



on the move

News from Triangle Transit to keep you going.

FALL 2008

Ridership Grows on Triangle Transit

Ridership on Triangle Transit continues to rise. The transit system has seen increases every month since April 2008.

- > April up 20.5%
- > May up 14.5%
- > June up 30.2%
- > July up 50.2%
- > August up 29.1%
- > September up 47.3%

This summer, Triangle Transit, along with the City of Raleigh and Town of Wake Forest began rush hour express service between Wake Forest and Raleigh and a circulator loop around town to Triangle Town Center. September ridership on the weekday express was 2,233 while the town loop had ridership of 1,930. Calls for information to the GoTriangle Regional Transit Information Center at 919-485-RIDE are helping break new records, with 1,422 phone calls in one day on September 22nd.

The Triangle Transit Board of Trustees this year approved a Short Range Transit Plan which will help guide improvements to current services and expansions to new corridors in Wake, Durham and Orange counties.



The agency plans to purchase new buses in early 2009 as it continues to update its fleet. Five new shuttle vehicles were added in September and more vans are being ordered to meet the increased demand for vanpools. By the end of October, vanpools hit a new high with 80 on the road.

> To read more about Triangle Transit's planning efforts go to: www.triangletransit.org/srtp

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New Regional Transit Center to Open in Late Fall 2008

Triangle Transit is completing work on a new Regional Transit Center. The new site in Imperial Center near I-40 and Page road will replace the transfer center in the Research Triangle Park for more than a decade.

Triangle Transit will adjust bus routes and schedules for the new center at 901 Slater Road in Durham. General Manager David King says, "For some of our customers, the changes will mean a shorter ride while others will have a few more minutes to travel. We believe the benefits solidly outweigh the disadvantages."

AMONG THE ADVANTAGES:

- > A transit center with amenities such as covered shelters, more park-and-ride spaces, bike racks, ticket sales counter, improved waiting room and better rest room facilities
- > A consolidation of the Regional Transit Center, Regional Call Center and Triangle Transit's Administrative Offices at one site
- > A higher density location with thousands of potential riders in Imperial Center and pedestrian access to shops and restaurants nearby

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The artist's rendering of the new Regional Transit Center
(see cover for story)

New Regional Transit Center

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- > The use of “green” initiatives such as LED high efficiency lighting, energy saving windows, a high-efficiency heat pump, in-line water heating and water conserving rest room facilities
- > The new site is near the Research Triangle Park and its employers
- > The new site is closer to RDU International Airport
- > The new location is closer to Triangle Transit’s Bus Operations Center at Nelson Road near I-540, providing better access to maintenance facilities and transit vehicles
- > The new location is along current Triangle Transit routes

Planning for Transit’s Future

Regional leaders are wrapping up work on priorities for transit’s future.

This spring’s recommendations from the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) have gone to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Durham Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO for discussion and possible inclusion in the region’s Long Range Transportation Plan.



The Lynx line is breaking all projected ridership records in Charlotte.

Among the STAC’s recommendations that could be part of the area’s long range transportation plans:

- > An expanded and enhanced region-wide bus network that will connect communities and bring communities presently unserved by transit into a regional transit network.
- > Circulators which could begin as buses to provide flexible travel options within major activity centers. Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Cary, Research Triangle Park/RDU International Airport are suggested circulator locations. Modern streetcars or trolleys could replace buses in future years as demand grows.

Strom Elected Head of Board of Trustees



Chapel Hill Town Council Member Bill Strom has been elected chair of the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees. Strom will serve as chair through September 2009.

Strom is Triangle Transit's representative to the Durham Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization and has served as mayor pro tempore for the Town of Chapel Hill. He has a long record of public service and 25 years of business experience. He is a past recipient of the Goodman Award for Regional Service by Leadership Triangle and the Orange-Chatham Sierra Club's Outstanding Achievement Award.

"The Triangle area continues to be one of the faster growing regions in the country, and road congestion is increasing here at an astonishing rate," Strom said. "Triangle residents face important choices ahead that require investment in transit to help those stretched by the high cost of fuel, clean the air we breathe, ease our road congestion pressures and promote wise use of our land and resources."

Strom succeeds Sig Hutchinson of Raleigh as chair. Serving with Strom on the executive committee will be Jeff Merritt of Wake County as vice-chair, Ellen Reckhow of Durham County as secretary and Joe Freddoso of Wake County as treasurer.

Merritt is with Clancy & Theys of Raleigh, Reckhow is chair of the Durham County Commission, Freddoso is the CEO of MCNC in the Research Triangle Park.

Triangle Transit is governed by a 12-member board of trustees. Ten members are appointed by the region's principal municipalities and counties to staggered four-year terms. Two ex officio non-voting members are appointed by the North Carolina Secretary of Transportation. The Board of Trustees possesses the general legislative powers of Triangle Transit.



The facts are clear...

The Private Vehicle is the largest contributor to a household's carbon footprint.

Traveling by public transportation uses less energy and produces less pollution than comparable travel in private vehicles.

To make progress in reducing our dependence on foreign oil and impacting climate change, public transportation must be part of the solution.

Planning for Transit's Future

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- > Rail that would connect the region's principal centers of activity, serve the region's most congested corridors and would offer the greatest opportunities to influence development patterns. Segments totaling 56 miles would connect Durham, RTP, Cary, downtown Raleigh, north Raleigh and Chapel Hill to Durham.

Work regionally will continue on the STAC's recommendation a one-half cent sales tax be levied to help pay for the estimated \$2.27 Billion in transit improvements. A \$10 increase in the vehicle registration fee would also help fund rapid transit projects, along with state funding and debt financing of approximately \$600 million.



Chamber members from Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Durham hear from former CATS CEO Ron Tober on a tour Charlotte's light rail line in October 2008. Raleigh leaders rode the Lynx rail line earlier in the year.

All of the STAC's recommendations are at www.transitblueprint.org.

our people



Marie Batchelor, Andre Fullmore, Clarence Henderson and Brian Smith have joined Triangle Transit as Operators. Also joining as Transit Operators are *Mike Anderson, Jeff Burton, Alfonza Currie, Randy McCarty, Geraldo Mora, Rodney Simmons, Michael Spivey, Becky Stockslager* and *Teresa Wilson*.

Jill Charbonneau is a new Marketing Associate. *Sharon Worth* is a new Customer Service Associate.

Teresa Dawson has been promoted to Customer Service Supervisor for the GoTriangle Regional Transit Information Center. *Felisha Barksdale* has been promoted to a full-time Customer Service Representative I. *Juan Alencastro* has been promoted to Customer Service Representative II. *Carolyn Williams* has been promoted to Transit Operator III.

Jimmy Price has been named Maintenance Manager. *Misael Zambrana* has obtained his ASE Master Certification for medium/heavy trucks.



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