Resource: Sarah Shaughnessy, Planning & Development, 996-2234, sarah.shaughnessy@raleighnc.gov

[Reflecting Raleigh](#) is the process for developing the Next Comprehensive Plan. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which includes a summary of Phase I and a forecast of Phase II. Council will have an opportunity to discuss this information with staff at the upcoming retreat.

(Attachment)

GoRaleigh Transit – Services Changes Next Month

Staff Resource: David Walker, Transportation, 996-3942, David.Walker@RaleighNC.gov

GoRaleigh will increase transit services starting October 12. Funding through the Wake Transit half-cent sales tax allows GoRaleigh to continue growth in one of the Four Big Moves from the Wake Transit Plan, increasing the City's frequent, reliable urban network.

- **Route 1 - Capital:** Increase frequency to every 10 minutes on weekdays, every 15 minutes on weekends, and every half hour in the late evenings.
- **Route 7 - South Saunders:** Continue 15-minute frequency later in the evening, increase to 15-minute frequency on weekends.
- **Route 15 - WakeMed:** Continue 15-minute frequency later in the evening, increase to 15-minute frequency on weekends.
- **Route 33L - Knightdale:** Increase weekday frequency from 60 minutes to 45 minutes, eliminating long layover.

The most significant of the frequency increases above is Route 1 - Capital, making it the first route in the system to have 10-minute frequencies. The route has experienced exponential growth in ridership, over 50%, in the last Fiscal Year (FY). With over 940,000 rides in FY25, transit is forecasting this route will become the first route, producing over one million rides in FY26. The significant ridership and frequency improvement is needed to continue to meet the demand for this route.

With the growth for Route 1 - Capital, staff coordinated with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to receive approval to buy out the federal interest in the 60' articulated buses (or accordion buses) originally purchased for Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) New Bern Avenue project with our local Wake Transit funds. The federal buyout allows GoRaleigh to operationalize our fleet of seven (7) 60' accordion buses to meet existing capacity needs. The delays experienced through design and construction for Wake BRT New Bern Avenue project have provided an opportunity to introduce these buses into a fixed-route revenue service on Route 1 - Capital.

This federal buyout will allow GoRaleigh to utilize the original federal grant funds towards new 60' accordion buses for BRT service on New Bern Avenue Corridor as we get closer to BRT operations. The 60' accordion buses allow for more space and higher capacity, reducing overcrowding on this high demand route (A typical GoRaleigh bus is 40'). The 60' accordion buses also have three doors on the right side, which will speed up the ability for transit customers to get off the bus.

Staff will be displaying the GoRaleigh branded 60' accordion bus on Friday, September 26 from 10 – 11 a.m. at GoRaleigh Station as one of the highlights of Try Transit Week (September 22-26).

(No attachment)

Try Transit Week 2025

Staff Resources: Andrea Epstein, Transportation, 996-4186, andrea.epstein@raleighnc.gov

Try Transit Week is an annual campaign run by the Transportation Department's transit division and will be held Monday, September 22, 2025 - Friday, September 26, 2025. Try Transit Week is an educational event designed to encourage people to take a ride with GoRaleigh and celebrate those who already have. Throughout the week we will be hosting events and promotions for residents including:

Monday, Sept. 22nd: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Showcase

Join staff for the BRT Open House from 4 - 6 p.m. at John Chavis Memorial Park to learn about BRT, planning, design, see a 60' articulated bus (or accordion bus) and more.

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd: Rider Appreciation Day

Ride the bus to different locations throughout the system to talk with GoRaleigh staff and receive fun giveaways.

Wednesday, Sept. 24th: GoGreen with GoRaleigh

Transit staff will be at GoRaleigh Station giving out sustainable giveaways and discussing the environmental benefits of GoRaleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 25th: Transit Employee Appreciation Day

Staff will be celebrating those that help make GoRaleigh a success including operators, maintenance, planners and others.

Friday, Sept. 26th: New Service is Coming

Join staff at GoRaleigh Station from 10 - 11 a.m. to learn about our new services rolling out on October 12, 2025, and see the new 60' articulated bus (or accordion bus) that will be serving Route 1 - Capital.

(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 18 Council Meeting

Park Safety Update (Council Member Branch)

Staff Resource: Adam Forman, Raleigh Parks, 996-4825, adam.forman@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council requested that staff provide an update on security services at Nash Square, nighttime security patrols at Lions, Chavis, and Roberts parks, security technologies within City parks, and police deployment in City parks. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum detailing security measures undertaken by Raleigh Parks, ongoing collaboration with Raleigh Police Department, as well as new and planned measures to address the safety concerns that were elevated at the Council meeting.

