

# **FAST**<sub>2.0</sub>

*Freeway, Arterial, Street, and Tactical Transit*

## **VISION AND GOALS**

December 2024

## Introduction

This memorandum outlines the vision and goals for the Freeway, Arterial, Street, and Tactical (FAST) 2.0 Transit Study, developed through a collaborative visioning exercise with fifteen (15) key Triangle region transit stakeholders at Steering Committee meeting #1, held on May 3, 2024. The vision and goals were also informed through review of existing regional planning documents.

## Vision

The FAST 2.0 Transit Study vision was captured in the following themes:

- **Enhance Quality of Life:** Improve the quality of life for all residents in the Triangle Region
- **Ensure Safe and Reliable Transit:** Provide safe, reliable, and high-quality transit services
- **Boost Bus Mobility and Access:** Enhance bus-based mobility and ensure equitable access to regional transit
- **Offer Competitive Transit Options:** Provide competitive transit choices to connect the community and economic opportunities
- **Meet Diverse Needs:** Address the diverse needs of residents
- **Address Local and Regional Connectivity:** Cater to both local needs and regional connectivity
- **Prioritize Buses and BRT:** Evaluate opportunities to prioritize buses and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) regionally

These vision statements were included in a survey sent to Steering Committee members for participation prior to Steering Committee Meeting #2, held on December 4, 2024. Participants were asked whether the vision statements align with their organizations' regional transit mission, vision and goals. Respondents were also asked if there was a missing vision statement theme that should be included. Of the 15 survey respondents, 13 agreed or strongly agreed with the themes as stated. One respondent disagreed with the vision to "Offer Competitive Transit Options" and one disagreed with the vision to "Prioritize Buses and BRT", but no clarifying comments or alternatives were offered. The vision statements were reviewed at the December 4, 2024, Steering Committee Meeting #2, at which general consensus and agreement was reached that the FAST 2.0 Vision Statement should remain as stated.

## Goals

The FAST 2.0 Transit Study goals are captured in nine statements:

- **Coordinate Regional Transit Projects:** Improve connectivity across the region by coordinating transit projects.
- **Conduct Equity and Needs Assessment:** Assess the regional transportation network for efficiency and effectiveness
- **Assess Transportation Network:** Assess the regional transportation network for efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Develop Direct BRT Linkages:** Create direct Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) connections to RDU from Triangle downtowns.
- **Identify Freeway and Arterial Corridors for Transit Priority:** Choose one freeway and five arterial corridors for transit priority infrastructure enhancements
- **Evaluate Transit Priority Improvements:** Evaluate the application of various transit priority infrastructure improvements for the selected corridors.

- **Recommend Transit Infrastructure Projects:** Propose transit infrastructure projects and develop a sequenced implementation plan.
- **Recommend Institutional Practice Changes:** Suggest changes to local, regional, and NCDOT practices for integrating transit within highway planning and design
- **Set Up Regional Transit Working Group:** Establish a working group to continue coordinating regional transit planning with NCDOT.

The FAST 2.0 goals were similarly included in the survey for feedback and discussed with stakeholders at the December 4, 2024, Steering Committee Meeting #2. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the stated goals, and one participant strongly disagreed with the goal of standing up a regional transit working group. The comment received via the survey and discussed at the meeting was: *‘Central Pines already facilitates regional transit working groups. New groups do not need to be established. The region needs to recognize, legitimize, and give authority to existing groups, not create new ones’.*

After discussion and agreement, this study goal will be revised as follows:

- **Regional Transit Working Group:** Leverage existing regional transit working groups to continue coordinating regional transit planning with NCDOT.

Other discussion points around FAST 2.0 goals included:

- For the goal to ‘Develop Direct BRT Linkages to RDU’, it was noted direct airport service to RDU is currently provided by GoTriangle, and the goal seeks to enhance and expand existing airport connections.
- For the goal to ‘Recommend Institutional Practice Changes’, the desire to make this goal action-oriented was noted with an expectation that the recommendations are ready to be approved by NCDOT.
- Stakeholders discussed the need to have long-term planning for future connections to Lee and Franklin Counties, as the region continues to experience growth. The study team will consider these connections as recommendations are developed for the Regional Network, which will include longer-term planning for additional regional transit connections (included in the stated goal to ‘Coordinate Regional Transit Projects’).

With the overwhelming agreement to the stated Vision themes and Goals for FAST 2.0, these will be carried forward into subsequent study tasks to identify and select priority corridors and to develop final recommendations for implementation of projects.