

March 18, 2021

Bret Martin  
Wake Transit Program Manager  
Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Dear Mr. Martin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wake Transit work plan!

The Regional Transportation Alliance, the voice of the regional business community on transportation in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina, is a strong advocate for enhanced multimodal mobility and the rapid, effective implementation of the Wake County Transit Plan.

**We are requesting that the FY 2022 annual Wake Transit work program include a specific budgetary allocation of funds to support or backstop a potential “zero fare weekends” transit initiative.**

Wake County has established a “Prosperity for All” framework, including leadership goals for health and economic mobility – and our innovative region has embraced equity as essential for our future.

We support a “zero fare weekends for everyone” pilot, which would reduce barriers to using *and considering* transit, while providing solidarity to and enhancing access for vulnerable communities.

Our neighbors in Chapel Hill have been zero fare for everyone, every day, for nearly two decades, and they, like others across the nation, have experienced ridership increases of 20-30%.

Our understanding is that weekends represent only around 20% of total weekly fare revenue, such that a year-long “zero fare weekends” pilot for both GoRaleigh and GoCary would require less than \$1 million in hold harmless allocations.

While we support the launch of a zero fare weekends pilot, our request is simply that the work plan set aside a budgetary funding allocation to support a possible pilot later this year or in early 2022.

Thank you for considering this request, and for helping our region become a national leader in innovative approaches to advancing equity and economic mobility in our community.

Sincerely,



Joe Milazzo II, PE  
Executive Director, Regional Transportation Alliance

cc Stephanie Plancich, Wake Transit TPAC Administrator, Capital Area MPO