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City Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

Please note City administrative offices will be **closed** on **Monday, May 25** in observance of the **Memorial Day** holiday.

INFORMATION:

GoRaleigh R-Line Update

Staff Resource: David Walker, Transportation, 996-3942, david.walker@raleighnc.gov

At the February 17, 2026, City Council meeting, Council directed the Raleigh Transit Authority (RTA) to evaluate the R-Line and its feasibility and determine whether it should continue as a GoRaleigh route or be re-envisioned due to consistently low ridership. The RTA discussed this topic during its Spring retreat and assigned the R-Line revisioning effort to the RTA Marketing Committee and asked the Route Committee to review operational decisions.

As noted in the City Manger's Update 2025-42, the R-Line currently averages fewer than 5,000 monthly trips. The route provides approximately five trips per hour of revenue service and is the lowest-performing route operating from GoRaleigh Station and circulating downtown. At its peak, the R-Line averaged approximately 30,000 monthly trips. In Fiscal Year 2025, GoRaleigh systemwide ridership increased by more than 73

percent over the prior year and more than 40 percent over pre-pandemic levels. In contrast, R-Line ridership has declined by 50 percent compared to pre-pandemic numbers.

When the R-Line first reached its highest ridership levels, downtown Raleigh had a little over 6,000 residents; today, nearly 16,000 people live downtown. At the same time, mobility options have expanded significantly. Recent data shows that scooter and bikeshare trips now total approximately 30,000 trips per month – closely mirroring the ridership loss observed on the R-Line.

Despite multiple marketing efforts - including paid advertising, collaboration with the Raleigh Convention Center, and partnership with the Downtown Raleigh Alliance – ridership has not improved. At its May 14, 2026 meeting, the RTA voted to pause the R-Line for up to 18 months, with the final day of service scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2026. While it is not expected to take the full duration of time to work through the revisioning process, the RTA wanted to provide enough time for the work to be completed without further review of the service.

Next steps include establishing a stakeholder group to evaluate the mobility needs of downtown residents, employees and visitors. As this group forms and begins providing input, updates on the R-Line revisioning process will continue to be shared with City Council.

As communication around the R-Line pause proceeds, the city will promote the full range of mobility options available downtown – including bikeshare, scooters, and the GoRaleigh high frequency network. Messaging will center on: “Downtown Raleigh: Ride. Roll. Roam.” Even with the R-Line paused, travelers can continue to: Ride with GoRaleigh; Roll on bike and scooters; and Roam throughout downtown. Pausing the R-Line will not displace any GoRaleigh staff or equipment. All buses will be reassigned to other GoRaleigh service, and staff will be transitioned to other routes as needed.

(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-Ups from the May 5 City Council Meeting

St James Church Road Traffic Calming Project - Public Engagement and Ballot Results (Councilmember Branch)

Staff Resource: Will Shumaker, Transportation, 996-4175, william.shumaker@raleighnc.gov

At the May 5, 2026 City Council meeting, Council requested additional information regarding public engagement activities and ballot results for the St James Church Road traffic calming project offering. Included with this week's *Update* is a staff memo providing details on the outreach and design meetings conducted with residents of the St James Church Road neighborhood.

(Attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, May 22 – Thursday, May 28

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

Permitted Special Events

[Animazement](#)

Raleigh Convention Center & Cabarrus Street

Friday, May 22 - Sunday, May 24

Event Times (for road closure only): 9:30am - 8:30pm 5-22-26 & 5-23-26; 9:30am - 5:30pm 5-24-26

Associated Road Closures: W. Cabarrus Street between S. Salisbury Street and Gale Street will be closed from 7:30am until 8:30pm on 5-22-26, 9:00am until 8:30pm on 5-23-26, and 9:00am until 5:30pm on 5-24-26.

[The Horizon: A Community Experience for Healing, Joy, and Collective Wellness](#)

Dix Park, Harvey Hill

Saturday, May 23

Event Time: 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Associated Impacts: Harvey Hill will be used from 11:00am until 8:00pm.

[NC Sugar Rush](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Sunday, May 24

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 S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 8:00am until 8:00pm.

[Dreamflash Kids Festival](#)

Dix Park, Adams Field

Sunday, May 24

Event Time: 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Associated Impacts: Adams Field will be used from 9:00am until 9:00pm.

Other Upcoming Events

[Nash Square History Stroll](#)

Friday, May 22

Nash Square

[Iration](#)

Friday, May 22

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Marisela](#)

Friday, May 22

Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

[The Secret Sisters – PineCone](#)

Friday, May 22

Fletcher Opera Theater

[The Great Pup Meet Up](#)

Saturday, May 23
Dix Park, The Big Field

[Guided Trolley Tour](#)

Saturday, May 23
Dix Park, Stone Houses Visitor Center

[Plant Swap](#)

Saturday, May 23
City of Raleigh Museum

[Game 2: Canadiens vs. Hurricanes](#)

Saturday, May 23
Lenovo Center

[Dinosaur! \(Theatre for the Very Young\)](#)

Wednesday, May 27 – Sunday, June 14
Raleigh Little Theatre

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	Mayor and City Council
Thru	Paul Kallam, Director
From	Will Shumaker
Department	Transportation
Date	May 22, 2026
Subject	St James Church Road Traffic Calming Project (Council Member Branch)

Background

At the May 5, 2026 City Council meeting, Council requested additional information regarding public engagement activities and ballot results for the St James Church Road traffic calming project offering.

Community Engagement Overview

Staff conducted a series of outreach and design meetings with the St James Church Road neighborhood:

- **Introductory and Preliminary Design Meeting:** April 2025
- **Final Design Meeting:** May 2025
- **Ballot:** June 2025

Feedback during the engagement period showed a community divided on the proposed project. Supporters cited frequent speeding, cut-through traffic and pedestrian safety concerns. Opponents shared they rarely observed speeding and believed traffic calming was unnecessary and they would prefer other improvements such as sidewalks. Overall, responses from participants were nearly evenly split between supportive and opposing viewpoints.

Ballot & Participation Results

On-Street Ballot Results		
	% of Votes	% of Mailed
YES	90%	26%
NO	10%	3%
Total Participation:	29%	

Neighborhood Ballot Results		
	% of Votes	% of Mailed
YES	27%	5%
NO	73%	13%
Total Participation:	18%	

Ballot results showed strong support from residents living directly on the street and strong opposition from the surrounding neighborhood.

Next Steps

At the May 5, 2026 City Council meeting, Council adopted to advance the St James Church Road traffic calming project – along with four other streets that did not meet all policy thresholds – to the construction phase. Construction is anticipated in 2027.