



IN THIS ISSUE

“Fall in Love with an EV” Ride & Drive Event

50 Cities, 50 Breakthroughs- City of Raleigh Strategic Plan

Raleigh Active Construction Tracker

Monthly Update on Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

Credit Rating Agency Review Results – General Obligation Bond Sale

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

Substance Use Funding (Mayor Cowell)

Hospitality Tax Collections (Council Member Jones)

INFORMATION:

“Fall in Love with an EV” Ride & Drive Event

Staff Resource: Rick Longobart, Fleet Management Operations, 996-5616, rick.longobart@raleighnc.gov
Megan Anderson, Sustainability, 996-4658, megan.anderson@raleighnc.gov

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, staff from Engineering Services- Fleet Management Operations (FMO) in partnership with the Office of Sustainability (OS) hosted an event, “Fall in Love with an EV” Ride and Drive on February 12. The goal of this event was to have fun and raise staff awareness for the many exciting and successful sustainability goals related to fleet that the City has achieved and is working towards. More details about the event, pictures from the event, and the work of FMO and OS are in the staff memorandum included with the *Update* materials.

(Attachment)

50 Cities, 50 Breakthroughs- City of Raleigh Strategic Plan

Staff Resource: Heather McDougall, Strategy & Innovation, 996-3396, heather.mcdougall@raleighnc.gov

The City's new Strategic Plan earned national recognition in the "[50 States, 50 Breakthroughs](#)" list, spotlighting innovative public sector projects shaping the future of government in the U.S. The City is proud to have its Strategic Plan selected to represent North Carolina.

The City rebuilt its strategic planning process into a human-centered, data-driven delivery framework—narrowing objectives and initiatives dramatically, clarifying ownership, and using phased research/testing/scaling to turn strategy into measurable outcomes aligned with resident priorities.

Other examples from other states featured things ranging from inventive childcare approaches boosting productivity to AI toolkits reviewing legislation. The showcase is created by Apolitical, the National Academy of Public Administration and Humans of Public Service, and reviewed by a panel of expert practitioners and leaders from across the public service ecosystem.

Raleigh overhauled its strategic planning process with a human-centered, data-driven model built for action rather than paperwork. After finding that its previous plan (25 objectives and nearly 100 initiatives) generated reporting instead of results, the City ran a six-month evaluation with more than 250 staff and experts to identify barriers like unclear ownership, inaccessible language and weak feedback loops.

The new framework, adopted in June 2025, cuts objectives by half and reduces initiatives from 95 to 35, and sharpens focus on measurable outcomes. Resident input from focus groups and surveys strengthened alignment with community priorities, making planning more responsive and effective. Each initiative also now begins with a tailored data packet, and a phased approach—research, testing and scaling—helps teams iterate using evidence. The redesign has boosted staff engagement and accountability, clarified roles, and embedded strategic work into daily operations.

Additional information can be found: <https://apolitical.co/list/en/50-states-50-breakthroughs-2026>

(No attachment)

Raleigh Active Construction Tracker

Staff Resource: Anne Conlon, Transportation, 996-2160, anne.conlon@raleighnc.gov

Meg Woodburn, Transportation, 996-2410, meg.woodburn@raleighnc.gov

The Transportation Department has launched a new public-facing interactive map called the [Raleigh Active Construction Tracker](#). This map provides a consolidated view of construction activity occurring in and along streets across Raleigh. The map displays City, NCDOT, and permitted private projects taking place within the public right-of-way, including work such as roadway improvements and utility installations. Data is compiled from various city departments and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and is refreshed on varying schedules. Private right-of-way occupancy permits are updated nightly, city capital projects are updated weekly, and state projects are updated periodically.

Projects are symbolized by owner: City projects are shown in orange, NCDOT projects in blue, and private work in gray. Users can search by address or neighborhood and select individual projects to view additional information and links to full project details when available.

This tool improves public awareness of construction projects, supports coordination among agencies, and provides residents with an easy way to understand where and why work is occurring along their streets.

