Wake BRT Stakeholder Committee

**Role of the Committee:** to receive updates on the status of the project, represent interests of their organizations, provide input from the perspective of the community on tradeoffs and priorities, as well as give feedback on specific needs, desires, and concerns of each group.

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<th>African American Caucus</th>
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<th>Shaw University</th>
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<td>St. Augustine’s University</td>
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<td>New Bern Corridor Alliance</td>
<td>Transit Citizen Advisory Committee (GoTriangle)</td>
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<td>William Peace University</td>
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<td>Raleigh Transit Authority</td>
<td>Garner Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Regional Transportation Alliance</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Catholic Church</td>
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<td>Downtown Raleigh Alliance</td>
<td>Raleigh Wake Citizens Association (RWCA)</td>
<td>El Pueblo</td>
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Agenda

• Introductions and Program Update
  Mila Vega, City of Raleigh

• New Bern Station Area Planning
  Jason Hardin, City of Raleigh

• Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue
  Sean Driskill, City of Raleigh

• Wake BRT Station Design
  Luke Volkmar, Neighboring Concepts

• Wake BRT Art Integration
  Meg Finnegan, City of Raleigh

• Wake BRT Branding
  Cherie Gibson, HNTB

• Wrap Up & Discussion
  Mila Vega, City of Raleigh
Wake BRT Program Overview

Northern Corridor
- Status: Pre-Planning Complete
- Next Steps: Extensions MIS Study (2021)

Western Corridor
- Status: Preliminary Design (10%)
- Next Steps: Anticipated Final Design (2023)
  - Anticipated Construction (2025)
  - Anticipated Service (2027)

New Bern Ave Corridor
- Status: Advance Design (60%)
- Next Steps: Construction Start (2022)
  - Anticipated Service (2024)

Southern Corridor
- Status: Preliminary Design
- Next Steps: Anticipated Final Design (2024)
  - Anticipated Construction (2025)
  - Anticipated Service (2027)
Wake BRT Engagement Summary

April 2021 – present day:

• 1 Virtual Open House – 2,400+ site views
• 1 Art activity with Poe Elementary
• 3 Live Q&A sessions
• 3 BRT surveys
• 10 polling boards
• 10+ meetings with downtown businesses
• 20+ community group meetings & pop ups
• 30,000 postcards mailed
• Targeted and faith-based outreach along New Bern, Southern and Western Corridors
• Targeted outreach along New Bern ongoing
Establishing Community Connections

Project Kickoff
Resident Interviews
Development of the Story of New Bern

Walk/Biking Workshops
Affordable Housing Summit
Vision Zero Summit

Planning and Design Workshops/Charrettes

Corridor-wide Conclusion Events
Draft New Bern Avenue Station Area Plan

Final New Bern Avenue Station Area Plan
Presentation of Plan to City Council

SPRING 2021
SUMMER 2021
FALL 2021
WINTER 2022
SPRING 2022
Project goals

- Create a plan for how best to grow around transit
- Make sure benefits of BRT investment are shared equitably
A Busy Season of Outreach!

- Three week-long workshops
- Two topic-based summits
- Ambassador outreach
- Multiple additional events and conversations
- “Easy” and detailed surveys
Other Events

- Two events with Enloe clubs (100+ students)
- Meetings with black business owners
- Upcoming meeting with St. Augustine
- Meeting with black pastors
- Event with Exploris students (40 students)
- Housing summit (30-40 attendees over two days)
- Walking and biking safety summit (30-40 attendees)
YOUR INVOLVEMENT THIS WEEK
YOUR INVOLVEMENT THIS WEEK
YOUR INVOLVEMENT THIS WEEK
A reimagined community will preserve our history and character

Diversity of housing

Safe at all times

Change in any area will create displacement—we need protections

Gainfully employed within the community at all socio-economic levels

Complete connectivity and walkability

A diverse, pedestrian-active community

Safe at all times

A reimaged community will preserve our history and character

Complete connectivity and walkability

Safe at all times

Complete connectivity and walkability

Safe at all times

Safe at all times

Safe at all times

Safe at all times

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Safe at all times
Survey Input

- **95%** I'm fine with taller buildings and more change near BRT stations if it means allowing a wide range of affordable housing options and more shopping and offices in the surrounding area.
- **5%** I'd rather not see much change around BRT stations.
How important is it to create deeply affordable housing opportunities for low and very low income households along the corridor?

