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APRIL 2008 RIDERSHIP RISES OVER SAME PERIOD IN 2007

Research Triangle Park, N.C. (May 12, 2008) - Triangle Transit is riding high. Ridership for April 2008 rose dramatically over April 2007.

For the month, ridership was up 20.5% over the same time last year. Ridership last month was at 83,926 compared with 69,628 last April.

"We're pleased that more and more riders are taking Triangle Transit," said Triangle Transit General Manager David King. "Rising fuel prices have convinced more riders it's time to try transit. We also feel the addition of new buses and the SmartCommute Challenge have had an impact. Our emphasis on good customer service is helping us to retain these new commuters."

The Carolinas AAA Motor Club reports the price of self-service unleaded gasoline in the Raleigh-Durham area was 65 cents a gallon higher this April than in April 2007. The motor club also recently reported that motorists will pay an average of 63 cents for every mile they drive their car in 2008. At today's prices, that translates to an extra cost of over \$2,000 for a person driving the average car 15,000 miles due to increases in car prices, insurance, as well as gasoline.

Bus ridership is not the only statistic showing an increase. There's a renewed demand for vanpools in the Triangle. The vanpools must begin or end in Durham, Orange or Wake counties. Triangle Transit now has a record 68 vans on the road and more requests to form vanpools are coming in each week. Calls to the GoTriangle Regional Transit Information Center at 919-485-RIDE are also up from April of last year as riders and potential riders decide to use public transit.

Triangle Transit connects people and places in a way that is reliable, safe, and easy-to-use. Bus service is available to Apex, Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, Garner, Hillsborough, RDU International Airport, RTP and Raleigh. In addition to vanpools, ridematching and paratransit services, Triangle Transit provides commuter resources and hosts GoTriangle.org, the convenient on-line resource for public transportation information in the Triangle.

For more information, visit www.triangletransit.org or call (919) 485-RIDE. For information on the SmartCommute Challenge, visit www.smartcommutechallenge.org.

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