(No attachment)

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. The project is now well into its second of five phases. The Civic Assembly has met three times and is now halfway through their meeting series. Each of the five technical teams has met at least once. The Civic Assembly and Technical Teams will each provide recommendations based on [community priorities](#) and the [community inventory](#) prepared in phase 1 of the project. Also ongoing are focus groups with institutional partners and municipal neighbors to understand their emerging issues and to ensure regional coordination. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum providing a detailed update on these activities.

(Attachment)

Credit Rating Agency Review Results – General Obligation Bond Sale

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

Three leading credit rating agencies (Moody's Investors Service, S&P Global, and Fitch Ratings) recently released credit reports as a part of the upcoming General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds economic refunding and Limited Obligation Bonds pricing recently authorized by the City Council. The credit reports reaffirmed the highest Aaa/AAA ratings on the City's general government bonds. The credit agencies assigned a Aa1/AA+ rating for the limited obligation bonds issuance, which is in-line with prior ratings specific for these types of bonds and the highest appropriation-backed security rating permissible. Maintaining the highest possible credit rating ensures the City borrows at the lowest interest rates and has access to financial markets during economic downturns.

The credit rating agencies review many factors when assigning a credit score, including the local economy, financial results, future long-term liabilities, and the City's management framework. The reports highlight Raleigh's large and diverse tax base, historically strong operating performance, well-diversified local economy, financial resilience, ample reserves and liquidity, moderate debt and liability position, and comprehensive and well-aligned management practices supporting long-term financial and capital planning goals.

(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 February 3 Council Meeting

Substance Use Funding (Mayor Cowell)

Staff Resource: Katie Conyers, Budget and Management Services, 996-4276, kathryn.conyers@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, staff received a request to provide information about funding for substance use-related efforts. The City of Raleigh continues to invest in residents’ health and well-being by funding programs and initiatives that address substance use, as well as strengthening community partnerships with organizations that specialize in education, prevention, and treatment efforts. In addition to funding for the Substance Use Advisory Commission (\$7,000), the City advances this work through grants to nonprofit partners, collaborative programming with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR), and Raleigh Police Department (RPD) programs (e.g., ACORNS), totaling approximately \$1.6M in FY26. Included with the Update materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response the request.

(Attachment)

Follow up from the February 17 Council Meeting

Hospitality Tax Collections (Council Member Jones)

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

During the meeting staff was requested to provide the breakdown of hospitality tax collections generated by each jurisdiction. The results of the fiscal year 2025 tax collections are shown below.

| Wake County Hospitality Taxes - FY25 Actual Tax Collections | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| | Occupancy Tax | % of Total | Prepared Food & Beverage Tax | % of Total |
| Apex | 691,209 | 2% | 1,970,973 | 4% |
| Cary | 8,288,603 | 20% | 6,788,038 | 14% |
| Durham | - | 0% | 131,094 | 0% |
| Fuquay Varina | 112,423 | 0% | 1,426,371 | 3% |
| Gamer | 726,787 | 2% | 2,277,693 | 5% |
| Holly Springs | 307,192 | 1% | 1,535,190 | 3% |
| Knightdale | 313,612 | 1% | 1,037,522 | 2% |
| Morrisville | 2,363,424 | 6% | 1,222,294 | 3% |
| Raleigh | 25,970,107 | 63% | 21,619,781 | 45% |
| Rolesville | - | 0% | 174,079 | 0% |
| Wake Forest | 828,671 | 2% | 2,507,014 | 5% |
| Wendell | - | 0% | 489,425 | 1% |
| Zebulon | - | 0% | 566,420 | 1% |
| Wake County | 1,681,171 | 4% | 5,889,629 | 12% |
| Total | 41,283,199 | 100% | 47,635,523 | 100% |

(No attachment)

| | |
|------------|--|
| To | Marchell Adams David, City Manager; Michael Moore, Assistant City Manager |
| Thru | Byron Sanders, Engineering Services Director; Megan Anderson, Sustainability Officer |
| From | Rick Longobart, Fleet Operations Manager, and Megan Nation, Sustainability Manager |
| Department | Engineering Services – Fleet Management Operations, Office of Sustainability |
| Date | February 20, 2026 |
| Subject | “Fall in Love with an EV” Ride & Drive Event |

This update is to make City Council aware of an educational that was held for all City staff. Just in time for Valentine’s Day, staff from Engineering Services - Fleet Management Operations (FMO) in partnership with the Office of Sustainability (OS) hosted an event, “Fall in Love with an EV” Ride and Drive on February 12. This event was open to all staff and those who drive an electric vehicle (EV) were especially encouraged to attend. Over 100 attended the event on a chilly, windy day.

