

STAFF REPORT
Transportation Plan Amendment

October 15, 2019 Town Council Meeting



The Transit Plan Map of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan represents a network of current and future transit services that provide guidance on what is likely to be suitable for long term growth. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan does not require a schedule for implementation nor does it set aside funding for improvements. Instead, it helps the Town establish long term priorities. The Transit Plan Map was last amended in August 2019.

The proposed amendment to the Future Circulator Route on the Transit Plan Map is based on draft recommendations from the Transit Circulator Study (see attached report). The Transit Circulator Study is an implementation plan for the Town's highest-priority local bus route. The study is being completed by the Town of Apex, in partnership with the Town of Cary, and with funding support from the Wake Transit Community Funding Area Program. The Transit Circulator Study Draft Recommendations report includes a summary of public input and detailed recommendations for: bus route, stop locations, capital needs, bus operations, paratransit service, vehicles, fare structure, marketing, and a financial plan.

The intent of the study is to inform a potential application for capital and operating funds available through the Wake Transit Community Funding Area Program. The proposed amendment to the Transit Plan Map is the first step toward implementation of study recommendations.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendment:

Planning staff request the following change to the Transit Plan Map in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan:

Revise the Future Circulator Route to extend planned local bus service along South Salem Street, East Chatham Street, North Mason Street, Laura Duncan Road, Apex Peakway, Beaver Creek Commons Drive, Kelly Road, Olive Chapel Road, and Chapel Ridge Road.

The proposed amendment reflects input received from the Town of Cary. The original route has been extended to include Downtown Apex and destinations in the western part of Apex in response to public input gathered through the Transit Circulator Study. The route was designed to maximize service coverage area, maintain at least hourly frequency with one bus in operation, serve existing and anticipated bus stops, and minimize at-grade railroad crossings.

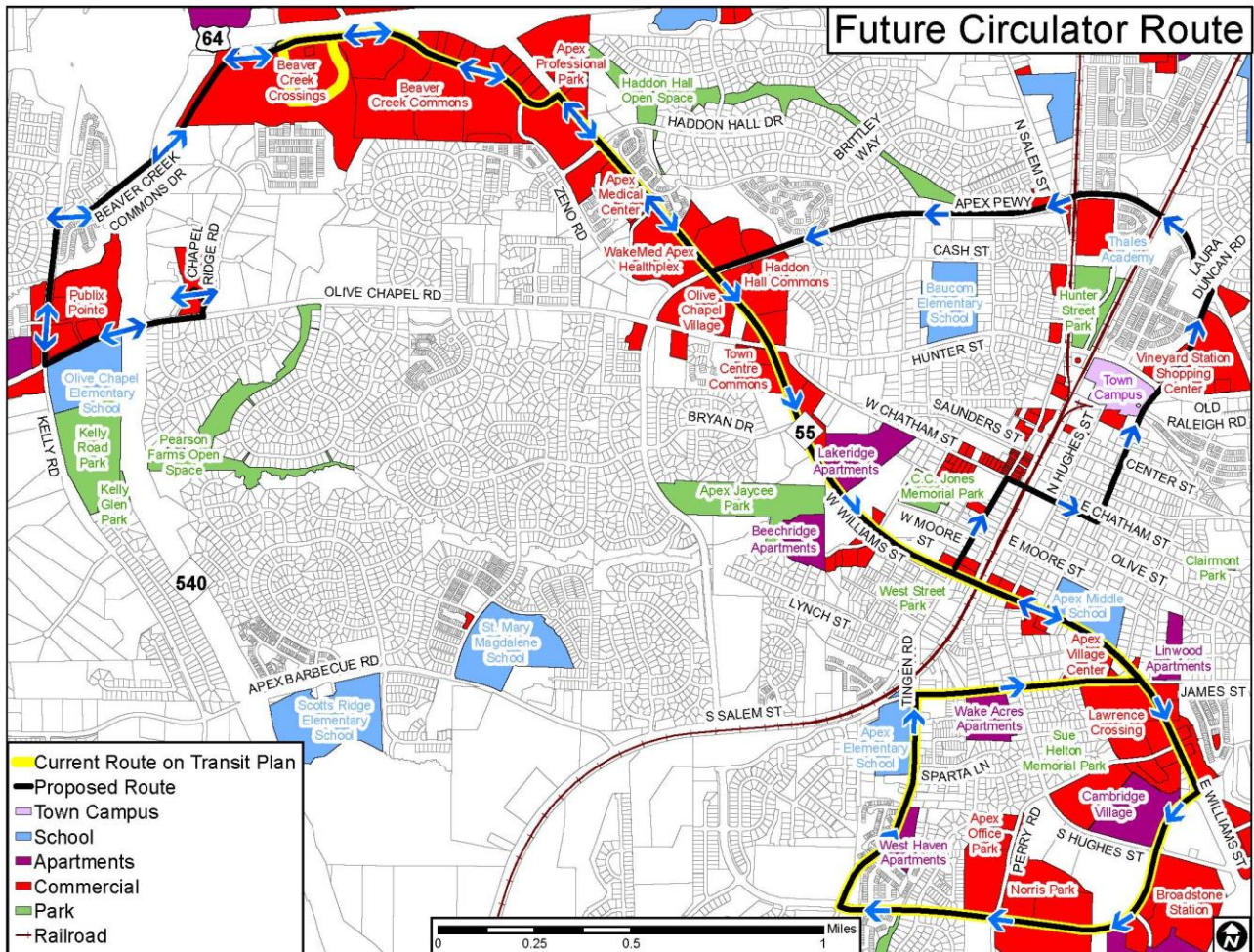


Figure 1. Proposed amendments to the Transit Plan Map

Staff Recommendation:

Planning staff recommend approval of the proposed amendment to be shown on the Transit Plan Map of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

The Senior Traffic Engineer reviewed the proposed route and has no concerns.

The Town of Apex Transit Committee has reviewed the proposed route and also recommends approval.

Planning Board Recommendation:

The Planning Board considered the proposed amendment at their October 14, 2019 meeting. The Planning Board recommendation will be presented by staff at the Town Council presentation and public hearing.

Attachments:

Town of Apex Transit Circulator Study Draft Recommendations