

# STAFF REPORT

## Transportation Plan Amendment

May 19, 2020 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 October 2019.

In October 2019, Planning and Community Development Department staff presented the Future Holly Springs Express, a transit route that would provide service to downtown Cary, downtown Apex, and Holly Springs. When the proposed route was presented to elected officials in the Town of Holly Springs; it was determined that the Future Holly Springs Express would not provide a reasonable connection from Holly Springs to Raleigh.

Town staff partnered with transit staff at GoTriangle and the Town of Cary to develop route amendments to four routes on the Transit Plan Map including Route 305, Route 311, Future Holly Springs Express, and Future Local Route 1. The purpose of these amendments is to provide a direct transit connection from Holly Springs to Raleigh, while maintaining transit connections from Apex to Cary, Holly Springs, Raleigh, and the Research Triangle Park. Additionally, these four routes have been designed to meet in downtown Apex to facilitate transfers between routes, serve existing park and ride locations, and serve areas with high propensity to use transit. An overview of the four routes, if approved as proposed in the amendments, is shown in Figure 1. A detailed map of the amendments can be found online at: <https://www.apexnc.org/DocumentCenter/View/31445>. An explanation of the proposed changes to each route follows the map.

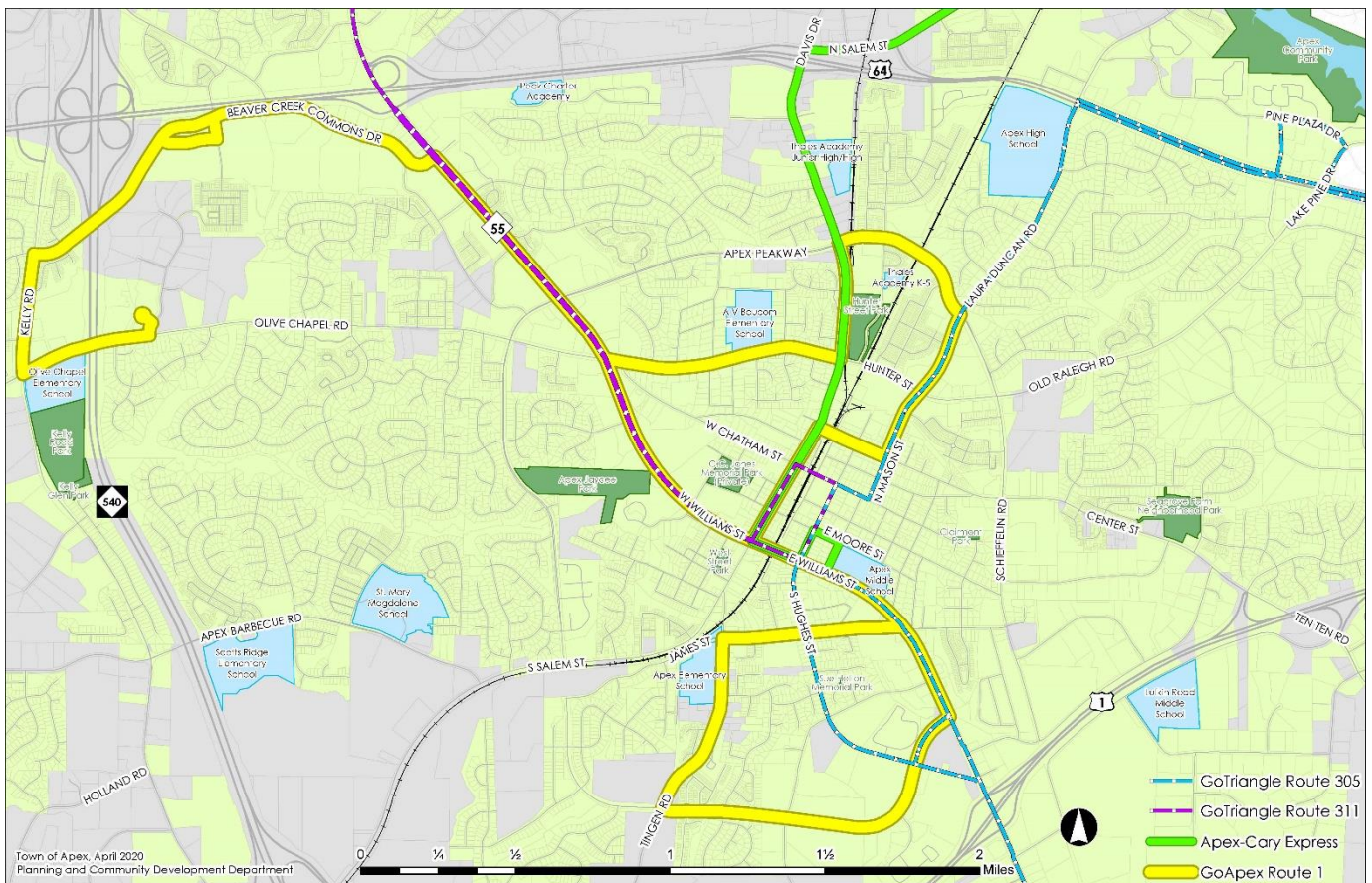


Figure 1. Proposed Route 305, Route 311, Apex-Cary Express, and GoApex Route 1





**Comprehensive Transportation Plan Amendments:**

Planning staff request the following changes to the *Transit Plan* map in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan:

1. **Revise Route 305** to extend through downtown Apex and to Holly Springs. Proposed changes include rerouting along US 64, Laura Duncan Road, N Mason Street, E Chatham Street, S Hughes Street, E Williams Street, and Apex Peakway. Proposed revisions also include removal of Route 311 (incorrectly labeled on the Transit Plan Map as Existing Route 305) along Old Raleigh Road, Center Street, and N Hughes Street.

Route 305 currently provides service between Apex and Raleigh from the Lake Pine Plaza Park-and-Ride on Shepherds Vineyard Drive. The proposed changes would extend Route 305 to Holly Springs to replace the Apex to Holly Springs segment of the former Future Holly Springs Express. The Apex-Cary Express would replace the Apex to Cary segment of the former Future Holly Springs Express. Route 305 would operate along Laura Duncan Road instead of Old Raleigh Road as Laura Duncan Road has a higher propensity for transit use. A map showing the proposed amendment is below. This map details the proposed Route 305 and specifies the alignment depending on the time and day.

