

on the move

News from Triangle Transit to keep you going.

SPRING 2009



CAM the "Clean Air Maniac" gives a thumbs up to this year's Smart Commute Challenge

SmartCommute Challenge Encourages Improved Air Quality

Spring means the SmartCommute Challenge is underway. The Challenge is an annual non-profit public service campaign aimed at reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality in the Triangle. Commuters and college students who work or attend classes in Durham, Wake or Orange Counties are encouraged to try the bus, carpooling, vanpooling, teleworking, biking or walking at least once between April 15 and May 30.

"The Triangle is one of the fastest growing metro areas in the country," said David King, general manager of Triangle Transit, a GoTriangle partner and presenting sponsor of the SmartCommute Challenge. "Everyone must do their part to ensure that we are on a path of sustainability for future generations, which means finding and using alternative ways to commute to and from work and school." Last



The Smart Commute Challenge has a new category this year for participants who use an alternate fuel vehicle like this Jeep that runs on cooking oil.

year, the more than 12,000 Triangle drivers who took the Challenge saved over 1.7 million pounds of carbon emissions in just six weeks.

Participants in this year's SmartCommute Challenge will be eligible for many prizes.

For more information about the SmartCommute Challenge or to pledge in the Challenge, visit www.SmartCommuteChallenge.org.

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www.triangletransit.org

Future Transit Plans Move Forward

The Triangle region of North Carolina is a great place to live and work. Every year, thousands of people from across the country—and around the world—are discovering our area's unique qualities and are relocating here in significant numbers.

In May 2008, the 29-member Special Transit Advisory Commission completed work on a future transit framework. In February 2009, both area planning organizations have completed work on

long range transportation plans. The proposed Regional Transit Vision Plan suggests:

- > 51 miles of light rail stretching from North Raleigh to Cary, the Research Triangle Park, Durham and Chapel Hill
- > A major expansion of local bus service in Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh and along Triangle Transit routes
- > Increased express bus service from outlying areas into center cities

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Stimulus Dollars Will Help Transit Projects

Several projects of Triangle Transit will be part of President Barack Obama's Economic Stimulus Plan.

New buses, vanpools and paratransit vehicles will be purchased as part of the agency's efforts to replenish and upgrade the fleet and continue efforts to provide more economical and environmentally friendly services to the area.

Additional stimulus dollars will be used to provide more paratransit vehicles and upgrade amenities at bus stops in Wake, Orange and Durham counties. Funds will also help Triangle Transit begin a regional real-time information system for riders.

In the President's State of the Union speech on February 24, Mr. Obama cited public transportation among top priorities in his administration. In the



Newer buses are on the way with help from the President's Stimulus Package.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Congress also included tax incentives to encourage transit commute benefits at the same level as parking benefits.

A Web site at Recovery.gov is available for tracking of all stimulus projects.

Future Transit Plans Moves Forward

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The plan's improvements will benefit the region's major activity centers:

1 Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina and UNC Hospitals will benefit from improved bus service and light rail. Rail would also link Chapel Hill with Durham, RTP, Raleigh and Wake County.

2 Durham

Bus and transit expansion in Durham will enhance connections to Duke University, Duke & VA Hospitals, Ninth Street, the American Tobacco Campus and North Carolina Central University.

3 Research Triangle Park/ RDU Airport

Driven by technology and science, The Research Triangle Park is the U.S.'s largest research park. Increased service to RTP and RDU International Airport will provide easy access for employees and travelers.

4 Cary

Consistently in Money Magazine's "Best Places to Live," Cary will have commuting options to Durham, RTP,



Dallas-Fort Worth, under study by Triangle leaders, has a mix of commuter rail and light rail service.

Raleigh and the Triangle. Transit improvements will offer mobility choices downtown and near Cary's Amtrak station.

5 Raleigh

The RBC Center, Dorton Arena, State Fairgrounds, NC State University and the State Capitol's Governmental District will be served by enhanced bus and light rail service in Raleigh.

6 North Raleigh

Additional bus service and a rail extension to Wake Forest will provide connections in North Raleigh including Highwoods, the New Hope Church Road area and Spring Forest to downtown Raleigh.

The following internet sites have additional information on future transit plans for the region:

www.triangletransit.org/future/

www.campo-nc.us/

www.dchcmpo.org/

A well-planned, high quality transportation network will bring together the great communities that make up the Triangle, connecting people and places across the region with safe, reliable and easy-to-use transportation options.



Mockingbird Square in Dallas is a prime example of transit development with adjacent bus and rail lines.



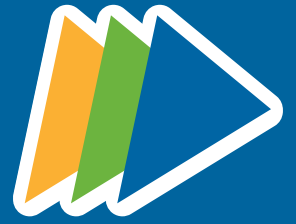
Bikes on Buses

Most Triangle Transit buses are equipped with bike racks on the front of each vehicle. The easy-to-use bike racks can hold two bikes and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. If the bike rack is full, please wait for the next bus. Only two-wheeled adult and children's bikes fit on the bus bike racks. Motorized bikes are not allowed on any bus racks. More information can be found at:

www.GoTriangle.org.



More commuters are biking for part of their work trip.



triangle transit

If you're tired of the single commute or if your carpool is getting a little crowded, upgrade to a vanpool!

A vanpool is a group of 7-12 commuters who live and work in the same places and have similar schedules. The Triangle Transit provides vanpools with a van, a gas card, insurance and maintenance. Vanpool riders pay a low monthly fee based on mileage.

For a typical 30-mile round-trip commute, you pay \$43 per month. That is a big savings! For more information visit: www.triangletransit.org/vanpool.

Regional Roadeo

Triangle Transit drivers competed against each other and operators from other transit agencies in a Regional Roadeo on March 29th in Durham. The annual roadeo is a chance for the hundreds of Triangle Transit bus operators that travel thousands of miles in the Triangle to display their driving skills and knowledge of safety regulations. Using industry criteria, the judges scored operators during the test track competition in several categories including turns, stopping, smoothness of operation and personal appearance.



In the bus competition, Triangle Transit winners were: John McNair (Second Place), Demetrius Hyman (First Place) and Larry Villines (Third Place). They're congratulated by Bus Operations Director Laurie Barrett and General Manager David King.

Triangle Transit Paratransit winners were: Sylvia Johnson (Second Place), Patricia Hill (First Place) and Michael Brooks (Third Place). With them is Paratransit Manager Vinson Hines.



our people



Two elected officials have joined the Board of Trustees. **Mary Ann Baldwin** is a new representative for the City of Raleigh. **Baldwin** currently serves as a City Councilor and is the president of Baldwin Communications, a strategic marketing and business development firm. Mayor Pro-Tem **Julie Robison** is Cary's new representative on the board. She is in her second term on the Town Council and is a Senior Public Administration Specialist at the Research Triangle Institute.

Chris Clark joins Triangle Transit as an NTD data collector, **Jim Gleason**, **Barbara Gotay**, **Paul Shepherd**, **John Trotman** and **Kenneth Yimbu** are new bus operators.

Jonathan Markle is the agency's new Operations Supervisor. **Crystal McCullough** has been hired as a Dispatch Supervisor. **Jonathan Parker** joins Capital Development as a Transportation Planner. **Thomas Peckham** is a new IT Specialist.

Mechanic **Leroy McMillan** is the latest recipient of Triangle Transit's "Above and Beyond Award." **McMillan** received the award for exemplary service during snow on January 20.

Karen Porter joins Triangle Transit as Assistant General Counsel.



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