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City Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day

Please note City administrative offices will be **closed** on **Friday, July 3** in observance of the **Independence Day** holiday.

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, July 7 - Afternoon and Public Comment Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the afternoon meeting was published on Thursday:

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

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

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to have pulled from the consent agenda for discussion, please send an e-mail to mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 10 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

INFORMATION:

Drought Status Update

Staff Resource: Whit Wheeler, Water, 996-4582, william.wheeler@raleighnc.gov

The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council issued an updated drought map on 6/30, and the Falls Lake watershed continues to be listed in a D4 Exceptional Drought condition, which is the most severe designation. Falls Lake is currently 5.77 feet below full pool, with approximately 64% remaining in the Water Supply Pool according to the US Army Corps of Engineers. No rainfall has occurred in the Falls Lake watershed since this past Saturday, although meteorological models continue to suggest central NC could receive slightly above average rainfall for the next 2 weeks.

Stage 1 Water Use Restrictions have been in place since 4/20 and were initially effective in limiting irrigation demand during April and the first half of May. However, based on water plant pumping data, demands have increased on average during the latter part of May and through June. Demands for May have increased by over 3% for May compared to 2025 and increased over 8% for June compared to 2025. Much of this increasing demand trend is related to irrigation demand, even on non-irrigation days. Due to heavy rainfall over the area this past Saturday, there was little irrigation demand on Sunday, and the demand was 58 million gallons compared to over 75 million gallons on some recent permitted irrigation days.

To date, 366 educational letters have been delivered to properties that were initially non-compliant with the irrigation restrictions, 166 formal warning letters have been issued. Seven customers have been issued a \$50 civil penalty and one customer has been issued a \$200 civil penalty. Based on recent irrigation meter data, over 3500 irrigation services have been non-compliant and additional enforcement efforts will be made with these accounts.

(No Attachment)

GoRaleigh High-Frequency Network Route #1 Capital Blvd. Reaches Major Milestone

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

In FY26, GoRaleigh's High-Frequency Network reached a significant milestone with Route 1 – Capital Boulevard surpassing one million annual passenger trips. Route 1 provides 10-minute frequency with 19 hours of weekday service and 18 hours of weekend service, with 15-minute frequency on weekends. The route connects downtown GoRaleigh Station to Triangle Town Center along Capital Boulevard, covering approximately nine miles in each direction.

Ridership growth on Route 1 was so strong that in October 2025, transit staff increased weekday service to consistent 10-minute frequency and introduced 60-foot articulated buses to accommodate higher passenger volumes. As a result, Route 1 is now the highest-ridership fixed-route transit service in North Carolina, exceeding one million annual trips and outpacing all other bus routes in the state.

GoRaleigh currently operates 10 High-Frequency Network routes with service every 15 minutes or better. Over the past two years, the High-Frequency Network has expanded from 37 miles to 140 miles. In the pre-pandemic baseline year of 2019, these routes carried just under three million passengers. In FY26, they

provided more than five million trips—representing a 74-percent increase in ridership over two years. Prior to 2024, GoRaleigh operated only three High-Frequency Network fixed routes.

GoRaleigh's rapid growth has received national recognition. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) named GoRaleigh the second fastest-growing transit agency in the United States among systems providing three to fifteen million annual trips, citing a systemwide ridership increase of 42 percent.

The expansion and success of the High-Frequency Network is the result of strong collaboration between the Transit Division and RATP Dev, which manages GoRaleigh's operations. These service enhancements are funded by revenues from the Wake County Transit Plan, supported by the half-cent sales tax. Staff has planned media and other public announcements around this milestone starting next week.

(No Attachment)

Solid Waste Services Yard Waste Center Transition to Cashless Payments

Staff Resource: Shikha Gupta, Solid Waste Services, 996-3475, shikha.gupta@raleighnc.gov

Solid Waste Services Yard Waste Center will transition to a cashless payment system effective August 1, 2026. This is being done to improve efficiency, enhance security, reduce expenses, and provide more convenient customer experience.

