

HIGH POINT PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 9:00 AM

Municipal Office Building

211 S. Hamilton Street

High Point, NC 27260

Prosperity and Livability Committee - Council Member Monica Peters, Chair

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peters called the Meeting of the High Point Prosperity, Livability, & Safety Committee to order at 9:00 a.m. and stated the following members were present:

Present: Chair Monica Peters, Council Member Patrick Harman, Council Member Vickie McKiver, Council Member Tyrone Johnson (participating virtually)

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2025-419 **Short-Range Transit Plan Presentation**

Staff will provide an update regarding the development of the City of High Point Short-Range Transit Plan.

Assistant Transportation Director George Eckert introduced Alec More from the SRF Consulting Group and said he welcomed any questions from the Board and city leadership. Mr. Eckert spoke on the future and present growth patterns and how they want to provide exceptional services.

Mr. More acknowledged Andrew Edmunds, Transportation Planning Administrator, who he has been working closely with on the project. He showed the planning process and said they were in the Develop and Evaluate Alternatives stage, and indicated they would be shifting to the Draft and Adopt Final Plan stage soon. He spoke on the process and outlined the project activities with a special focus on the technical reports. He talked about outreach efforts and said they had received lots of stakeholder input.

Mr. More talked about the engagement team, that included Mr. Eckert and Mr. Edmonds, among others, and efforts to engage riders and drivers. He spoke on upcoming events, including pop-up events at the Farmer's market and other locations. He showed some of the input received by riders that illustrated how transit service was critical to their general mobility on a day-to-day basis. He explained that the team heard a lot about the value of the service and what they would like to see done differently. He spoke on the main areas of feedback, including longer spans of service, especially weekends and weekdays. He said the stakeholders expressed a desire to see more shelters and benches to make it more comfortable while waiting.

He gave an overview of initial recommendations, showed a map illustrating proposed transfer points and said they would maintain the Broad Avenue Terminal as a signature facility. He showed a rendering of a transfer point and explained they would be signature bus stops, scaled to the surrounding community character and context.

He talked about transit-oriented development and said the team was looking at it from a more tertiary level. He said the development would be centered around easy access to transportation and align the services with jobs and retail centers within walking distance.

He spoke on microtransit and explained it was a flexible, technology-able form of public transportation that was community-scaled using smaller vehicles. He shared the proposed microtransit zones in High Point, including zones in the Northwest and East portions of the city.

He explained some of the route adjustment concepts and said they looked at the existing system to create a transit spine on north and south Main street. He explained the concepts included higher frequency, longer span routes, integrated with crosstown and branch routes. He pointed out that every route would still connect with the Broad Avenue Terminal.

Mr. More showed a map of the concept of the routes that focused on three primary routes, core service routes, support service routes, and crosstown routes. He explained the advantages of each route and said they were currently conducting the final testing on the effectiveness of the routes.

He spoke on key observations, including trying to create an enhanced overall system with more overall reach and connections between neighborhoods, shopping, and job centers. He said they planned to complete the technical analysis in the next couple of weeks and mentioned the next opportunity for public engagement on October 29 at the library.

In response to Council Member Harman, Mr. Eckert said attracting and retaining drivers has been an ongoing challenge. Mr. More added that the team has been engaging drivers in the process and has received good feedback.

In response to Council Member Harman, Mr. More spoke on the technology report and talked about possible innovative technologies like QR codes.

In response to Council Member McKiver, Mr. Eckert said they currently had 21 drivers but would like to have 26. He said the department is working to close that gap and that things will run more smoothly once they are fully staffed. He pointed out that driver shortages were an industry-wide problem post-COVID.

In response to Council Member Peters, Mr. More spoke on expansion efforts near the High Point campus of Guilford Technical Community College. Council Member Peters said she really liked the proposed changes illustrated in the map. Mr. More spoke on proposed fiscally responsible amenities at bus stops and working with the Transportation Department on implementing some of the concepts.

In response to Council Member Harman, Mr. More said the paratransit vehicles were more fuel efficient than the larger buses and that the qualifications of drivers were more stringent for larger buses. He said that the fleet of larger vehicles is in great shape and that they were taking a look at the possibility of replacing some of the paratransit vehicles. Mr. Eckert spoke on the different vehicles used for paratransit transportation.

In response to Council Member Harman, Mr. More said he could provide information about more environmentally-friendly transit options at a later date.

In response to Council Member Holmes, Mr. More said they would be moving towards the final phase in the next week. He spoke on the fall engagement program and wanted to make sure that feedback was incorporated into the final plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity, Livability, & Safety Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Peters, Chair

Attest:

Alison Glynn, Deputy City Clerk