

STAFF REPORT

Transportation Plan Amendments

August 27, 2024 Town Council Meeting



The Apex Transportation Plan was developed to provide guidance on what is likely to be suitable to support long term growth, connectivity, recreation, and multimodal travel. It includes a Transit Plan Map that represents current and future public transit and passenger rail facilities in the Town. Inclusion in the Transportation Plan and associated maps does not require a schedule for implementation, nor does it set aside funding for improvements. The purpose of this public hearing is to consider proposed amendments to the Transit Plan map in order to make a recommendation to Town Council. The Transit Plan map was last amended on October 24, 2023.

The proposed amendment is to update the routing for GoTriangle Route 305. GoTriangle has been considering this change for some time. In the GoTriangle Short Range Transit Plan (FY25-FY27) for Wake County, which was approved in 2023, Route 305's planned improvements listed on page 24 includes the following: "Alignment changes to serve Lake Pine Drive in Apex will occur along with bus stop improvements that are under development already". GoTriangle is in the design phase of developing bus stops along Pine Plaza Drive. However, for operational reasons, GoTriangle has decided to advance this routing change earlier than originally anticipated.

Figure 1 shows the proposed changes on the Transit plan map. For added context, the inset shows GoTriangle's planned future bus stops.

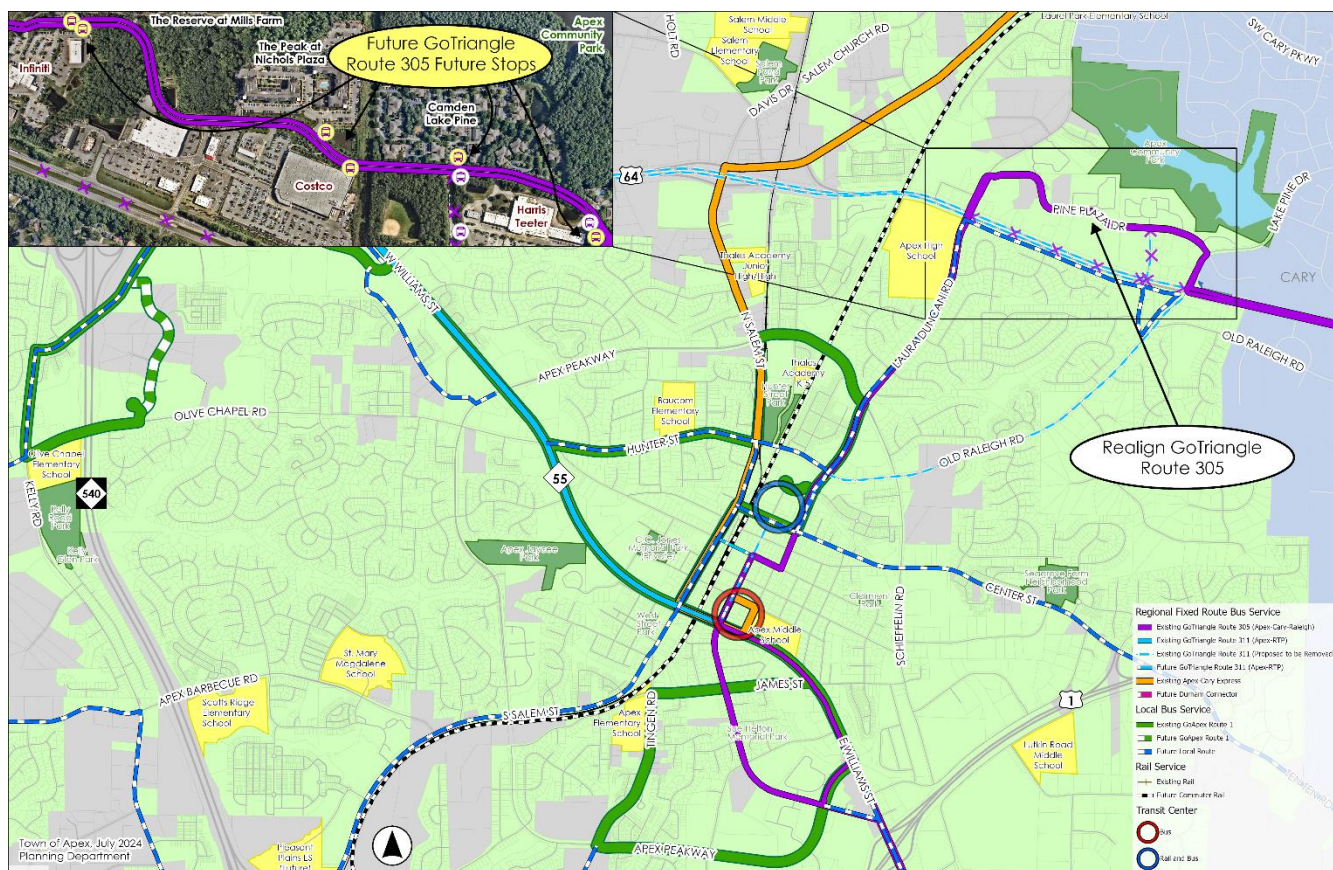


Figure 1. Proposed amendments to the Transit Plan map

The proposed amendment shows GoTriangle Route 305's routing changed as follows:

- Northbound routing to travel north on Laura Duncan Rd from the existing routing, to right onto Pine Plaza Drive, to right on Lake Pine Drive, and then left onto US 64 to existing routing; and
- Southbound routing to travel west on US 64 from the existing routing, to right on Lake Pine Drive, to left on Pine Plaza Drive, left on Laura Duncan Road, and back to existing routing.

Programmed Projects:

The proposed routing change is intended to be implemented by GoTriangle imminently, for operational and safety reasons to avoid making an unprotected left turn from US-64 to Shepherds Vineyard Drive. This change is not anticipated to have an impact on cost to the Town of Apex, as this service is not funded by the Town.

Of note, bus stops are not part of the Transit Plan Map, only routing is shown. However, for additional context, GoTriangle has planned and programmed funding for the addition of five new bus stops, and the move of two bus stops, in order to serve this new routing. Town staff are coordinating with GoTriangle on this process. This change is not anticipated to have an impact on cost to the Town of Apex, as the stops will not be funded by the Town. As far as timing, GoTriangle intends to place bus stop signs only when the routing is changed, with improvements to follow per their existing plan schedule.

Planning Board Recommendation:

The Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendment during their August 12, 2024 meeting.

Transit Advisory Committee Recommendation:

The Transit Advisory Committee unanimously recommended approval of the proposed amendment to GoTriangle Route 305 during their July 10, 2024 regular meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

Planning Staff are in support of this recommendation. Transportation, Infrastructure and Development staff are supportive as well.