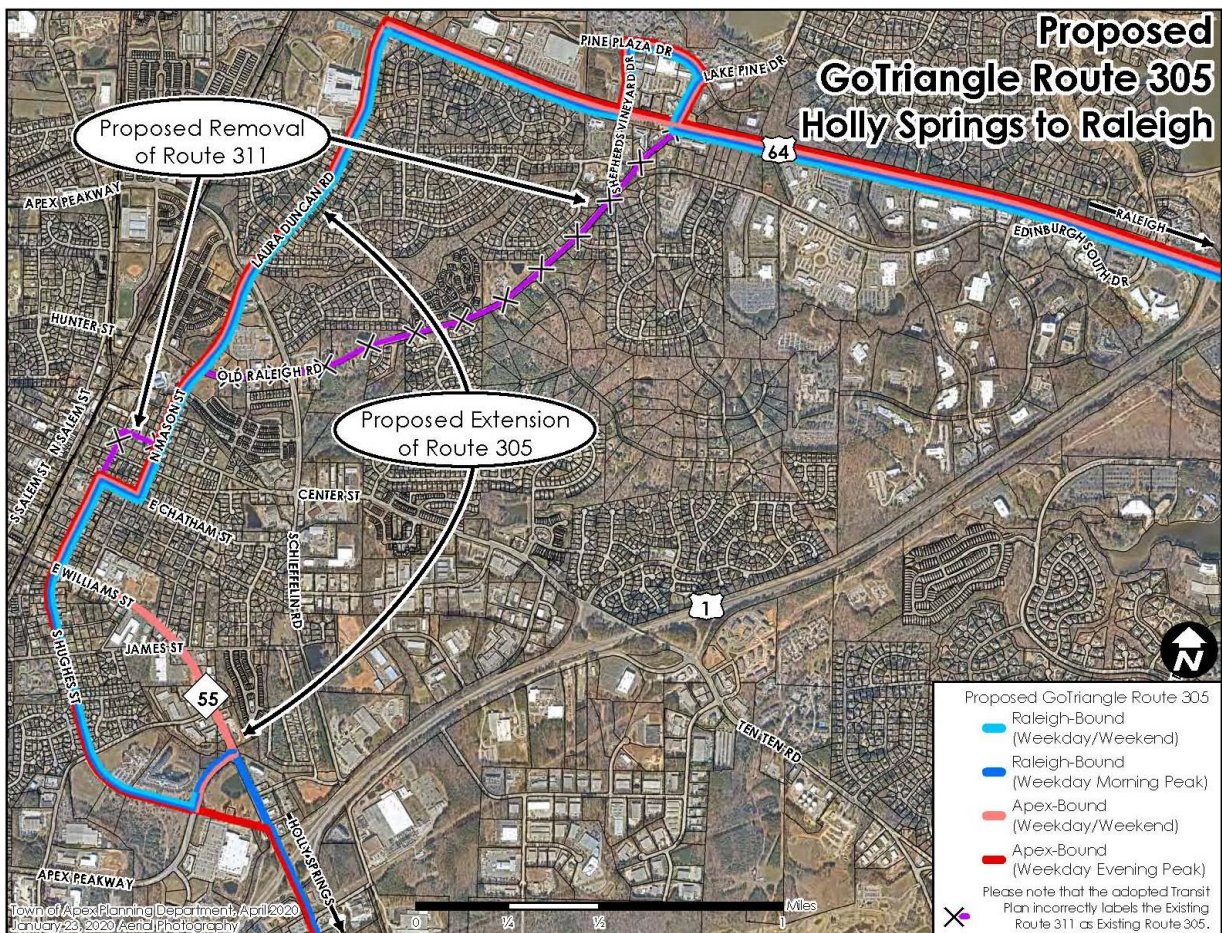


Figure 2. Proposed amendments to Route 305





- 2. **Reroute Route 311** (Apex to Research Triangle Park) through downtown Apex along S Hughes Street, E Chatham Street, and S Salem Street. Proposed revisions also include removal of Route 311 along E Williams Street, east of S Hughes Street; S Mason Street; and E Moore Street.

The proposed Route 311 would allow transfers to a GoApex Route 1 bus stop on S. Salem Street. Under the proposed amendments to Routes 311 and 305, Route 311 would no longer provide service to Lake Pine Plaza Park-and-Ride on Shepherds Vineyard Drive. Route 305 would continue to serve the Lake Pine Plaza Park-and-Ride. Routes 305 and 311 would both serve the Compare Foods Park-and-Ride on S Hughes Street. A map showing the proposed amendment is below.

