

on the move >>>>>

SPRING 2005

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House Passes Transportation Bill

Earlier Action Provides New Funding for Regional Rail Project and Buses

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU). Senate action is expected soon. TEA-LU would provide transit and transportation funding for six years.

In early March, TTA General Manager John Claffin and several board members met with staff members of North Carolina Senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr as well as Congressmen David Price, Brad Miller and Howard Coble. Claffin said he's gratified by the support of the Triangle's congressional delegation, who have been very supportive of expanding public transportation in the Triangle, and instrumental in securing funds for TTA.

Last fall, TTA received a \$20 million earmark for the regional rail system, and \$1 million for bus replacements, in the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill that Congress adopted in late November. This brings total federal appropriations to date for the rail project to approximately \$85 million.

TTA continues working with Federal Transit Administration toward a funding agreement for the rail project that will allow construction and rail design to begin. The 12-station, 28-mile regional rail system is scheduled to be operational in 2008.



Bus Operator Esther Nunn says the new fare boxes have been easy to use.

New Collection System Installed in Buses in the Triangle

Riders on TTA buses and shuttles are using new fare boxes that were introduced in February

The new collection system has advanced driver and passenger displays and will issue and validate coins, bills and magnetic transfers. It also will process magnetic stripe passes and provide electronic change. With the new fare boxes, TTA operators will be able to issue day passes or provide transfers. Other passes or stored ride cards will be available through TTA Customer Service. Laurie Barrett, director of TTA bus operations said the new fare boxes will "encourage more riders to take advantage of transit and the areas we serve."

TTA is one of three transit systems in the Triangle to use the new fare media. Capital Area Transit (CAT) has installed the new fareboxes and Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA) will install the new fareboxes this spring to make it easier for passengers to travel in the Triangle with a single fare collection box. "This technological improvement continues our goal of creating

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Poll Shows Support for TTA's Regional Rail System

Seven in ten people surveyed for NC Go! and TTA think traffic congestion will get worse in the next five years.

A recent poll of Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill residents shows strong support for public transportation in the Triangle region and the building of the TTA Regional Rail Transit System. TTA plans to implement a 28-mile rail system with 12 stations connecting Durham, Research Triangle Park, Cary and Raleigh.

The questions were included in a statewide telephone survey for NC Go!, an organization representing more than 22,000 businesses and organizations and one million individuals across the state.

The Poll found:

75 percent of those questioned said they would support expanding the public transportation system in the Triangle.

72 percent of those surveyed said they would support the building of a regional rail system.

70 percent said they think traffic congestion in their area 3 to 5 years from now will be worse than it is now.

64 percent of Triangle residents polled said the amount of traffic congestion in their area is worse than it was 3 to 5 years ago.

At a news conference announcing the results, Carter Worthy, Chairperson of the TTA Board of Trustees said the poll's findings are encouraging. "Residents in the Triangle back the goals of the regional rail system to help unclog roads, support multimodal transportation and support economic development." NC Go! partnered with the Regional Transportation Alliance a business leadership group, and TTA to highlight transportation needs specific to the Triangle Region.

TTA Acquires Key Raleigh Station Location

TTA now owns the former property of Dillon Supply Company in Downtown Raleigh. In January, TTA paid Dillon Supply Company \$9.825 million dollars for the property that has housed the industrial and construction supplier since 1914.

Dillon Supply Company will move by February 2006. The rail station will be one of 12 built by TTA as part of its 28-mile Regional Rail Transit System linking Durham, Research Triangle Park,

Cary and Raleigh. With the acquisition of the 6.14 acres from Dillon Supply, TTA now owns 75 per cent of the land it needs for the downtown Raleigh rail station.

In announcing the transaction, TTA General Manager John Claflin said, "this will provide riders with an excellent downtown location. We hope the station also will serve as a catalyst for additional economic development in downtown Raleigh."

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Bus Operator Greg Langley drops coins into the new TTA fare box.



New Collection System Installed in Buses in the Triangle

(continued from cover)

seamless regional transportation, which affords convenience to our customers," said John Tallmadge, TTA director of commuter resources. In 2003, TTA along with CAT and DATA, and Orange (County) Public Transportation (OPT), introduced the regional pass. The pass is purchased on a monthly basis and can be used to board buses operated by the sponsoring agencies and Chapel Hill Transit.

TTA Riders Get Visual Information Displays

There's a "transit tube" at or coming to a bus stop near you. TTA has installed "transit tubes" in Chapel Hill and Durham to provide riders with maps, fare information and information about when the TTA bus will be at a particular stop. John Tallmadge, TTA director of commuter resources said, this is "a great resource to the commuter and is part of our continuing effort to provide the information our customers want."

The displays are in three locations in Chapel Hill, nine locations in Durham, RDU International Airport and Moore Square in Raleigh. This is the first round of installations for the signs. The multi-year expansion plan includes placing the "transit tubes" at TTA's other major stops in the Triangle.



TTA's transit tubes like this one at Streets at Southpoint are a service enhancement to help riders know bus schedules.



TTA Web Site Gets Redesign

TTA has launched a new look to its Web site at www.rideTTA.org. The Web site has more detailed information on transportation options and is another step by TTA to respond to commuter needs.

The site, designed by Cassell Design of Durham, features several updates, including, color-coded pages for each of the agency's programs; Bus and Shuttle Service, Ride

Sharing, Regional Rail and News and Events. There are updates on the regional rail transit project and information on how to sign up for vanpools, TTA bus and shuttle schedules as well as NC's "Share The Ride" program. The site also provides information on TTA's Emergency Ride Home and Rider Alert programs, and an easy to use customer feedback form.

Did you Know...

More and more people are riding TTA.

From August 2004 through January 2005, TTA ridership rose 13% from the same period the year before.

August, September, October, and November 2004 were TTA's four highest months since service began in 1993.



art & rail

Rail In Motion



Choreo Collective's improvisational dance rode the rails at a March concert in Chapel Hill.

Rail transit has inspired a modern dance about riding the train. Formed in 1997, Choreo Collective is a collective of choreographers and dancers exploring the creative process and increasing the presence of performing arts in the Triangle. Choreo performed its improvisational dance called "Cross Training" at a March concert in Chapel Hill.

The presentation was created and choreographed by Anne Franklin, a TTA board member. Franklin said she started with the group talking about the commuting experience and improvised movements related to commuting. "It took eight weeks to create and rehearse the piece, but was an opportunity to remind the audience that the train is coming and will draw its passengers from all over the Triangle. I'm also excited that the Regional Rail System will integrate art with transit because we will have a rider's time and attention every time that they will be at one of our stations."

TTA's 28-mile Regional Rail System is scheduled to begin operation in 2008 and will have 12 stations serving Durham, Research Triangle Park, Cary and Raleigh.



Visit our Web site: www.rideTTA.org,
or call TTA Customer Service at (919) 549-9999



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