- 56% Very important
- 25% Important
- 11% Somewhat important
- 8% Not important

144 respondents
Our history, our character and our stories — read clearly and brightly in our ever-evolving neighborhoods along New Bern Avenue. We embrace growth, but it is firmly guided by our ideas and needs.

TO US THIS MEANS:

1. As we grow, quality **housing** choices, both existing and new, remain affordable to all and blend with our existing character.

2. Well-established **local businesses** and institutions sit side-by-side with neighborhood-fueled innovation to reinforce the strength of Black Main Street.

3. **Longtime institutions** that define the community, such as St. Augustine’s University, expand their presence and continue to play a leading role in the neighborhood.

4. We retain and expand our network of small, **well-maintained parks** in each neighborhood.

5. Our **streets** are safe, well lit and accessible to people of all abilities.
PUTTING IT TOGETHER…
FIRST THOUGHTS
VISION STATEMENT

Our community is a Garden in the City, highlighting the natural beauty of Raleigh. New growth must promote, enhance and integrate into the forested groves that are the hallmark of our City of Oaks. Our community’s transformation prioritizes place, thoughtful redevelopment and the natural environment, in order to grow together strategically.

TO US THIS MEANS:

1. Ensuring all new development include **new green spaces** designed to welcome the entire community.

2. As the corridor evolves, we see an expansion of **housing choices** that blend into the established neighborhoods and offer a variety of price points so all can benefit from our growing city.

3. New Bern’s role as a **green gateway** into Downtown is enhanced through unique placemaking, neighborhood centers and a strategic increase in density that can accommodate a wide variety of housing preferences and family types.
PUTTING IT TOGETHER... FRAMEWORK
YOUR INVOLVEMENT THIS WEEK

“I’d love to see the Eastern Station section develop the vibrant shopping centers in a way that encourages residents/citizens to be able to enjoy the amenities. It would also add value to the BRT line.”
FIRST THOUGHTS
EMERGING VISION STATEMENT

Our neighborhoods are safe, welcoming and walkable. Our retail centers represent local business, with a wide variety of goods and services. New multiuse paths connect us to shopping and to the rich, regional network of greenways already weaving through our neighborhoods. Most importantly, our community evolves in a way that maintains affordability for existing residents, offers expanded housing choices for future residents, and prioritizes safety and security at all levels.

OUR CORE GOALS:

1. Improved safety will guide decisions at all levels.
2. Our streets are for people, not just cars.
3. Aging and vacant commercial areas redevelop into mixed-use centers that offer the opportunity to park-once-and-walk to a variety of shops, services, entertainment and parklike amenities.
4. Businesses we love will remain and have new customers and opportunities.
5. New housing options will offer a variety of sizes and price points.
6. Existing regional greenways will become more accessible through enhanced neighborhood paths and trails.
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER ...
Engagement Metrics

- Western workshop and follow up in person events – 63 attendees, 57 percent Black
- Middle workshop, 60-80 attendees, 15 percent Black
- Eastern workshop, 15 attendees, 33 percent Black
- 200+ additional participants (schools, summits, etc.)
- Six videos, watched by 80-200+ people each
- Easy survey, viewed by 500 people, taken by 150
- Several hundred fliers/surveys distributed by ambassadors
- 1,000+ people reached
Next Steps

- November-December: Finalizing draft recommendations
- December 14: Presenting recommendations (in person/online)
- January: Revising recommendations, creating final reports
- January: Final meeting of Community Group
- February/March: Final community meeting, initiation of zoning and Comprehensive Plan changes
- March/April: Presentation of plan recommendations to Planning Commission for their recommendation to City Council
- Beyond: Implement plan actions
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

Sean Driskill, P.E.

Project Manager, City of Raleigh
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

New Bern Avenue corridor from downtown Raleigh to New Hope Road

- Approximately 5.1 miles
- 19 BRT station platforms
- 3.3 miles of dedicated transit lanes
- Transit Signal Priority (TSP) at signalized intersections
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

**Project Improvements**
- Dedicated transit lanes
- Enhanced transit stations
- Improved drainage
- Improved ADA access
- New multi-use path and sidewalks
- Water and sewer main upgrades
- Improved connectivity
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

Downtown Routing

• BRT to operate in dedicated lanes downtown
• BRT will operate in mixed traffic for two blocks:
  • Traveling south on Blount St, between Hargett & Martin
  • Traveling west on Martin St, between Blount and Wilmington
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