The goals of the event were to have fun and raise awareness for the many exciting and successful sustainability goals related to fleet that the City has achieved and is working towards. The event gave City of Raleigh employees hands-on experience with electric vehicles. As the City fleet becomes increasingly electrified, it is important for employees to gain familiarity with EV operation and charging. Authorized employees had the opportunity to drive an EV on a guided route, learned how to charge an electric vehicle (including demonstration of the City’s first Direct Current Fast Charger or DCFC at the Westinghouse site that includes a solar installation), explored the latest advancements in EV technology, and gained deeper insight into the City’s sustainability initiatives. We encouraged all employees to enjoy this engaging event focused on innovation, climate action, and the future of the City’s fleet.

The event was Valentine’s Day themed and featured several engaging activities, which included:



**“FALL IN LOVE WITH AN EV”
RIDE & DRIVE
EVENT**

11AM TO 1:30PM
FEBRUARY 12, 2026
2540 WESTINGHOUSE BLVD. RALEIGH, NC

First 100 attendees receive a free Chick-fil-a lunch and sustainable, reusable utensils!

Learn more about:

- ♥ Current and future City of Raleigh electric vehicles and sustainability initiatives
- ♥ The latest advancements in EV technology & charging

Participate and enjoy:

- ♥ Ride & Drive electric vehicles - COR badge required
- ♥ Games, trivia, & free swag

HOSTED BY FLEET MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

CARPPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED!

- Receive a free Chick-fil-A (or vegetarian option) lunch and a set of City of Raleigh reusable sustainable utensils
- Take a City of Raleigh electric vehicle for a test drive
- Connect with vendors showcasing the latest EV technology
- Learn more about the City’s ongoing sustainability initiatives and Raleigh’s Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)
- Popcorn, games, EV matchmaking quiz, a trivia table where participants can win vendor swag, and more!



Fleet Management Operations (FMO) manages more than 4,700 City of Raleigh vehicles and equipment, providing services ranging from vehicle and equipment maintenance and repairs to procurement. In addition to these core responsibilities, the team works closely with Sustainability and departmental partners to champion sustainability through initiatives such as electric vehicle (EV) implementation, the use of clean fuels, and idle-reduction programs, all in support of Raleigh’s Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP).

The Office of Sustainability leads the implementation of CCAP and partners closely with FMO to lead initiatives ranging from funding and grants, the Clean Energy Vehicle Replacement Committee, new technology installations, change management, innovations and more. Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Raleigh and transportation electrification is one of the highest impact initiatives identified in the CCAP.

FMO recognizes and supports the City’s broader commitment to environmental responsibility and service reliability. With this in mind, the team continues to partner with OS to spearhead programs and events that promote fleet electrification and clean fuel initiatives, including the “Fall in Love with an EV” event.



| | |
|------------|---|
| 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 | February 20, 2026 |
| 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 project is now well into its second of five phases. This memorandum provides an update on phase 2 activities.

Raleigh Civic Assembly

Raleigh’s first Civic Assembly is now halfway through their meeting series. The group has met three out of six times to learn, discuss, and make recommendations in response to the following question:

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? What should the neighborhoods around frequent transit look like?

Session one included presentations from Raleigh Planning, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and local historian Carmen Cauthen to contextualize the question in the Reflecting Raleigh process, and to help assembly members develop a shared understanding of Raleigh’s history and the tools and strategies available to manage growth and development in Raleigh’s future. Session two

featured different perspectives on development. Assembly members heard from a local commercial lender and reviewed resident perspectives shared during the public hearing for Z-92-22, the application of Transit Overlay District along New Bern Avenue. During session three, the assembly began drafting preliminary recommendations in response to the following focused questions:

- What elements make up a complete neighborhood? Consider uses like kinds of housing, grocery stores, and parks, as well as infrastructure like sidewalks. What should the buildings look like? How tall should they be?
- Should what's in a neighborhood and what it looks like change based on where it is in the city? For example, should a neighborhood that's near a major bus line look different than a neighborhood that is near the city's edges?
- Knowing that Raleigh is going to continue to grow, how should that new growth and development be distributed across the city?
- How much should existing neighborhoods be expected to change to accommodate more people?

