

Regional Transit Development Plan

BUILDING OUR FUTURE — THE TIME IS NOW

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REGIONAL TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

The Regional Transit Development Plan (RTDP) is a Study to examine the role of regional transit providers as Piedmont Triad communities address various challenges and opportunities residents face as our region continues to grow and prosper.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

The purpose of the Regional Transit Development Plan is to work with communities and residents of the Piedmont Triad to (1) identify ways to manage the benefits and challenges of growth, (2) recognize its impact on our region’s transportation system, and (3) address these challenges in a sustainable fashion that is sensitive to residents, resources and the environment.



WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN THE RTDP?

Because the RTDP is a regional effort to benefit all Piedmont area transit systems, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) and the region’s nine transit providers are all participating, as well as PART’s 10 member counties through their participation on the PART Board of Trustees. As the sponsoring agency for the Study, PART is seeking input that will help shape the plan’s focus and identify transit needs for residents served by the region’s three urban bus systems, three paratransit systems, five community transportation systems and one regional express system.

WHAT OUTCOME(S) CAN BE EXPECTED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY?

When completed, the RTDP will have produced a transit development plan, a strategic corridors plan and a financial plan to provide a 10- to 15-year blueprint for the enhancement and development of transit services in the Piedmont Triad. The Study will not directly result in additional or improved services, but will identify these opportunities.



WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE RDTP AS IT RELATES TO THE FUTURE OF TRANSIT SERVICE IN THE PIEDMONT TRIAD AREA?

The study will examine the benefits that transit provides, and identify how these relate to the current and future challenges and opportunities faced by the region. These transit benefits include:

Support economic development

- Improve access to employment centers
- Attract employers
- Provide transportation options for workers
- Reduce dependence on foreign oil

Help establish the Piedmont Triad area as a place of distinction

- Location along High Speed Rail Corridor
- Can we be a destination? Or will be a stop along the way?
- Model for coordination and connectivity

Provide mobility choices

- Access to employment, educational opportunities and medical services
- Target commuters as well as transit dependent
- Focus on aging population and students
- Tourism

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE RDTP?

The Study will be completed in July of this year, with the findings being presented to the community this summer. Following that, each community will have the opportunity to examine and decide upon the future of its transit system and the method for funding.

HOW WILL THE PROPOSED TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS BE PAID FOR?

The specific funding mechanism for any proposed transit improvements has not been determined. There are a number of options being considered, including federal, state and local funding. In August Governor Perdue signed into law the Congestion Relief and Intermodal Transportation Fund. This legislation will allow communities, through voter approval, to provide dedicated funding towards transit enhancement and development. The legislation requires the development of a transit and financial plan detailing how money raised through the fund would be used. The Regional Transit Development Plan will satisfy that requirement.

HOW CAN THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATE?

Visit the project website to keep informed about the latest project news and public participation opportunities: www.partnc.org/rtdp.html. To submit your comments or questions, or if you would like to request information about the RTDP, please contact Mark Kirstner, Senior Transportation Planner with PART.

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