Station Locations and Names

• Important that names are clear and concise
• Differentiate between paired stations on Edenton and New Bern
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

**Landscaping**

- Landscaping plans for the entire corridor are being developed
- Plant palettes for New Bern identify types of plants being considered for medians and other plantings

**Understory Trees**
- Dogwood
- Redbud
- Crepe Myrtle

**Enhanced Plantings: Perennials**
- Purple Coneflower
- Black-Eyed Susan
- Blazing Star
- Southern Blue Flag Iris
Wake BRT: New Bern Ave BRT Runningway

Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue
Median Running Transitway
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

April 2021
60% design complete

Dec 2021
Final Design and Right of Way Complete

2022
Construction begins

2024
BRT services begins along the New Bern Corridor

NEXT STEPS
• Begin right-of-way and easement acquisition process
• Parking restrictions and lane changes

NOTE: Schedule will be updated at key milestones and is subject to change. Construction and BRT service is contingent on Federal funding approval
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

Future Construction Activities – 2022

• Utility relocations
• Converting median to dedicated bus lanes
• Station construction
• Multi-use bicycle and pedestrian path
• Traffic signals and signage
• Water and sewer main upgrades

Example of construction activities
Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue

Next Steps

• Begin right-of-way and easement acquisition process
• Real estate staking to start along the corridor
• Some parking restrictions and travel lane changes will occur before and during construction
• Dec 2021 - City of Raleigh Real Estate team to begin reaching out to property owners along the corridor
• Jan 2022 – City of Raleigh to hold third round of business outreach meetings

Example of real estate flagging
Wake BRT Station Design

Luke Volkmar, AIA, CDT, LEED

Neighboring Concepts
Wake BRT Station Design

Fall 2020
Peer Review and Station Design Visual Preference Survey

Spring 2021
Advance Design Concepts & Survey #2

Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
3 Workshops with Municipal Partners and Project Management Team

Summer 2021
Final Station Design
Station Design
Core Goals and Values

1. UNIFORMITY
   Some elements of stations to be the same for uniformity, but provide an opportunity for some unique elements

2. SCALE
   Design should be able to scale up/down depending on context

3. EXISTING STYLE
   BRT stations should fit into current transit style

4. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE
   Use materials easy to obtain or replace if needed

5. COST
   Design should be fiscally responsible
Wake BRT Station Typologies

1. Urban Core
2. Intermodal
3. Split Island
4. Peripheral
5. Suburban
6. Shared Median
Station Design Spring VOH Feedback

- Single Slope: 51%
- Dark Steel: 68%
- Double Slope: 49%
- Light Steel: 32%
- Overall: 77%
Station Amenities

- Seating
- Weather protection
- ADA accessible boarding
- Digital signage
- Trash & recycling
- Real time arrival information
- Off – board ticketing
- Emergency phone
- Art integration
- USB Outlets for Charging
Conceptual rendering of Wake BRT Urban Core Station Typology
Conceptual rendering of Wake BRT Intermodal Station Typology
Conceptual rendering of Wake BRT Peripheral Station Typology
Wake BRT Art Integration

Meg Finnegan
City of Raleigh
Artist In Residence Overview

• In Fall 2020, Dare Coulter chosen as the Artist In Residence (AIR), to assist with art integration into the Wake BRT program

• Along New Bern Avenue – work with community to create conceptual ideas and inspiration

• On a System Level – working with design team to identify “blank canvases” for art integration

• To capture the shared history and experiences of the community for future artwork, public engagement was a large component of the residency
AIR Public Engagement Recap

- Three (3) rounds of public engagement
  - Zoom meetings, community groups, in person events, surveys, two VOHs, handouts, targeted faith-based outreach, downtown businesses

Spring VOH Survey Question: Below is a sampling of art projects from across the country that show different types of art. Which examples excite you the most? Pick three.

*Over 280+ responses to this virtual survey question*
AIR Final Report and Recommendations

- Final Report & Recommendations has been published
- Purpose of the document is to be a guide for art integration in the Wake BRT system, and be a starting point for future artists along the corridors
- On a system level, identifies 8 “blank canvases” within the BRT system where art can be integrated
  - Digital screens, multi-use paths, railings, sidewalks, station area & adjacent space, station platform and windscreens
AIR Final Report and Recommendations

- Through extensive research, the report identifies 9 different types of art integration for consideration by future artists for all 4 BRT corridors.
- Does not preclude different types of art from being considered in the future.
- Factors in identifying art types:
  - Impact, longevity, maintenance, design constraints, cost and constructability.

