



on the move

News from Triangle Transit to keep you going.

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

OUR TRANSIT FUTURE:

Expanded Bus, Rail Planning Effort Kicks Off

A comprehensive study effort is underway to look at regional rail opportunities and explore expanded bus networks. The study, called the Triangle Regional Transit Program, builds on the work of the Special Transit Advisory Commission in 2008 and the Long Range Transportation Plans adopted by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO in 2009.

The study will survey existing transportation-related conditions,



Left: Participants at the Cary workshop look at a video on the Triangle's need for better transit. **Right:** Younger participants, like these in Durham, had a chance to learn about transit at the workshops.



identify and confirm transportation needs, and define the goals and objectives against which project alternatives will be evaluated.

The first public workshops were held in mid-June and early July.

Follow up public sessions will be held in September 2010 and February 2011.

Following the evaluation and completion of corridor alternatives it is expected that the region's MPOs
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www.triangletransit.org

Celebrate What's Great! Take the Triangle Transit Express Bus to the 2010 NC State Fair

Triangle Transit will offer Express bus service to the 2010 North Carolina State Fair from two locations on both Saturdays (October 16 & 23) and Sundays (October 17 & 24) during the Fair. As an added bonus, riders will receive over \$5 in coupons good at participating Subway restaurants.

The Express Service will run from the Eubanks Road Park-and-Ride Lot in Chapel Hill and the Triangle Transit Regional Transit Center (RTC) in the Imperial Center, Durham. Triangle Transit riders will be picked up and dropped off in front of Carter Finley stadium on State Farm Dr. across the street from the Wolfline Stop.



The Triangle Transit express bus ticket price will be \$5.00 round-trip for individuals over the age of 12. Persons with disabilities pay \$2.50 round-trip.

The Eubanks Road Park-and-Ride lot is located on Eubanks Road in northern Chapel Hill, one-half mile west of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (NC 86).

The Triangle Transit Regional Transit Center is located at 901 Slater Rd in Durham near the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, one-half mile south of Exit 282 (Page Rd) on I-40.

For additional information, visit our Web site at www.triangletransit.org or call the GoTriangle Regional Call Center at 485-RIDE (7433).

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Triangle Transit and DATA Forge New Relationship

Beginning in October, Triangle Transit will become responsible for planning, marketing and managing the Durham Area Transit Authority, known as DATA. DATA ridership is more than five million boardings annually.

Triangle Transit and the City of Durham agreed in June to a three-year contract. DATA remains the city's bus service and Triangle Transit will recommend annual budgets and propose route changes and adjustments. The final decision-making for budgets, routes and service will remain with the City Council.

As part of the contract, Triangle Transit will hold regular feedback sessions with riders to assist the agency in improving service to Durham residents. No changes to bus routes or schedules will be made in the first year.

A new private management firm is being selected to assist Triangle Transit in operating DATA and work with its unionized drivers and mechanics.

The management changes include "Access," the city's demand response paratransit service.

Triangle Transit also will assist in managing the new fare-free downtown circulator called the Bull City Connector. The connector bus service, starting August 16, will link Duke Clinics on West Campus with Downtown Durham between 7 a.m. and midnight Monday through Saturday. Six new hybrid/diesel buses will be used on the route.



While Triangle Transit will help operate DATA, it will remain a separate transit service.



Beginning, October 1, Triangle Transit will assist the City of Durham in operating DATA.

