



2014 Annual Report



MORE CHOICES. BETTER ACCESS.

"The reasons I ride PART are 'more and less': more time to catch up on reading, emails and beauty sleep; and less stress, pollution and cost of commuting."

*~Bert Wood, CEO,
Partnership for a Drug-Free NC
Surry County rider*



PART MISSION

To enhance the quality of all forms of transportation for each of our citizens through efficient use and protection of our natural, economic and human resources.

Our goal is improving transportation through regional cooperation.

PART IS DEDICATED TO

Improving public mobility choices by promoting and providing bus, vanpool, carpool, biking, walking and telecommuting options;

Improving highway safety;

Improving air quality;

Saving Natural Resources by reducing fuel consumption and reducing dependency on foreign oil;

Easier commuting for all members of the public by reducing traffic



Dear PART Board, Member Agencies, Customers:

We hope you will take the time to read the 2014 PART Annual Report. It's important that you will be aware of the many activities and achievements covered on the following pages that have taken place at PART this past year because there has been important work undertaken by PART staff to provide valuable services and resources to our customers and member agencies. Also, new members have joined the PART Board and have added fresh perspectives and enthusiasm for regional transportation initiatives.

Of paramount importance, PART has stabilized its fiscal controls and accountability during this past fiscal year.

This has been aided by a more stable national economy and increased federal funding to support some of the services PART provides to the public. Every opportunity to leverage federal and state funds with local dollars provides for more services and capital investments. The continued involvement and support by NCDOT, MPOs, local DOTs and County administrators have provided the opportunities to develop services that provide benefits for the region and maximizes dollars invested. We believe this sound business practice will continue in years to come. We assure you PART is operating within balanced budgets and maintaining conservative financial obligations to allow for steady growth and identified capital investments.

The PART Express system has seen stable ridership numbers for FY2014 at nearly 500,000 passenger trips. PART Express has increased frequency of service runs in Surry County on the US52 Express. The continuation of this corridor service will be impacted by the local financial commitment beginning in FY2016. PART has a priority to work with local citizens, businesses and the Board of County Commissioners to understand the economic benefits to keep this corridor service in operation. Additionally, PART Express will be expanding the Airport Area business park shuttles with a new design, and is also planning to expand service in active corridors that have local support and unmet needs for our traveling public.

The PART TDM program received National Honors from the Southeastern Chapter of the Commuter Transportation Association at their Annual Conference and continues to build the region Vanpool/ Carpool program. The reduction of over 20M vehicle miles traveled during FY2014 and improved air quality by reducing over 50 tons of NOx emissions are astonishing numbers that the PART TDM staff work to achieve every year to show program success.

The Land Use and Transportation planning project, "Piedmont Together" was completed in 2014 and has brought multiple levels of coordinated and cooperative planning initiatives to the forefront. Whether it relates to jobs, demographics, green infrastructure, housing, food or transportation; Piedmont Together has brought citizens, governments, businesses and special interest groups together. Moving forward, this initiative offers great opportunities for the entire Piedmont Triad region to create a regional vision and key strategies to develop regional plan elements for future governmental and private sector developments.

FY2014 has been a very exciting year at PART. With a number of new PART Board members, increased opportunities to expand our services and increased cooperation and coordination with member agencies the time to invest in our future's public transportation systems is upon us all. Moving forward in the right direction is the primary focus at PART and our successes to date and those forthcoming are only achievable with the support and direction of the PART Board of Trustees, member agencies and partners at both state and federal levels. Regional Transportation makes sense, and PART has the capacity and commitment to be a key participant in developing and offering solutions to enhance our transportation systems of the Piedmont Triad Region.

Sincerely,

Rebecca R. Smothers, *Chair*
High Point Urbanized Area MPO

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EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

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NCDOT

Andrew Perkins
NCDOT

Jake F. Alexander
NCDOT



Five primary focus areas were established for the regional plan:

Jobs, Housing, Transportation, Health, Places and Spaces.

Piedmont Together is designed to strengthen our region by strengthening each community in our region in order to:

- Create a better quality of life for the Piedmont's residents
- Build a resilient economy
- Promote equity
- Preserve and better the environment
- Engage community voices in regional decision-making

In mid-spring of 2014, the Piedmont Triad completed the ambitious 3-year regional planning effort, Piedmont Together. Engaging thousands of individual Piedmont Triad citizens, PART and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council with partner cities, towns, counties and organizations crafted Piedmont Together—the first regional comprehensive plan for the area. Piedmont Triad residents identified opportunities and created solutions for a healthy, dynamic economy; functional, thriving communities; and a vigorous, productive environment.

On June 11, 2014, the Board of Trustees for PART adopted the regional vision set forth in Piedmont Together's Comprehensive Regional

To access the Plan, its supporting documents and news from around the Piedmont Triad go to piedmonttogether.org.

Plan and endorsed the implementation of the goals, objectives and strategic actions. It is a unanimous vote which provides a strong endorsement for Piedmont Together.

In April 2014, PolicyLink, a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works®, agreed to prepare a regional equity profile for the Piedmont Triad. This opportunity was made possible due to the quality of the work PART and Piedmont Together produced and the willingness to address equity issues in the region head-on. The profile and action plan should be completed in August 2014 and will be released in September.