The assembly will use the remaining sessions to finalize their recommendations and, through city staff, gather any additional information or perspectives they feel they need to respond fully to the council-endorsed remit. These final recommendations will be presented to City Council and can be used to inform the Next Comprehensive Plan, including the Growth Framework Map, transit-oriented development policies and growth management strategies.

The Civic Assembly is one of several engagement methods Reflecting Raleigh will leverage to achieve the goal of hearing from a broad, representative cross-section of the Raleigh community. More information about this goal and the project's related engagement principles is included in the [Reflecting Raleigh Engagement Strategy](#).

Presentation materials from each of the three sessions are included on the project's [Civic Assembly Webpage](#). The Assembly's next session will be on Saturday, February 21.

Technical Teams

Five teams of technical experts have also begun meeting:

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

In each of their first meetings, the teams reviewed and expanded on the community priorities and emerging trends identified in phase 1. In subsequent meetings, teams will review and recommend policies, programmatic priorities, short-, medium- and long-term actions, and implementation metrics to advance community priorities and address emerging trends in each of their respective subject areas.

[A full schedule of team meetings](#) and a [list of technical team participants](#) is available on the project website.

Additional Project Updates

The work of the Civic Assembly and of the Technical Teams will build on the feedback staff received during phase 1 of the project. [A full report on phase 1](#) is available on the project website. You can also [view the Executive Summary](#) for an abbreviated look at engagement activities and key takeaways.

Phase 2 initiatives are also informed by an analysis of existing conditions and emerging trends. The [Community Inventory report](#) is also available on the project website; the report provides a snapshot in time of Raleigh across a variety of data points. A summary of key trends and implications of these existing conditions is forthcoming.

Concurrently with the work of the Civic Assembly and Technical Teams, staff is conducting informational interviews with institutional partners, including state agencies, staff in neighboring municipalities, and major employers in Wake County. The goal of these interviews is to contextualize emerging trends and ensure alignment of planning objectives. Any representative of an organization or institution working in Raleigh is invited to provide feedback to staff [online through Engage Raleigh](#).

Finally, Planning and Development has just advertised an RFP for design and writing services to support drafting and development of the final plan document. RFPs for a Cost of Growth Analysis and a Facility Fee and Reimbursement Study will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, February 20 – Thursday, February 26

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

Permitted Special Events

[QuiltCon 2026](#)

Raleigh Convention Center & Cabarrus Street
Friday, February 20 - Sunday, February 22
Event Time: 9:00am - 5:30pm on 2-20-26 & 2-21-26; 9:00am - 3:00pm on 2-22-26
Associated Road Closures (for load-out only): Cabarrus Street between S. McDowell Street and S. Salisbury Street will be closed from 3:00pm until 10:00pm on 2-22-26.

Other Upcoming Events

[Black Superhero Gallery](#)

Friday, February 20
City of Raleigh Museum

[Andrea Bocelli](#)

Friday, February 20
Lenovo Center

[Tchaikovsky 1812 & Violin Concerto – NC Symphony](#)

Friday, February 20 & Saturday, February 21
Meymandi Concert Hall

[Moonlight & Magnolias](#)

Friday, February 20 – Sunday, February 22
Raleigh Little Theatre

[Teen Museum Market](#)

Saturday, February 21
City of Raleigh Museum

[Black History Trolley Tour](#)

Saturday, February 21 & Sunday, February 22
Mordecai Historic Park

[Monster Jam](#)

Saturday, February 21 & Sunday, February 22
Lenovo Center

[Carmen Suite – Carolina Ballet](#)

Saturday, February 21 & Sunday, February 22
Fletcher Opera Theater

[Tampa Bay Lightning vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Thursday, February 26
Lenovo Center

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.

New Amplified Noise Ordinance Takes Effect January 2026

The City Council approved a [new amplified noise ordinance](#), which went into effect Jan. 1, 2026. Stadiums, arenas, and outdoor sports or entertainment venues, including amphitheaters, are exempt. Parades, outdoor events, races, festivals, and concerts that receive a permit from the Office of Special Events are also not subject to the ordinance.