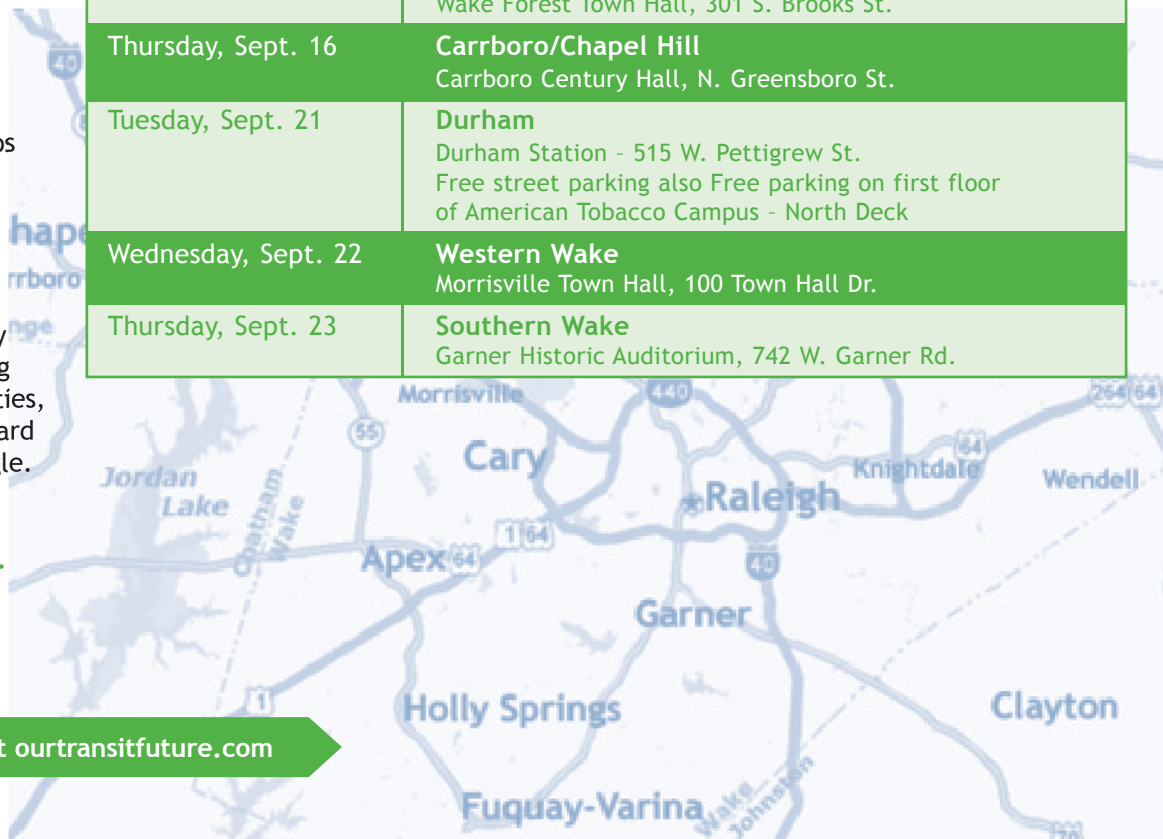
Second Round of Transit Planning Workshops Announced

The Triangle area continues to experience explosive growth—growth that requires increased mobility demands. Improvements to local transportation systems will maintain the area's quality of life and continue to attract new industry, jobs and residents.

The second round of workshops are coming soon—so mark your calendar. The Triangle Regional Transit Program, a comprehensive study effort to look at regional transit rail opportunities and explore expanded regional busway networks. The program, spanning Orange, Durham and Wake counties, is an exciting move forward toward transit connectivity in the Triangle.

The workshop hours will be from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 14	Raleigh Chavis Community Center, 505 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd.
Wednesday, Sept. 15	Northern/Eastern Wake Wake Forest Town Hall, 301 S. Brooks St.
Thursday, Sept. 16	Carrboro/Chapel Hill Carrboro Century Hall, N. Greensboro St.
Tuesday, Sept. 21	Durham Durham Station - 515 W. Pettigrew St. Free street parking also Free parking on first floor of American Tobacco Campus - North Deck
Wednesday, Sept. 22	Western Wake Morrisville Town Hall, 100 Town Hall Dr.
Thursday, Sept. 23	Southern Wake Garner Historic Auditorium, 742 W. Garner Rd.



More information is available at ourtransitfuture.com

Smart Commute Challenge Successfully Promotes Travel Options

This spring's SmartCommute Challenge encouraged commuters to try something other than driving alone.