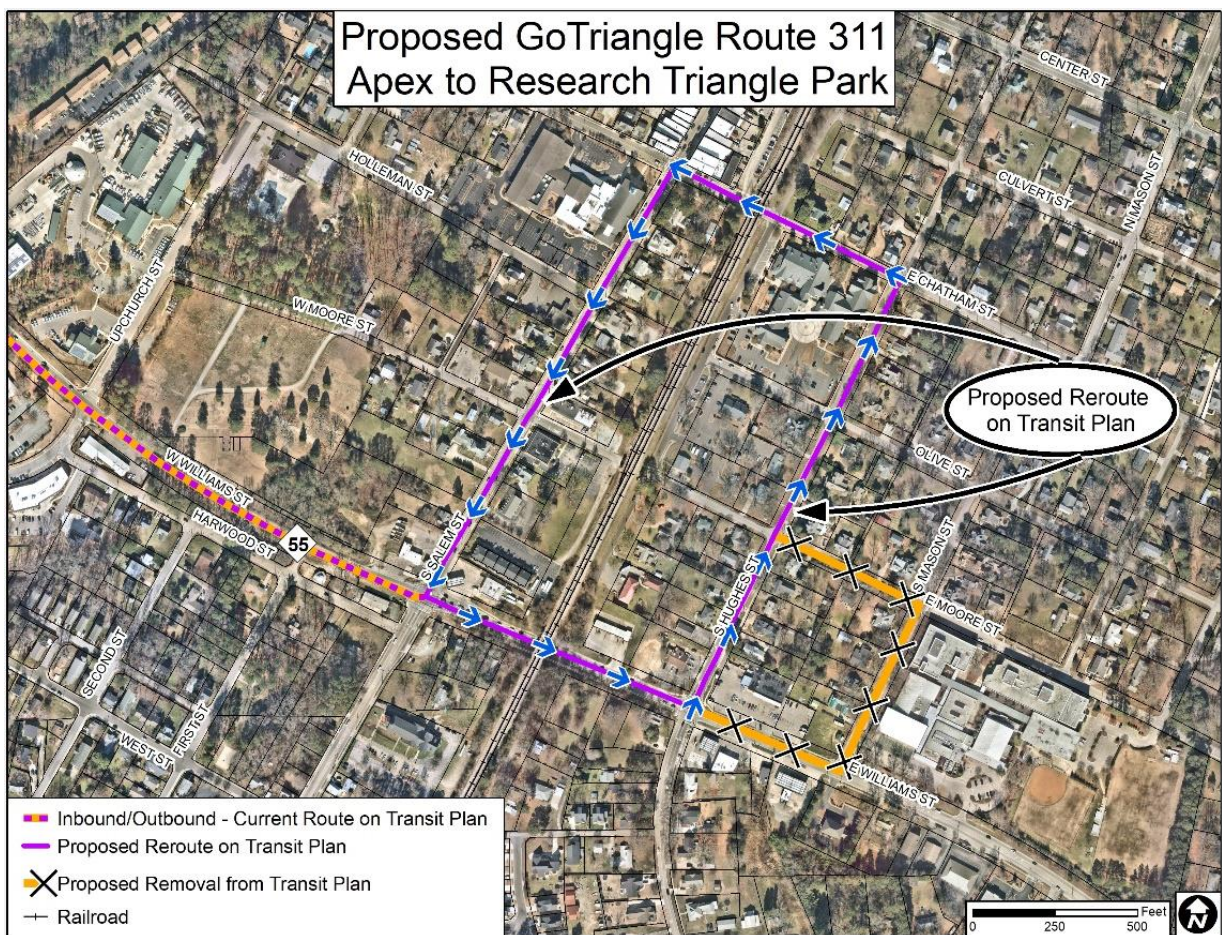


Figure 3. Proposed amendments to Route 311

- 3. **Change the Holly Springs Express to the Apex-Cary Express.** The proposed Apex-Cary Express is designed to replace the Apex to Cary segment of the former Future Holly Springs Express. Route 305 would replace the Apex to Holly Springs segment of the former Future Holly Springs Express. Proposed revisions include removal of the Future Holly Springs Express (proposed Apex-Cary Express) along S Hughes Street, south of E Williams Street; James Street; Apex Peakway; and E Williams Street, east of S Mason Street. A map showing the proposed amendment is below.