Council Member Follow Up

| | |
|------------|---|
| To | Marchell Adams-David, City Manager |
| Thru | Sadia Sattar, Budget and Management Services Director |
| From | Katie Conyers, Grants Administrator |
| Department | Budget and Management Services |
| Date | February 19, 2026 |
| Subject | Substance Use Programs, Initiatives, and Grants Funding |

The City of Raleigh continues to invest in residents’ health and well-being by funding programs and initiatives that address substance use, as well as strengthening community partnerships with organizations that specialize in education, prevention, and treatment efforts. In addition to funding for the Substance Use Advisory Commission (\$7,000), the City advances this work through grants to nonprofit partners, collaborative programming with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR), and Raleigh Police Department (RPD) programs (e.g., ACORNS), totaling approximately \$1.6M in FY26.

External Agency Grants

Annually, the Human Services Grant program, administered by the Housing and Community Development Department, provides funding to nonprofit organizations that serve low-income Raleigh residents in one of five target populations: older adults, youth, individuals facing housing insecurity, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with substance use disorders (SUD).

In FY24, the City awarded funding to eight organizations that either provided direct SUD services or included SUD as a program component; in total, these organizations received \$287,750. The following fiscal year, 11 organizations serving this population received a total of \$347,124. In FY26, eight organizations working with this target group were awarded \$326,700 in grant funding.

PRCR Programming and Community Collaborations

PRCR collaborates with local organizations to offer substance use education and prevention programming for Raleigh residents. While PRCR does not have a dedicated budget line for substance use services, this work has been supported through existing staff time, facility use, operating expenses, and significant in-kind contributions from public health partners. Since 2023, PRCR has worked alongside Wake County Behavioral Health, the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, and other City and community partners to deliver overdose prevention and naloxone education through a phased, partnership-driven approach. During

that period, PRCR hosted over 12 trainings and events, distributed more than 270 naloxone units/kits, and activated multiple City facilities as training and response-ready sites. In total, these efforts have served approximately 300 City staff and residents.

Between FY23 and FY26, PRCR invested approximately \$4,300 in direct and in-kind City resources (facility value and operating expenses) while leveraging an estimated \$6,750 in naloxone donations from public health partners, not including partner staff time, facilitation expertise, or curriculum development.

RPD Programming

Within RPD, ACORNS (Addressing Crises through Outreach, Referrals, Networking and Service) brings together social workers and law enforcement officers to respond to residents in crisis; connect them to available resources; and provide outreach, education, case management, investigation, and intervention services. This team helps individuals experiencing a wide array of issues related to mental health, substance use, homelessness, family support, post-incarceration release and diversion, and connecting with service providers. In FY25, the City budgeted \$1,262,008 to support this program; for this fiscal year, the ACORNS budget has increased to \$1,264,631.

In addition to ACORNS, RPD has been a subrecipient of the City of Durham's High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant since 2007. This funding is awarded to designated HIDTAs to dismantle and disrupt drug-trafficking organizations, expand prevention efforts, and address drug threats in communities. In Raleigh, this subaward is dedicated to overtime for HIDTA task force detectives. The City of Raleigh received \$40,000 to support this work in FY24, \$30,000 in FY25, and \$22,155 for this fiscal year. RPD also purchases Narcan as needed, expending \$6,946 in FY24 and \$4,535 in FY25.

Opioid Settlement Funds

National opioid settlement funds are intended to support programs or services that serve individuals with opioid use disorder or any co-occurring substance use disorder or mental health condition. According to [CORE-NC's payment schedule report](#), North Carolina local governments will receive approximately \$1.2B in national opioid settlement funds from 2022-2038; per the NC Memorandum of Agreement, the City of Raleigh's local government allocation proportion is set at 0.566724612722679%.

North Carolina municipalities could opt to direct their payments to the county, thereby reducing reporting burden and improving coordination in planning and implementation. In FY22, both Raleigh and Cary elected to direct their payments to Wake County, which is responsible for developing the local spending plan. Wake County – including funds from Raleigh and Cary – will receive approximately \$67.7M in opioid settlement funds from 2022-2038.