

2008

FISCAL
YEAR

Annual Report



this year

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Triangle Transit improves our region's quality of life by connecting people and places with reliable, safe, and easy-to-use travel choices that reduce congestion and energy use, save money, and promote sustainability, healthier lifestyles, and a more environmentally responsible community.



Improved Services. Increased Ridership.

2008 was a banner year for Triangle Transit. Fluctuating fuel prices helped increase ridership for eleven out of twelve months, leading to annual ridership 8.9% higher than 2007.

Triangle Transit also unveiled a new logo, look and color scheme for the agency and its vehicles. Three triangles of blue, green and orange show that the Triangle is a community of more than one town and more than one people, and that Triangle Transit connects these multiple places and people.

Connecting with the region in 2008 were new Triangle Transit buses. The buses were the first step toward improving service, equipped with heavy-duty climate systems, low-floor easy access, talking bus technology and outdoor route information signs. They burn low-sulfur diesel and can run on biodiesel. More vehicles will be added in 2009 and 2010.

Our vanpool services saw a steady increase in 2008. In June, there were 70 vanpools on the road, and several vanpools were forming, awaiting vehicles.

At year's end, Triangle Transit's partnership with the City of Raleigh and Town of Wake Forest led to the kickoff of new express service to downtown Raleigh from Wake Forest and a town loop. The success of the services will help Triangle Transit as it partners with Eastern Wake County and other areas to provide new transit service called for in our Short Range Transit Plan.

Triangle Transit also played an important role in assisting the Special Transit Advisory Commission as the "STAC" concluded work on recommended transit investments in the region. With increased ridership and improved services there is an increasing awareness of the role transit can play. (More on page 3).

triangle transit Goals

- To provide safe, secure and reliable service
- Continue to operate a fiscally responsible public agency utilizing good business principles.
- Work with cities, counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and other interested parties in examining transportation corridors, considering land use, economic activity, population patterns, and connections among these three elements and transportation.

annual report 2008

Information provided in this Annual Report covers July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. The Annual Report is published by Triangle Transit Communications & Public Affairs.

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Research Triangle Public Transportation Authority d/b/a Triangle Transit—P.O. Box 13787, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709



Letter from the Chairman

*Sig Hutchinson
City of Raleigh*

Fiscal Year 2008 has been one of records for Triangle Transit. Ridership soared this year with record breaking months in October, May and June. Our express services are growing and other routes have more commuters.

Listening to our customers, riders and citizens, we took the first steps to provide a new level of service. New buses, a new look and a new brand help symbolize our renewed commitment to the Triangle.

Our express and local service expansion in Wake Forest is just the beginning of our work with other towns in the region as they see and embrace transit as a needed, integral part of their communities.

Important citizen feedback has been an essential part of our five-year Short Range Transit Plan which we will complete in late 2008. We'll continue to complete work that will add

amenities at the transit stops we serve and will build a new Regional Transit Center in the next year to replace our current center in the Research Triangle Park.

Triangle Transit supported the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC)

as it completed its work in the spring and delivered a report to the area's planning organizations. The STAC

proposal is a bold, new vision for transit in the Triangle with expanded bus networks, streetcars, rail, and futuristic environmentally friendly buses with low floor entry for easy boarding. Future transit improvements will provide connectivity to an ever expanding greenway system, bike lanes, and sidewalks. The changes will create an economic engine in Wake, Durham & Orange counties with vibrant, sustainable

developments linking transit to land use and planning.

As we move forward to improve today's services and plan for tomorrow, I believe we will must provide more options for citizens to get out of their cars with choices of walking, biking, taking a streetcar, bus or rail.

**“More and more
people are making
transit a part of
their life.”**

We want to give citizens opportunities to be more productive at work, letting someone else do the driving as

we check e-mails, read or sit relaxing on the way home.

I congratulate our hard working employees and board members for our successes this year and hope you believe, like me, that transit's future is bright.

Thank you for supporting Triangle Transit.



Planning for Transit's Future

During the fiscal year, regional leaders took a fresh look at transit in the Triangle. Triangle Transit was a key participant in the effort.

In Spring 2008, the Special Transit Advisory Commission known as STAC completed 51 weeks of work and recommended major transit improvements to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) for discussion and possible inclusion in the

Region's Long Range Transportation Plan.

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 activity centers.

- Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Cary, the Research Triangle Park and RDU International Airport are suggested circulator locations.
- In future years, modern streetcars or trolleys could replace buses used as circulators.
- Rail that would connect the region's principal centers of activity, serve the region's most congested corridors.

A full list of the STAC's recommendations are at: www.transitblueprint.org.

the facts are clear Public transit helps our air

A 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.

919-485-RIDE One call for all your transit needs

Triangle Transit operates the GoTriangle

Regional Transit Information Center at 919-485-RIDE. During FY 2008, the call center set new monthly records for calls received. Bus schedules, fares and vanpool information topped the public's need for information about six area transit systems.



Transit Web Sites Provide Valuable Information

triangletransit.org and gobriangle.org are leading the way in regional transit information

The site at triangletransit.org replaces the former Web site at ridetta.org. It provides up-to-date schedule and fare information along with short term improvements and long-term efforts to increase transit service.



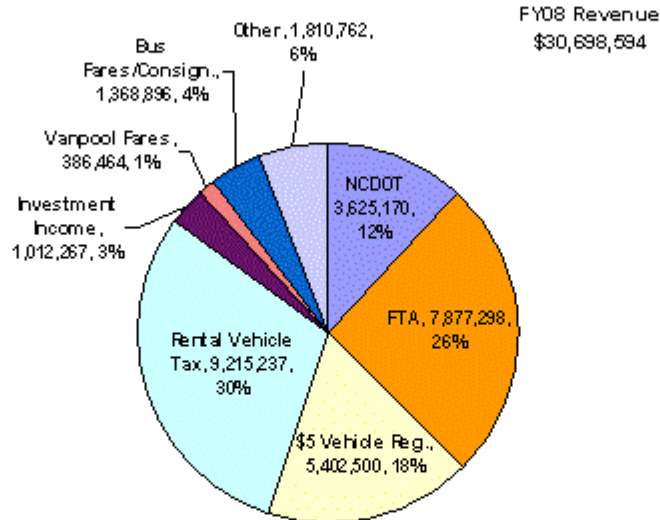
GoTriangle.org is a cooperative effort of Triangle Transit, Capital Area Transit (CAT), Cary Transit (C-Tran), Chapel Hill Transit, Durham Area Transit Authority (DATA) and NC State Wolfline. The site provides information on bus service, carpooling, vanpooling, biking, walking and teleworking. It also has information on the Emergency Ride Home program and tips for employers on transit programs for their employees.

by the numbers
FY 2008

- 8.9% increase in ridership
- 941,792 annual regional bus boardings
- 409,502 annual vanpool boardings
- 17,286 annual paratransit boardings
- 15 regional routes
- 6 shuttle routes
- 5 express routes
- 62 buses and shuttles
- 623 bus stops
- 70 vanpools in 14 counties

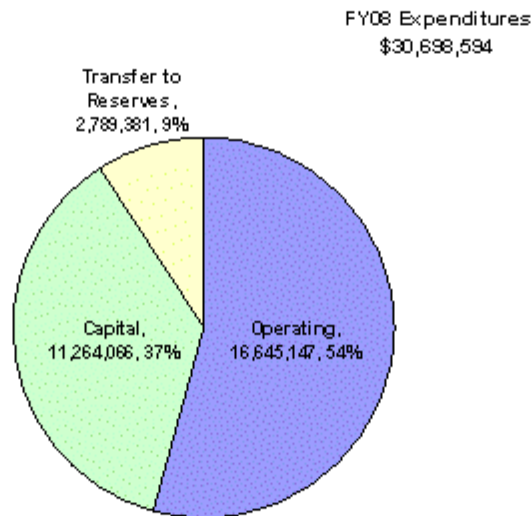
triangletransit.org

919-485-RIDE



Revenue Highlights

General Fund	7,302,215
Rail Capital Reserve	9,612,946
Regional Bus Fund	5,312,578
Ridesharing Fund	1,085,369
Capital Projects Fund	7,030,596
Rail Capital Project	<u>354,890</u>
	\$ 30,698,594



Expenditure Highlights

General Fund	2,781,991
Regional Bus Fund	12,269,806
Ridesharing Fund	1,593,350
Capital Projects Fund	9,268,783
Rail Capital Project	1,995,283
Transfer to Reserves	<u>2,789,381</u>
	\$ 30,698,594

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