Currently, the Yard Waste Center accepts credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, and Discover), debit cards, and business or personal checks (must be pre-printed with your name and address, and a valid ID is required), and exact change (preferred) cash payment methods. The facility is strictly for residential drop-offs - commercial operators must use alternative private or county-authorized commercial disposal sites in the Raleigh area. Customers who utilize the facility frequently can apply for a monthly credit account via the City of Raleigh Portal.

Cash will no longer be accepted as a payment method at the Yard Waste Center, effective August 1. Customers may continue to make payments using credit cards, debit cards, or with their credit account.

We understand that this change may impact some customers. To ensure continued accessibility and excellent customer service, we will offer the following alternatives:

- Assistance from customer service staff to help customers navigate available payment options
- Information on prepaid debit cards purchase for those without traditional banking services

This transition supports our commitment to providing secure, efficient, and modern services while reducing risks associated with handling cash transactions.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we implement this improvement. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services customer care team at 919-996-3245, or sws@raleighnc.gov.

(No Attachment)

Small Business Development Outreach and Engagement

Staff Resource: Mark Weldon, Economic and Social Advancement, 996-3139, mark.weldon@raleighnc.gov

The Small Business Development (SBD) team engages year-round with Raleigh's entrepreneur and small business community through ongoing outreach and relationship building. FY26 highlights include:

- 118 Ongoing Outreach Events/Touchpoints – 1,401 Small Businesses:
 - 26 Events / Expos / Conferences
 - New SBD signature event Legal Lift – 120 businesses
 - 16 Workshops / Presentations
 - 8 Ribbon Cuttings
 - 54 Building Upfit and Façade Grant Annual Check-ins
 - 8 Focus Groups / Roundtables
 - 6 ad hoc Small Business Visits

In the 4th quarter of FY26, SBD expanded its engagement efforts with a new proactive, relationship-driven outreach and engagement plan for Raleigh's small business community. The purpose of this effort is to increase awareness and use of the City's small business programs, strengthen the local business ecosystem through strategic partnerships, improve business readiness and long-term growth, and provide City leadership with accurate, real-time business insights. Highlights include:

- 11 New Initiatives Outreach Events/Touchpoints – 60 Small Businesses:
 - 8 Bi-Monthly Office Hours – 6 Small Businesses
 - 3 Monthly District Walks (Downtown, Hillsborough Street, Midtown) – 54 Small Businesses
 - Small Business feedback from these new outreach initiatives has been positive.

Combined FY26 Total: 129 Outreach Events/Touchpoints – 1,461 Small Businesses

Detailed metrics and engagement data will be included in our FY26 Annual Report, scheduled for release in Q1 of FY27. The report will be available [here](#). Find more information about Small Business Development on our [webpage](#).

(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 May 5th Council Meeting

Hillsborough Street Bike Lane Safety (Mayor Pro Tem Harrison)

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

Council requested information on any future plans for any multi-modal or bicycle improvements along Hillsborough Street following a recent cyclist incident. Included with this week's *Update* materials is a staff memo providing background, current conditions, recent actions, and both short- and long-term opportunities.

(Attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, July 3 – Thursday, July 9

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

Permitted Special Events

Text **RALEIGH250** to **888777** to get real-time updates on traffic, weather, and safety for public events in Raleigh July 4th weekend

[First Friday at The Times](#)

Hargett Street

Friday, July 3

Event Time: 7:00pm – 11:00pm

Associated Road Closures: E. Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 5:30pm until 11:59pm.

[First in Freedom NC's July 4th A250 Parade](#)

Downtown Raleigh

Saturday, July 4

Event Time: 9:30am – 12:00pm

Associated Road Closures: N. Salisbury Street between Peace and W. Lane streets will be closed from 6:30am until 12:00pm. The parade route will be closed no earlier than 6:30am, and all roads will be reopened no later than 12:30pm. Cross-streets at least one block in each direction will be detoured and additional closures and detours may be used to control traffic. See below for turn-by-turn details:

- Start at N. Salisbury Street and W. Lane Street
- Head south on N. Salisbury Street
- Left onto W. Morgan Street
- Right onto Fayetteville Street
- Right onto Lenoir Street for disassembly

[Capitol 250: NC Freedom Fest](#)

State Capitol Grounds & Edenton Street

Saturday, July 4

Event Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Edenton Street between Wilmington and Salisbury streets will be closed from 7:00am until 5:00pm.

[Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration](#)

Dix Park, Big Field

Saturday, July 4

Event Time: 6:00pm – 10:00pm; fireworks start at 9:30pm

Associated Road Closures: All Dix Park entrances will be closed to vehicles on Saturday, July 4. [View options for getting to and from the park.](#)

Other Upcoming Events

[Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad Live – Euphoria 2026](#)

Friday, July 3

Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

[Carolina Theater Company: Zombies](#)

Friday, July 3

Fletcher Opera Theater

[First Friday Market & Movie: Hamilton](#)

Friday, July 3
Moore Square

[First Friday Raleigh](#)

Friday, July 3
Downtown Raleigh

[America's Cookout](#)

Sunday, July 5
Abbott's Creek Community Center

[Madison Beer](#)

Sunday, July 5
Red Hat Amphitheater

[Team USA World Cup Watch Party](#)

Monday, July 6
Moore Square

[Summer Safety Series: Safe Spaces to Beat the Summer Heat](#)

Tuesday, July 7
Millbrook Exchange Park

[Lunchbox Lecture: Moving the NC Museum of History's Collection](#)

Thursday, July 9
City of Raleigh Museum

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 amphitheatres, 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	Paul Kallam, Transportation Director
From	Will Shumaker, Mobility Development Supervisor
Department	Transportation
Date	July 2, 2026
Subject	Hillsborough Street Bike Lane Safety

Background

The existing configuration of Hillsborough Street stems from the 2012 Hillsborough–Morgan Streetscape and Parking Plan. The plan sought to support redevelopment, enhance pedestrian activity, and transition the roadway from a four-lane undivided cross-section with timed parking to a two-lane divided street with inset parallel parking. Upon project completion and a street swap with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the city assumed maintenance responsibilities along this section of Hillsborough Street.

Bicycle lanes were not part of the original streetscape plan. However, during implementation, 4-foot bike lanes were installed on a pilot basis between travel lanes and inset parking to assess potential ridership demand.



Hillsborough Street – 2007 (westward between Enterprise St and Logan Ct)

Impact of the Streetscape Project

The streetscape improvements have generally met their intended goals. Pedestrian activity has increased, redevelopment has followed, and traffic data consistently shows:

- Operating speeds at or below approximately 25 mph
- Reduced daily vehicle volumes (now ~14,000–15,000 vehicles, down from over 20,000 pre-project)
- One of the heaviest used corridors for cyclists.

These trends have remained stable for roughly 15 years.



Hillsborough Street – Current (westward between Enterprise St and Logan Ct)

Current Conditions

In 2023, staff identified the need to refresh pavement markings along the corridor. As part of design updates, staff evaluated ways to reduce conflicts caused by the “door zone,” where current bike lanes sit adjacent to parked vehicles. All roadway widths were reviewed to test options for reallocating space. Even with adjustments that maximized bike lane width, the bike lane remained within the door zone.

Staff consulted the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC), whose recommendation was to retain the widened bike lanes and add sharrows in the general travel lanes. This approach provides a dedicated space for less confident cyclists while

reinforcing that cyclists may legally take the lane. The BPAC-supported configuration was installed in 2024.

Short-Term Options

Given fixed elements such as curbs, the raised median, and inset parking, options for immediate physical changes are limited. Fully eliminating the door-zone condition would require a substantial reconstruction effort and capital dollars involving curb relocation or a new street cross-section.

In the interim, targeted education and awareness efforts can improve safety for drivers, cyclists, and passengers. Staff will coordinate with the Hillsborough Street Community Service Corporation and NC State University to launch an educational campaign aligned with the start of the academic year.

Future Opportunities

With Council's 2025 adoption of the Active Mobility Plan, Hillsborough Street—from N Salisbury Street to Faircloth Street—was designated as a “Big Jump” priority corridor. This designation commits the city to accelerating bikeway development, with the broader initiative targeting 50+ miles of new bikeways and 5+ miles of new sidewalks within five years.

As part of the Big Jump program, the corridor will undergo a more comprehensive evaluation to identify feasible long-term upgrades, supported by community engagement.