

## September 2017 Updates

### State:

- North Carolina's Republican-led General Assembly has approved a set of legislative district maps to replace the 2011 plans thrown out by the courts for being illegal racial gerrymanders. Many critics say the new maps are just as bad. The full House voted 65-47 for district lines that appear to help the GOP retain its strong majority in the chamber. The Senate followed with a 31-15 vote giving final approval to its remap. Republican legislators adopted the following criteria to apply to the re-drawing of the district maps: equal population, contiguity, compactness, fewer split precincts, county groupings and traversal, municipal boundaries, incumbency protection, and past election data. However, as many Republican lawmakers have pointed out in arguments supporting the replacement maps, racial data was not considered.

### Durham/Orange Counties:

- A proposed change to the \$2.5 billion Durham-Orange Light-Rail Transit plan could make it easier for people to hop the train to dinner and a show in downtown Durham. GoTriangle is studying how to add a 19th station to the 17.7-mile light-rail line in front of the Durham Performing Arts Center.

### Apex:

- Advance Apex – The 2045 Plan. Advance Apex is one process that will result in two plans – a long range transportation plan and an updated future land use map. For more information on the community-driven planning process Open House on October 24, 2017 visit the Town of Apex [website](#) and/or take the online survey at <https://www.publicinput.com/advanceapex>
- Something different at Cary's Koka Booth Amphitheatre on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 11 and Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>! Presented by the *Apex Sunrise & Cary MacGregor Rotary Clubs* in collaboration with the Town of Cary - **The 4th Annual Triangle Oktoberfest** will be a fundraising event focused on great beer & family fun to support the **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society** and other local and international charities. Entertainment will include an Opening Ceremony with the Mayor's, NYC's Polka Brothers, Peak City Sound, Wiener Dog Races, traditional Bavarian food and fare, KinderPlatz for the kids, Oktoberfest style competitions, and, of course, plenty of local and authentic German beer! Bring Your Friends & Family to the Triangle's Biggest & Most Authentic Oktoberfest! Buy Tickets [Here](#)

### Cary:

- One of Cary's busiest intersections is at High House Road and Cary Parkway and there have been several proposals over the years to address issues there. While this [plan has been in the works for many years now](#), Jerry Jensen, director of Transportation and Facilities in Cary, came before Town Council to say the project hit an obstacle. When the town advertised the project to improve the intersection by adding more lanes and putting in aesthetic touches, they only received one bid and Jensen said it was nearly 50 percent more expensive than they estimated it should be. They have not been able to get other bids and Jensen asked Town Council to vote to reject the bids. For now, town staff will continue to look at the project, change the construction schedule so it can be easier for contractors and they are in the process of relocating buried utilities. Town Council voted unanimously to reject the bids.

- The Planning Department presented Town Council with an opportunity to get Cary Certified Local Government (CLG) status under the National Park Services' Federal Preservation Program. This application has already been approved by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Town staff said those changes could still have been possible, but added that this vote is just for the CLG status and decisions about what buildings become landmarks is still up to Town Council and they can make that decision on an individual basis. Town Council voted unanimously to endorse the terms of Cary's participation in the CLG program.
- Town Planning and Zoning board recommended unanimous approval for the Cary Town Center rezoning for the redevelopment of a portion of the mall to include the IKEA. The Town Council will take action on this case in the next month.
- There are three seats on the Town Council that are up for election. Incumbent Council members Jack Smith, Ed Yerha and Jennifer Robinson are running for re-election to their respective seats. Voting will take place in Cary on October 10.
- The council approved the staff recommended road and pedestrian projects to be submitted to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Bids were approved for raw water transmission lines. Bids were also approved for the following road projects:
  - Cary Parkway at Evans Road
  - Cary Parkway at Kildaire Farm Road
  - Maynard Road at High House Road
  - High Meadow Drive at Cary Parkway
- Economic Development Highlights (submitted by Cary Chamber):
  - Since the beginning of 2017, nine projects have been won with a 1,600 new jobs and \$176 million in new investment. The jobs and investment are divided relatively equally between new and existing companies.
  - Cary ED is currently working on ten active projects that account for over 52,00 new jobs and over \$278 million in new investment
  - Class A vacancy rate in Cary is down to 6.24%
  - Cary's unemployment rate of 3.3% is lower than the national, state and county averages (4.6%, 4.5% and 3.6% respectively).