(Attachment)

| | |
|------------|---|
| To | Marchell Adams-David, City Manager |
| Thru | Patrick O. Young, AICP, Planning & Development Director |
| From | Sarah Shaughnessy, AICP, Principal Planner |
| Department | Planning and Development |
| Date | September 12, 2025 |
| Subject | Monthly Update on Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan |

Overview

Raleigh's Comprehensive Plan serves as the city's long-term vision for the built environment. [Reflecting Raleigh](#) is the process of developing the Next Comprehensive Plan, which will include a focus on sustainable and equitable growth, aligning adopted city plans and priorities, and enhanced community engagement.

The first of five project phases included robust engagement with the Raleigh Community. The second phase of Reflecting Raleigh will focus on developing draft content for Raleigh's Next Comprehensive Plan based on the information collected in Phase I in combination with the upcoming work of a Citizen Assembly and Technical Teams of subject matter experts.

This memorandum highlights engagement activities and key themes from Phase I of the project, provides details on the specific components of Phase II, and highlights some of the work staff is undertaking to prepare for Phase III.

Phase I – Key Takeaways from Engagement

Phase I of Reflecting Raleigh included a range of engagement activities designed to share information with the public on best practices, key challenges, and opportunities as Raleigh grows and to collect information from the public on priorities, challenges, community assets, and solutions.

During the 12 months of Phase 1, more than 8,000 people engaged with the Reflecting Raleigh in some capacity, virtually or in-person, excluding email, website and social media interactions. The highest level of engagement was among online participants with 3,295 views of recorded presentations on YouTube, and 1,278 people completing online surveys. Of the in-person engagement activities, staff spoke with the most residents at community events where there were opportunities to table.

Across activities, five top priorities emerged from participant input:

- 1. Community education and engagement.** At every event and across surveys, residents expressed a desire to engage with the city and learn about how they can contribute to fostering vibrant neighborhoods.
- 2. “Smart” growth through strategic density and connectivity.** Density and managing the pace of growth were critical points of discussion across topic areas. Despite a stated desire for more dense development, 60% of 141 respondents in the housing survey said they either live in or

would prefer to live in a single-family detached home. To balance these preferences, people suggested concentrating density downtown and in strategic areas around the city, leaving other neighborhoods unchanged.

3. **Housing affordability, variety, and supply.** Residents universally agreed that housing costs have risen, making it more difficult to afford rent, mortgages, and utilities. Feedback varied on how best to address rising housing costs and the shortage of units. Residents who expressed concerns about rapid growth and development often cited increasing housing costs and fear of displacement as primary reasons to keep density low. At the same time, other residents called for higher-density development to support city revenue and additional housing.
4. **Sustainable development and infrastructure.** With so much rapid growth, residents shared that sustainable infrastructure should be a priority. Many participants were wary of building on city outskirts, preferring to build where infrastructure already exists. Other community members were concerned that existing infrastructure may not be able to handle stormwater management if infill development adds to the existing systems without making them more sustainable. Residents shared strong desires to see innovative green solutions and collaborative partnerships between the city and other organizations.
5. **Preservation and distribution of natural resources.** Raleigh residents take pride in their City of Oaks. Community input reflected a desire to protect, restore, and celebrate Raleigh's trees. People would rather prioritize maintaining mature trees over replacing them with younger ones, especially for how they aid in stormwater management. They also asked for more planting of native trees, especially oak trees, to honor Raleigh's natural environment. People asked the city to specifically prioritize historically underserved areas, low-income neighborhoods, and areas with higher recorded temperatures in our efforts to maintain green space and natural shade.

A full report of the Phase I will be available on the [project website](#) later this month.

Phase II – Plan Development

Phase II of the project will focus on developing the content of the next plan, based on emerging issues and public input received in Phase I, through a Civic Assembly of Raleigh residents and a series of topic-based technical teams of subject matter experts. In Phase II, staff will also be seeking consultant services to prepare a cost of growth analysis

Civic Assembly

A [Civic Assembly](#) is a group of people selected by a lottery who are broadly representative of a community. They spend significant time learning and collaborating through facilitated deliberation to find common ground and form collective recommendations for policy makers, decision makers, and the community.