Types of Art Integration:
- Litho Mosaic
- Glow Rocks
- Concrete Integration
- Wayfinding
- Place Making
- Railings
- Glass Art
- Sandblasting
- Light Installations
AIR Final Report and Recommendations

• On a corridor level, includes recommendations for concrete integration, artistic railings and glass art at stations along New Bern to preserve the history and legacy of the corridor

• Each station location is called out in the report, with recommendations on themes and types of art integration

• Possible historic references are identified, with research links included

3. New Bern at Swain
   Historical / Storytelling / Community Inspired / Wayfinding/ Fun & Play
   Glass Art, Concrete Integration, Railings

   With the multi-use path (MUP) running parallel to this station, this station has a larger than average concrete "canvas". A large area of sandblasting could be very cool here, possibly even one filled with paint to add color. Another option would be light art installation, however that depends on available space. This station is also a potential location for green stormwater infrastructure. It is also worth noting that Swain Street is a direct connection to John Chavis Memorial Park, to the south of the station.

   Possible Historic References: Highly recommend inclusion of the City Cemetery for wayfinding. This stop is also located on the route of Raleigh’s historic streetcar system; the New Bern and Swain intersection was the end of the outbound route. It is important to note that the surrounding areas (between New Bern Avenue, Hargett Street and Lenoir Street) once housed a multitude of Raleigh’s freedman villages – Hungry Neck, Idlewild, Cotton Place, Old Fairgrounds and St. Petersburg. The East Raleigh – South Park Historic District is just south of the station, as well.
In September, 3 artist calls were advertised for New Bern Avenue:

- Concrete Integration RFQ – 1 artist responsible for designing and creating the wayfinding and concrete integrated artwork
- Railing Artwork RFQ – 1 artist responsible for designing and creating metal railing artwork
- Glass Art RFQ – 9 artists, each designing glass windscreens at 2 stations each

In late October, selection panels reviewed submittals, interviewed artists and selected the following:

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<th>Selected Artists</th>
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<td>Concrete Integration</td>
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<td>Johnny Lee Chapman III</td>
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<td>Railing Artwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glass Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawn Etheridge, Jane Cheek, Max Dowdle, Wendy Spitzer, Alberto Ortega, Leslie Bartlebaugh, Georges Le Chevallier, Kiara Sanders, Mayanthi Jayawardena</td>
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Wake BRT Branding

Cherie Gibson

HNTB
Wake BRT Branding Process

**Summer 2020**
- Research & Peer Review
- Creation of Branding Technical Committee

**Fall 2020 – Spring 2021**
- Branding Survey #1 & Workshops with Municipal Partners & Branding Technical Committee

**Spring 2021**
- Go+ Design Concepts & Branding Survey #2

**Summer - Fall 2021**
- Final Branding Design Concepts
Wake BRT Branding

Branding Technical Committee

• Committee provided feedback on the branding process

• Members from City of Raleigh, Town of Cary, Town of Garner, Wake County, Capital Area MPO and GoTriangle

• Reviewed peer review report and helped inform initial branding concepts
Wake BRT Branding

Public Feedback

✓ Fall 2020 Branding Survey – 500+ responses
✓ 3 Stakeholder Listening Sessions – 60+ participants
✓ Fall 2020 Virtual Open House
✓ 15+ Committee and Stakeholder updates

Key Themes

• Support to integrate with existing “Go” Brand
• Develop a bold and inviting color palette

Question #2 - Of these four options, which branded BRT style do you find most appealing?
Wake BRT Branding

Concepts

• Refinement of concepts with Branding Technical Committee (Wake County, Town of Cary, Town of Garner, GoTriangle, CAMPO and City of Raleigh)

• Decision to pursue an extension of the “Go” brand

• Name (“Go Plus”) and color identified

Spring VOH 2021 Public Feedback

✓ Spring 2021 Branding Survey – 400+ responses
Wrap Up & Discussion

Additional Questions? Contact:

• Mila Vega, Wake BRT Program Manager at mila.vega@raleighnc.gov

• Sean Driskill, P.E. Project Manager at sean.driskill@raleighnc.gov
Thank You

Stakeholder Committee
November 22, 2021