Draft GoApex Bus Stop Improvement Policy

It shall be the policy of the Town of Apex to seek to increase the safety and convenience of GoApex bus stops for customers. Specifically, this policy is intended to inform the qualification and prioritization of bus stops for improvements using Town funds.

This policy shall apply to all bus stops serving GoApex fixed route transit services, such as GoApex Route 1. Stops served by other providers, such as GoTriangle or GoCary, shall be considered for improvements on a case-by-case basis in coordination with their providing agencies. Mobility hubs and stops serving other types of transit services are outside of the scope of this policy.

Deviations

Deviation from the priority order that results from application of this policy is allowable in certain circumstances, such as:

- To accelerate improvements by leveraging grants or other funds.
- To delay improvements where a programmed project (e.g. roadway improvement) may be expanded to address the need.
- In consideration of long-term plans affecting the area.
- Due to technical infeasibility.

Bus Stop Descriptions

GoApex bus stops should meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), and follow the Apex bus stop standard engineering specifications available at: https://www.apexnc.org/197/Engineering-Specifications. Premium materials may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Standard Bus Stop

Standard bus stops include:

- GoApex bus stop sign
- Concrete or asphalt landing pad and amenity pad
- Adequate lighting
- Bench
- Information boxes with route map and schedule

Enhanced Bus Stop

Enhanced bus stops may include:

- Covered shelter with seating
- Bicycle racks

Other Types of Bus Stop Improvements

Other types of bus stop improvements may be warranted on a case-by-case basis. These include several categories:

- Trash receptacles.
- Bicycle and pedestrian accessibility infrastructure.
- Enhanced information and connectivity.
- Infrastructure to improve bus reliability, address point-level traffic issues, or alleviate stop area constraints. Infrastructure improvements that affect the public travel lane should be considered in coordination with the Town's Transportation, Infrastructure, and Development Department and in consideration of the Town's Transportation Plan.
- Public art - Public art should be placed in coordination with the Town's Transit Advisory Committee and Public Art Committee, and in consideration of safety, visibility, and compatibility with the surrounding area.
- Alternative designs - In certain cases, different stop or improvement designs shall be considered where the improvements have been offered as a condition of development or as part of a Town project. Such designs shall be vetted through the development review process and reviewed by the Transit Advisory Committee prior to installation approval. Additionally, they shall meet or exceed the standard bus stop improvements.
- Landscaping and enhanced public spaces.

Prioritization

Qualification Criteria

The following criteria will be considered in the prioritization of active bus stops for improvements: ridership, nearby land uses, stop function, presence of transit-reliant populations, presence of historically underserved populations, site context, and community requests.

Prioritization Process

Prioritization is the process of setting out an order for future installation of improvements to ensure the most benefit to the community in light of limited funding availability. The highest priority is bringing all active GoApex bus stops up to the Standard Bus Stop level of improvements. Installation of Enhanced Bus Stop features is subject to qualification and prioritization. A process shall be conducted annually to prioritize stops for improvements based on their qualification criteria and installation feasibility. Staff shall develop and maintain a technical process for assigning points for qualification factors and prioritizing stops for improvements and shall make the results available to the public.