Citizens or civic assemblies have been used for decades in other countries and are gaining traction in the US. Some examples include [Deschutes County, Oregon](#), who convened an assembly to focus on the issue of youth homelessness, and the [City of Boulder](#), Colorado, whose staff are currently implementing a Community Assembly to refine the vision for 15-minute neighborhoods, a part of an update to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan. The general process for convening an assembly convening includes:

- Promotion and invitation
- Sortition (a stratified random sampling process)
- Learning
- Deliberation
- Recommendations

This strategy is an evolution of other engagement methods the city has used for a variety of projects. Many projects over the last decade have included some type of advisory group made up of residents of the city. Some other planning projects that have utilized engagement groups include the Falls North, Dix Edge, Walkable Midtown area plans.

The goal of this strategy is to hear from residents who seldom or never participate in city initiatives. The assembly will be selected blindly based on demographic representation of the city. Selection for this group will most closely mirror Community Survey participation. Prior engagement groups have been organized by self-selection, which limits variety of community representation. Assembly members will also be paid for their time. Staff have researched best practices and are consulting with the [National Civic League](#) to implement the Raleigh assembly with objectivity and transparency.

The Civic Assembly, along with other Reflecting Raleigh engagement activities, will be implemented in close partnership between Planning and Development and Community Engagement staff. City Council will hear more about the Citizen Assembly at the upcoming retreat and will be asked to verify the assembly's assignment, sometimes called a remit or mandate.

Some options include:

- Raleigh's population will likely continue to grow. How can the city help ensure that this growth will make Raleigh better for everyone in the next 20 years?
- How can Raleigh meet the needs of existing neighborhoods while building new housing for our growing population?
- Raleigh is in the process of improving transit service around the city. How should the next comprehensive plan help improve access to the new service?

Staff drafted the options based on emerging themes from public engagement in phase I and based on feedback staff have received from residents, City Council, and other stakeholders in the Raleigh community. The recommendations developed by the Civic Assembly in response to the remit will guide the development of policies for the new comprehensive plan.

Technical Teams

In addition to the Civic Assembly, five technical teams of subject matter experts will also support the development of the plan in Phase II. These teams will be organized by topic area and include staff, representatives from city boards and commissions, and 4-5 subject matter experts from the Raleigh community, selected by application and endorsed by City Council.

Staff selected the technical team topics based on input received in Phase I. They are:

- Land Use

- Transportation
- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Natural Resources
- Infrastructure & Community Services

The teams align with the themes of the Community Conversation series with two differences. Based on the substantial overlap in comments across the Stormwater and Trees community conversations, staff have combined those topics into a single Natural Resources team. Given the centrality of land use in the comprehensive plan, Land Use will be a standalone team.

Cost of Growth Analysis

Additionally during Phase II, a consultant team will undertake an analysis to understand specific operational and capital costs associated with growth. This analysis will be used to assess and refine Raleigh's current adopted Future Land Use and Growth Framework Maps and inform policies related to growth and infrastructure concurrency. This analysis will also link land use planning with Raleigh's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Operational Budget, allowing for steady-state budgeting by forecasting capital and service needs based on incremental growth. Finally, this analysis will reveal and help communicate tradeoffs between different patterns and types of development.

The proposed scope of work includes the following components:

1. Evaluate anticipated costs of serving Raleigh residents
2. Estimate the tax value and tax revenue of new growth in Raleigh
3. Forecast capital needs over the next 20 years based on clear level-of-service (LOS) standards, anticipated population growth, and land development.
4. Update the facility fee schedule based on the anticipated needs of Raleigh's growing population.

Planning and Development is collaborating with key staff from the City Attorney's Office, Budget & Management, Finance, Transportation, Parks, Stormwater, Raleigh Water, Police, Fire, and Solid Waste Services on the development of the scope.

Phase III - Plan Presentation

Phase III will involve drafting the plan and developing relevant tools, such as map and data dashboards, to communicate the content of the plan and to track implementation after the plan is adopted. Staff are currently developing a scope of work for writing, design, and user experience of Raleigh's next comprehensive plan. This work will be completed by staff across city departments with additional support from a consultant team, to be selected through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, September 12 – Thursday, September 18

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

Permitted Special Events

[Sola Hot Mini 5K](#)

Sawmill Road & Route

Saturday, September 13

Event Time: 8:30am - 10:00am

Associated Road Closures: Roads will be closed from 8:20am until 10:00am. Note that all cross-streets will be detoured during the event and [view the 5K course map](#) for more details.