The alternative commute to work or campus had more than 10,000 participants. Participants rode the bus, carpoled, worked from home, biked, walked or rode an electric scooter or Segway.

The event kicked off on April 15 with North Carolina DOT Secretary Gene Conti and Deputy Director Sheila Holman from the Division of Air Quality urging commuters to "curb congestion."

AAA of the Carolinas recently reported that the cost of driving in North Carolina is on the rise. The average cost of driving a sedan is up to \$9,098 annually at 61 cents a mile. With the economy still recovering, Triangle residents can mitigate the price hike by finding different ways to commute.



State DOT Secretary Gene Conti signs a Smart Commute Challenge pledge as the media looks on.

Each gallon of gas burned in a car on roads in the Triangle releases approximately 24 pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Taking a smarter commute two days a week can reduce your annual CO₂ emissions by at least 1,590 pounds! With tax incentives, SmartCommuters can save up to \$230 a month. That's over \$2700 a year!

This year's event included a photo contest, gift cards, tickets and more. Forty-five businesses were sponsors for the SmartCommute Challenge and Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Flickr were important social media tools in promoting a change in commuting habits to improve the Triangle's air quality.

For those wanting to learn more about alternative commute opportunities, sponsored by GoTriangle.org and SmartCommute@RTP, go to www.smartcommutechallenge.org.



Natural Gas and Hybrid Cars were on display during the Smart Commute Challenge

Expanded Bus, Rail Planning Effort Kicks Off

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will approve and select projects to proceed to development of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with an evaluation of environmental impacts and formal public participation process required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Triangle area continues to experience explosive growth—growth that requires increased mobility demands. Transit enhancements will help maintain the area's quality of life.

More information about the effort is available at www.ourtransitfuture.com. The web site has downloadable maps, a look at the study area and more on efforts to expand bus service and add rail as transportation options in the region.



Triangle Transit will begin direct service from Downtown Raleigh to the RDU Airport in August.

Simpler, Smarter, Better Service Changes Are Coming

Triangle Transit will make adjustments to many of its bus routes on August 16. The changes will:

- > Improve service reliability and on-time performance
- > Simplify route design and the route naming and numbering system
- > Improve transfer connections between Triangle Transit and DATA
- > Affect the timing of transfers at the Regional Transit Center
- > Provide direct service to RDU International Airport from downtown Raleigh

A full list of the changes can be found online at triangletransit.org. Information is also available by calling the GoTriangle Regional Transit Information Center at 919-485-RIDE.



our people



Former Progress Energy-Carolinas Chief Executive Officer **Fred Day** has joined the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees. Day was recently appointed to the Board by the Wake County Commission to replace Joe Freddoso.

Councilman **Howard Clement III** has joined the Board of Trustees to represent the City of Durham. Clement replaces William Smith.

Triangle Transit Financial Officer **Sandra Freeman** has been named Outstanding Chief Financial Officer in Government by the Triangle Business Journal. Freeman was among 17

winners and forty-seven finalists to receive the 2010 CFO Award.

James Gleason has been named Vanpool Manager. **Christal McCullough** has been promoted to Operations Supervisor. **John Trotman** has been promoted to Bus Operations/Dispatcher Supervisor.

Brandi Childers is a Commuter Resources Assistant. **Frederick Ferrell** and **Marisol Suarez** have been hired as customer service representatives. **Ben Clements** is serving as an NCDOT Apprentice. **Lauren Hafezi** and **Alison Siler** are serving as marketing interns. **Eric Thompson** has been hired as a Graphic Designer. **Jenny Rogers** is a new Transit Service Planner.

Cheryl Bass, Mohamed Elsharkawy, Marissa Montefiore, Larry Morrison, Melanie Mukensturm and **Tim Morgan** are new bus operators. **Dartanyon Gary** is a new paratransit operator. **Jonathan Plaza** joins Triangle Transit as an IT specialist.



Visit our Web site: www.triangletransit.org or call Triangle Transit Customer Service at (919) 485-RIDE



Plan your next transit trip at: www.GoTriangle.org

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