#### Chapel Hill:

- The Chapel Hill Transit service area is continuing to grow and how people get around is changing. Building on past planning work, Chapel Hill Transit is conducting a Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) that will service as a roadmap for the next 10 years and position the system for continued future success. This plan is being developed in coordination with similar short range transit planning efforts being undertaken by Orange Public Transportation and GoTriangle. Complete a five-minute, interactive survey at <http://chapelhillsurvey.com>. For more information, contact Chapel Hill Transit at (919) 485-7433.
- Chapel Hill to rewrite Land Use Management tools: As part of an overall goal to connect investments and decisions to achieving community goals, the Town Council has initiated a project to update and rewrite development review tools including the Future Land Use Map and Land Use Management Ordinance. The Town Council anticipates that improved development tools will make the development review process more predictable, functional and intentional.
- 2200 Homestead Road for Affordable Housing: The Council adopted a resolution to designate 2200 Homestead Road as an affordable housing site and authorize the Town Manager to continue to pursue development of a mixed-income affordable housing development on that site.
- Mixed-use development rebranded as Blue Hill District: The northeastern edge of Chapel Hill, formerly Fordham-Ephesus District, is rebranding itself as Blue Hill District.

#### Durham (City):

- Durham is moving to a digital review of applications for Future Land Use Map amendments and Zoning Map Changes. **Beginning in November**, you will be required to submit 2 paper copies of your application materials (plans folded) and a copy of all required materials on a compact disc (CD) or flash drive (USB). Durham is also in the process of updating the associated applications; you will notice they look different. Questions? Please contact Jacob Wiggins at [Jacob.Wiggins@DurhamNC.gov](mailto:Jacob.Wiggins@DurhamNC.gov) or Jamie Sunyak at [Jamie.Sunyak@DurhamNC.gov](mailto:Jamie.Sunyak@DurhamNC.gov)
- A who's who of downtown Durham stepped up against a proposal to break up a tax district that funds downtown revitalization. Leaders from American Underground, American Tobacco Campus, Art of Cool Festival, restaurant owners and residents told the City Council to keep the special district intact. The council held a public hearing on a request by Measurement Inc. to remove 21 parcels – seven buildings plus parking lots – from the Downtown Business Improvement District. Taxes from the BID pay for marketing, maintenance and the blue-shirted downtown “ambassadors” to make the district more appealing. Money goes to Downtown Durham Inc. to pull it off, but Measurement Inc. wants out. In the end, council members acted by not acting at all. The law only required them to hold a public hearing. The city charges an extra tax of 7 cents for every \$100 of assessed value for property inside the Business Improvement District. Measurement Inc., which owns 21 parcels of land in the BID, paid a little more than \$33,000 last year in taxes to support it.

#### Garner:

- The Town officials, dignitaries and citizens ushered in a new era in Garner Tuesday, Sept. 19, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the New Town Hall. The two-story, 26,000-square-foot building, located on the site of the previous Town Hall, houses seven of the Town's 11 departments and includes Garner's Town Council Chambers. The building also features an expanded bill payment area and a central customer-service intake point for people seeking the development services provided by the Planning and Inspections departments. Town staff has been working in the building for about two months and are able to take advantage of technology upgrades in conference rooms and elsewhere to work more efficiently for the citizens they serve. There will be a Town Hall open house event for the public at a later date. ADW Architects of Charlotte designed the building. Resolute Building Company of Chapel Hill served as general contractor for the project.

#### Holly Springs:

- The Holly Springs Town Council approved funding the design of a traffic signal at the intersection of Main and Ballentine streets and landscaping a downtown greenspace at its Sept. 19 meeting.
- The council approved the development plan for Exchange at Holly Springs, an 11-building multifamily development on 21 acres at the intersection of Ralph Stephens Road, South Main Street and Piney Grove-Wilbon Road. Trails wrap around the site, 15 percent of which is to be private open space.
- Southern Area Planning Initiative, a Planning and Zoning Department study covering 12.2 square miles within the southern area. The purpose of the initiative is not creation of a new plan. Instead, the purpose is to receive suggestions on how the 12.2-mile area should grow. Residents and business owners from throughout Holly Springs and the town's planning territory can participate. Sessions will occur Oct. 26 and Nov. 13. For more on the Southern Area initiative, contact the Department of Planning and Zoning at (919) 557-3908 or email [sapi@hollyspringsnc.us](mailto:sapi@hollyspringsnc.us).
- The council retained a firm for a development fee study to meet the requirements of a new state law and to expand water and wastewater planning efforts.