[Ricci to the Rescue in the Park](#)

Dix Park, Big Field

Saturday, September 13

Event Time: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Associated Impacts: No roads will be closed for the event. The Big Field will be used from 9:00am until 5:00pm.

[Raleigh Food Truck Rodeo](#)

Fayetteville Street

Saturday, September 13

Event Time: 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Martin Street and the south end of City Plaza, and Davie Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 7:45am until 8:00pm.

[Weekday School Family Night](#)

McDonald Lane

Thursday, September 18

Event Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Associated Road Closures: McDonald Lane between Oberlin Road and Colonial Road will be closed from 3:30pm until 9:00pm.

Other Upcoming Events

[The World of Hans Zimmer](#)

Friday, September 12

Lenovo Center

[Ryan Adams](#)

Friday, September 12

Meymandi Concert Hall

[Leon Bridges with Charley Crockett and Reyna Tropical](#)

Friday, September 12

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Raleigh Transportation Job Fair](#)

Friday, September 12 & Saturday, September 13

Raleigh Central Operations Facility

Mad Libs Live!

Friday, September 12 – Sunday, September 28
Raleigh Little Theatre

Art on the Greenway Ride Series – Ride #1

Saturday, September 13
Kiwanis Park

Video Games Live – NC Symphony

Saturday, September 13
Meymandi Concert Hall

Billy Currington and Kip Moore with Marlon Funaki

Saturday, September 13
Red Hat Amphitheater

Summer Concert Series – Blue Notes

Sunday, September 14
Fred Fletcher Park

The Robert Cray Band

Sunday, September 14
Meymandi Concert Hall

Artist Talk – Wandering Between Worlds

Thursday, September 18
Pullen Arts Center

The Orchestra – Starring ELO and ELO Part II Former Members

Thursday, September 18
Memorial Auditorium

Jazz in the Square – Shirlette Ammons

Thursday, September 18
Moore Square

Raymonda Variations – Carolina Ballet

Through Sunday, September 28
Fletcher Opera Theater

Public Resources

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 & 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 Dix Park.

Council Member Follow Up

| | |
|------------|---|
| To | Marchell Adams-David, City Manager |
| Thru | Stephen C. Bentley, Director – Raleigh Parks |
| From | Adam Forman, Assistant Director – Raleigh Parks |
| Department | Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources |
| Date | September 12 th , 2025 |
| Subject | Park Safety Update |

At the August 19th City Council session, staff from Raleigh Parks and Raleigh Transportation updated the Council on security services at Moore Square, Downtown parking lots, and Gipson Play Plaza. During the discussion, CM Branch requested that a greater share of security services be devoted to Nash Square, that staff consider nighttime security patrols at Lions, Chavis, and Roberts parks, that security technology be improved within parks, and that additional police resources be deployed.

As discussed during the Council session, Raleigh Parks and the Raleigh Police Department maintain a close working relationship, ensuring that park facilities are safe, secure, well-monitored, well-patrolled, and welcoming to all visitors. At 17 park locations – including Chavis, Roberts, Moore Square, and Gipson Play Plaza – security cameras are integrated with the RPD Fusus system, a real-time crime center platform. The security cameras at Lions Park were recently integrated as well.

Security cameras are also located indoors at over 40 community facilities and the Department deploys a number of other security technologies, including time-controlled door locks on outdoor restrooms and automatic gates at several locations. PRCR staff is also trained to evaluate its parks and greenways on the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environment Design and make tactical adjustments.

Meanwhile, the Raleigh Police Department maintains a Parks and Greenway Unit – which will grow to two squads, each with a sergeant and three officers, by the start of October 2025 – and its district and community officers regularly patrol city parks, particularly locations that have experience recurring issues. Moving forward, officers in the Downtown District (Chavis and Nash Square); Southeast District (Roberts); Northeast District (Lions); and Southwest District (Dix Park) will all be encouraged to do *additional* drive throughs at each of these select parks as part of their normal course of duty and, when filling out reports, to park in and around

these park locations and put on their blue lights. And at Nash Square specifically, officers will be encouraged to walk through the park on days when they are reporting to the downtown courthouse.

Looking more broadly, RPD will be conducting a staffing study in Fiscal Year 2026 to examine potential resource gaps. This study will help inform staffing allotments moving forward.

Together, the above measures will ensure that city parks remain safe and welcoming and that crime downtown and throughout the city continues to fall.