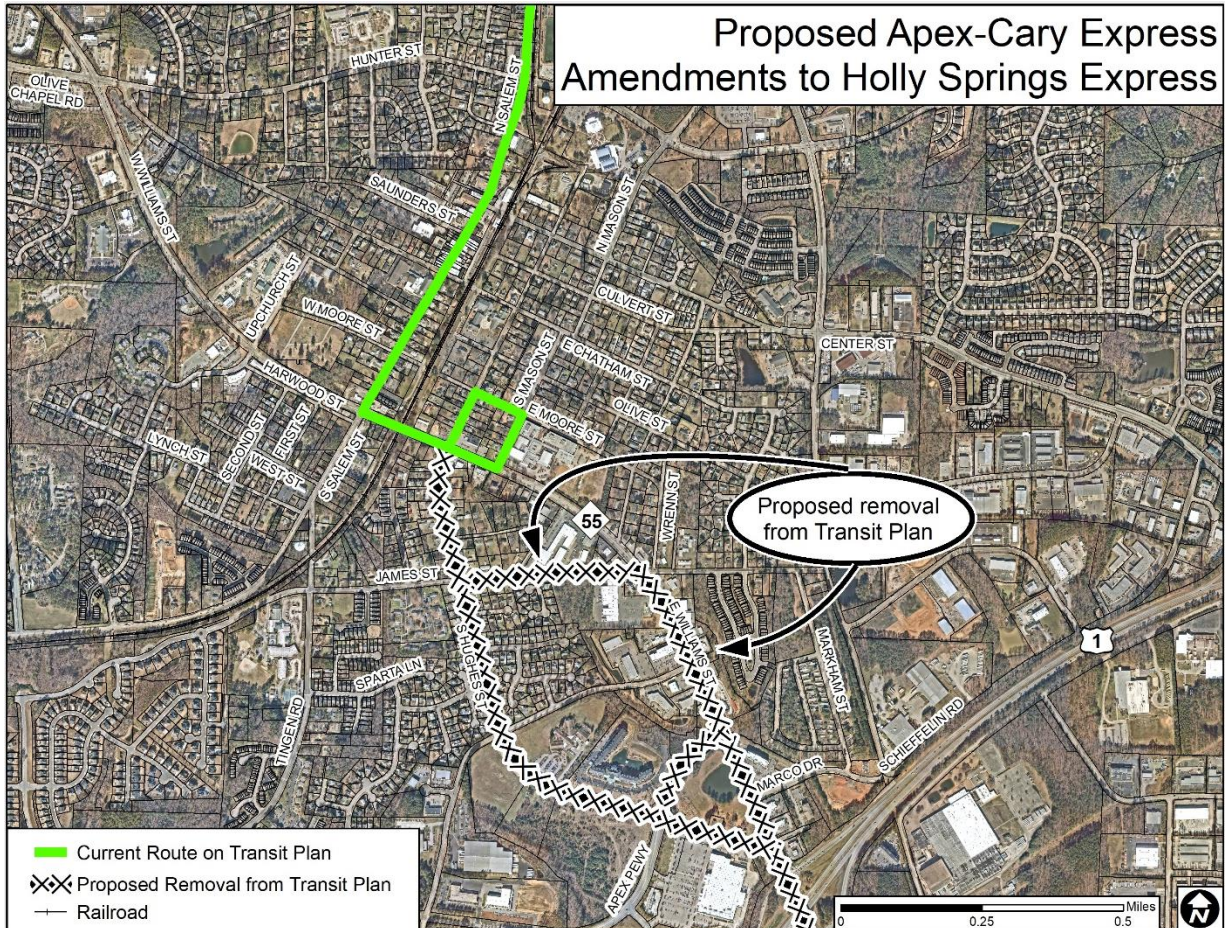


Figure 4. Proposed amendments to Future Holly Springs Express

4. **Reroute the Future Local Route 1** (GoApex Route 1) through downtown Apex along N Salem Street, Center Street, and Hunter Street and reroute through the Beaver Creek Crossings development. Proposed revisions include removal of GoApex Route 1 along Apex Peakway, west of N Salem Street; Chatham Street; and N Mason Street, south of Center Street.

The proposed route amendments are divided into three sections:

1. Reroute through Beaver Creek Crossings. Previous plans for this route included a bus stop on Beaver Creek Commons Drive at the intersection with Creekside Landing Drive. A bus stop is infeasible at this location due to space constraints and steep grade in this area. The proposed amendment is to reroute westbound trips through the Beaver Creek Crossings development to provide westbound transit riders with access to Beaver Creek Crossings.
2. Reroute along N Salem Street and Hunter Street. The proposed amendment would remove service along Apex Peakway between N Salem Street and W Williams Street. Route 1 would be rerouted along N Salem Street and Hunter Street to W Williams Street. The proposed rerouting would remove one proposed bus stop on Apex Peakway that would not be served by a





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proposed route change at this time due to social distancing requirements and reduced bus service. The Planning Board requested additional public engagement prior to making a recommendation regarding changes to Route 311.

Based on Planning Board's recommendation, staff will gather additional information on previous and current public engagement as well as future plans for engagement related to the proposed changes to Route 311. This information will be presented to Town Council at the May 19, 2020 meeting.

**Transit Advisory Committee Recommendation:**

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

**Staff Recommendation:**

Planning and Community Development Department staff recommend approval of the proposed amendments to be shown on the Transit Plan Map of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

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