#### Morrisville:

- The Board will hold also a Public Comment Session on the Transportation Draft Plan at their meeting on Thursday, October 12th at 6:30 p.m., at which time they may forward a recommendation on the Draft Plan to Town Council. To sign up to provide public comments on the Draft Plan to the Planning &

Zoning Board at one of their meetings, click [here](#) to go to the Agendas and Minutes webpage, and click on the "eComment" link next to the meeting date. For more information about the Draft Plan, including the Draft Plan document and Draft Recommendation Maps, visit [www.townofmorrisville.org/transportationplanupdate](http://www.townofmorrisville.org/transportationplanupdate).

Raleigh:

- Raleigh is proposing a nearly \$207-million bond to pay for road projects across the city. The first major difference with this bond and the one that voters approved last year is that it only applies to Raleigh. Last year's bond was for all of Wake County, more specifics of the bond can be found [here](#).
- The Raleigh City Council on Sept. 5 approved adjustments to the City's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) that provide guidelines for incorporating green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in development and redevelopment throughout Raleigh. With the approval of these guidelines, City staff will develop resources and tools that will help developers, designers, and citizens navigate the GSI plan review process.
- The City of Raleigh is accepting applications for its Stormwater Quality Cost Share Program. The program offers residents and businesses an affordable way to install a device on their property that treats stormwater runoff and reduces pollution to Raleigh's waterways. Participants may receive up to 90 percent reimbursement for their project depending on its proximity to high-priority streams and lakes. To schedule a consultation or to get more information about installing a stormwater device on your property, contact the City of Raleigh Stormwater Management Division at 919-996-3940 or [RaleighStormwater@raleighnc.gov](mailto:RaleighStormwater@raleighnc.gov).
- Multifamily: At the June 13, 2017, City Council work session, Solid Waste Services (SWS) presented a recommendation to improve recycling participation in multi-family complexes by replacing the current igloo and cart program with a dumpster program. In those complexes where dumpsters were not feasible, SWS is recommending installation of cabinet style recycling units. Several council members expressed some concern over the size of the slot, in which citizens would insert their recycling, fearing this might deter them from recycling. SWS staff agreed to return to the vendor to determine if this opening could be altered to address this concern, and the vendor has provided a prototype with a larger opening. This cabinet has been made available for the Council to examine outside of the front doors of the municipal building. Staff is prepared to move forward with negotiating a sole source contract with this vendor. Fibrex, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$332,000. Funding is appropriated in the annual operating budget.
- Upcoming Public Hearings, October 3, 2017, 7 p.m.
  - Street and Sidewalk Petition - Norris Street
  - Street Closing STC-4-2017 - Chamberlain Street Right-of-Way
  - TC-17-17 - North Hills Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District
  - Z-16-17 - Hillsborough Street
  - Utility Extension Agreement - MacNair Starnes Property, LLC
  - CP-1-17 - Aviation Parkway

Wendell:

- Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. to consider text amendments to Chapter 7 of the UDO, as it relates to open space requirements.

## TCC Updates:

**On Thursday, September 21st the Triangle Community Coalition held our 16th Political Pig Pickin’ at Angus Barn.**

Candidates running in the fall municipal elections had an opportunity to meet with over 200+ TCC members and potential voters during this old fashioned political rally and candidate forum.

Candidates had an opportunity to give a short & informal “stump speech” after competing in a fun game of “Closest to the Hole” golf.

The event also featured an informal straw poll to wrap up the event! **View the results of the straw poll [“here”](#).**

Thank you to all of the sponsors for their support in helping make this event a success! View pics of event at [www.tricc.org](http://www.tricc.org)

The TCC organizes monthly *Coffee Chats* with municipalities across the Triangle. This type of event provides TCC members with the opportunity to have an informal but intimate conversation with elected officials and senior staff about the area's growth and development. The chats are a TCC Member Only event! For more information, please contact Charlene at [charlenel@tricc.org](mailto:charlenel@tricc.org)

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**Upcoming Coffee Chats: Save the Dates and All Member Invites will be sent one month prior to the chat!**

October 24, 2017 Duke Energy Coffee Chat – Part Two

November 1, 2017 Durham County Public Schools

December 6, 2017 Town of Apex

**Upcoming Luncheon Learn Programs in 2017:**

November 13, 2017 - Dix Master Plan

### **TCC Membership Information**

**In 2017 we will act to:**

- Influence public policy
- Promote responsible stewardship by government
- Shape public opinion through education
- Provide solutions for community issues

If you are not a member of the TCC, please join now and commit your resources to help us. If you are a TCC member, get ready for a year of **action**. We cannot hold our peace and leave the future of this region in the hands of those who fail to understand the benefits of growth, the very growth that has made the Triangle the best place to live in the country.

***“Act now or forever hold your peace.”***

For more information about TCC membership visit [www.tricc.org](http://www.tricc.org) or call the TCC office at 919 812-7785

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