



on the move

News from Triangle Transit to keep you going.

SPRING 2008

TTA becomes Triangle Transit

After 15 years as TTA, Triangle Transit Authority has become Triangle Transit. The new name, logo and Web site were unveiled at a kick-off event in March in downtown Raleigh.

Triangle Transit also unveiled the 23 new buses that will carry the blue, green and orange look of the renamed agency. The three triangles of blue, green and orange were selected to show that the Triangle is a community of more than one town and more than one people. Triangle Transit connects multiple places and people.

The new buses, built by Gillig Corporation, will all be in service

by June 1. The vehicles seat 30, have heavy-duty climate systems, and are low-floor for easy access. Talking bus technology and outdoor route information signs are also amenities on the new buses. The low-sulfur diesel vehicles can also run on biodiesel.



A new Triangle Transit bus makes its debut at the State Capitol.

The name change, new buses and new look come after an extensive review of Triangle Transit services. In announcing the rollout, Sig

Hutchinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees said, "For 18 months, we've been talking to our riders and citizens about transit and the ways we can better serve the region. These changes are an indication that we've been listening."

Triangle Transit's Board of Trustees approved the funds for new buses in June 2007. The new buses are the beginning of a multi-year fleet replacement and the addition of upgraded amenities for the region.

The new buses are in addition to more seven-passenger vans put into service for Triangle Transit vanpools. The new buses will gradually replace smaller shuttles that have been used on routes, including service to RDU International Airport.

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Transit Commission Works on Final Report

The Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) is nearing completion of its work. The STAC's final report will go to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and the Durham-Chapel Hill Carrboro Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) later this spring.

The MPOs will decide which of the STAC's recommendations will be part of a regional long-range transportation plan. Both planning organizations agreed to pursue the joint development of a Regional Transit Vision Plan to serve as the foundation for making comprehensive, cooperative and well-coordinated decisions on future major transit investments.

Thirty-eight members of the STAC started work in May 2007. Among the recommendations to be made:



STAC members review a list of priority items that will be written into the final report.

- An 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,

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"Larry" is the spokesperson for this year's SmartCommute Challenge, showing how driving alone can increase stress and make one feel detached and plastic.

SmartCommute Challenge Promotes Alternatives

As gas prices reach record highs, the SmartCommute Challenge is making the choice of public transit even easier. The Challenge is co-sponsored by Triangle Transit, SmartCommute@RTP and Triangle Tomorrow. The regional public awareness campaign encourages commuters and college students to try a smarter, cheaper and more environmentally friendly commute. A person pledges to try a commute alternative of carpooling, teleworking (work from home), vanpooling, biking, walking or taking the bus at least once before May 30, 2008.

While there are many great reasons to try a smarter commute in Durham, Orange and Wake counties, the Challenge provides an additional incentive: a chance to win the Grand Prize—a one-week trip for two anywhere in the continental U.S.

The campaign's key spokesperson this year is "Larry." If Larry looks a bit plastic, he is! He's suffering from the stress of driving alone in Triangle traffic. More information on the 2008 SmartCommute Challenge is available at www.smartcommutechallenge.org.

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Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Cary and Research Triangle Park/RDU International Airport are suggested circulator locations. Modern street-cars or trolleys could replace buses in future years as demand grows.

- Rail investments 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 that would connect Durham, RTP, Cary, downtown Raleigh and north Raleigh would use diesel multiple unit (DMU)



STAC Member Frank Timberlake (left) discusses regional bus options with Triangle Transit Planner Patrick McDonough

rail cars operating within existing rights-of-way. The segment that would connect Chapel Hill to Durham would use Light Rail Transit (LRT) on a new alignment.

The Commission is recommending that citizens in the Triangle be allowed to vote on a one-half cent sales tax 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.

The Commission believes that the Triangle's economy, communities, environment and future mobility may suffer if some changes are not made to reduce dependence on the automobile. A full copy of the STAC's report can be found at www.transitblueprint.org. CAMPO and DCHC are expected to decide by Fall 2008 which elements of the STAC report may be part of a long-range transportation plan for the region.

Improving Amenities for Triangle Transit Riders

Triangle Transit continues to meet the needs of an active, mobile Triangle. Improvements are on the way including new bus shelters, benches, bike lockers, additional park and ride spaces, “talking bus” technology and more detailed schedule information.

Teams of Triangle Transit employees have been working to select and improve several transit stops. In Hillsborough (below), a stop was designed and built near the town’s police station. In Durham’s Woodcroft, a muddy transit stop has been turned into a shelter for those wanting to ride the bus.

More sites throughout the Triangle are being considered for makeovers.



triangle transit

Doing More For You!

Triangle Transit’s ridership continues to grow on regional buses, shuttles and vanpools.

We’re improving today’s services and looking ahead to future transit needs. We continue to offer relief from pain at the pump.

Triangle Transit.

Take It. Easy.



Short Range Transit Planning Underway

Work is underway on Triangle Transit’s Short Range Transit Plan. The SRTP is a five-year transit operating plan and capital program for public transportation and ridesharing services. The Plan provides an overview of the status of regional services in the Wake, Durham and Orange County service areas and more importantly, provides a guide for improvements in current services and expansions to new corridors.

The Short Range Transit Plan is part of the planning staff’s responsibility for developing and analyzing bus route and schedule plans, including near-future transit service alternatives, intermediate-range service plans and service concepts. They also analyze and assist in the preparation of transit schedules and fare policies and are responsible for adding and improving bus stop amenities.

More information on the SRTP and a customer feedback form is available at www.triangletransit.org under the section “How To Ride.”

our people



Triangle Transit employees were honored at the Annual Awards Banquet in March. Those honored for a Special Act or Service were *Vanessa Battle, David Crandol* and *Larry Villines*. *Teresa Dawson, Charlotte Mayes* and *Terri Robinson* were honored for Outstanding Customer Service. Organizational Development Awards were presented to *Amy Armbruster, Teresa Dawson, Brian Fahey, Dalia Martinez* and *Richard Major*. *Patrick McDonough, Dan Roach* and *Juanita Shearer-Swink* won awards for Efficiency Improvement.

Jean Davis and *Joe Freddoso* have joined the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees. Davis represents the City of Raleigh and is with the NC Department of Commerce. Freddoso represents Wake County and is CEO of MCNC in the Research Triangle Park.

Kaye Arori, Craig Jones, Gloria Lopez, Ron Morrow, Doug Santo, Barrington Smith and *Geraldine Snipes* have joined Triangle Transit as Transit Operators. *MaRhonda Liles* is a new Paratransit Operator. *Brian McLean* and *Ryan Sullivan* have joined as Mechanics. *Lester Green* is a new Service Attendant. *David Moore* has been promoted from Transit Operator to Administrative Assistant in Bus Operations. *Don Stancil* has been named Senior Accountant.



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