The Consortium formed during the planning process will continue to be engaged and monitor implementation. PART will be the agency primarily responsible for implementing transportation strategic actions. The plan's transportation vision for the region reads as follows:

"In the future, the Piedmont Triad should have the infrastructure for multiple safe, efficient, and affordable modes of travel throughout our communities and across the region. Freight movement in the region will remain a driving economic force. To protect this asset, the region includes freight movement in the planning and prioritization of the regional transportation infrastructure. Providing more transportation options on a regional scale will help us maintain minimal congestion and create new advantages to provide an attractive lifestyle and a welcoming environment for businesses to thrive and create more job opportunities."



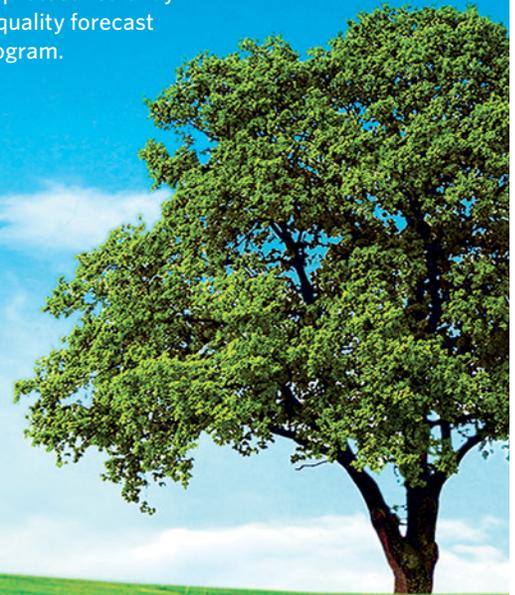
Triad Air Awareness

Triad Air Awareness and PART continue to work together on the Triad Commute Challenge and other projects, to reduce mobile source emissions, which contribute to the formation of ground level ozone. Ground level ozone and fine particle pollution are linked to increased incidents of asthma, heart attack, stroke, and other illnesses, as well as having economic impacts.

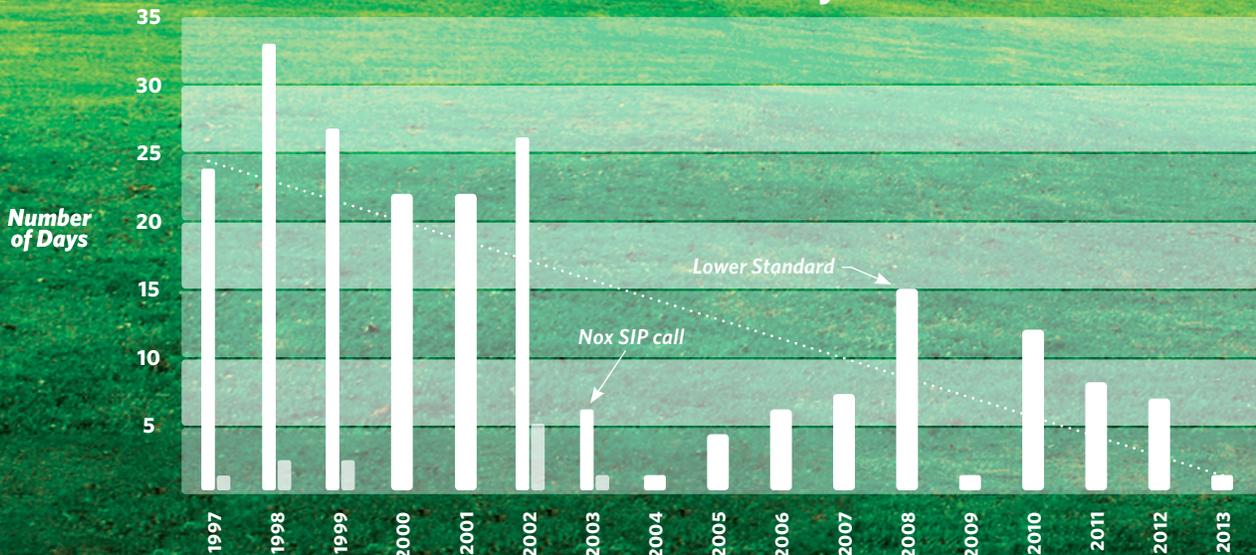
This past year, our air quality partners at the Forsyth County Office of Environmental Assistance & Protection's Triad Air Awareness Program were recognized by the U.S. EPA for winning the EnviroFlash challenge. This outreach challenge takes place all across the country, to increase awareness about the impacts of air pollution and protect health by increasing the participation in the air quality forecast alerts and information notification program.

2014 Triad Commute Challenge

This year, 5,680 people pledged to make a conscious effort to carpool, vanpool, ride the bus, train, bike, walk or telecommute during the Triad Commute Challenge. In addition, the campaign distributed complimentary PART bus passes to encourage people to try our system. A total of 864 trips were taken utilizing these free passes. Based on the follow-up survey, 94% will continue to use alternative forms of transportation.



Ozone History



PART Express Operations

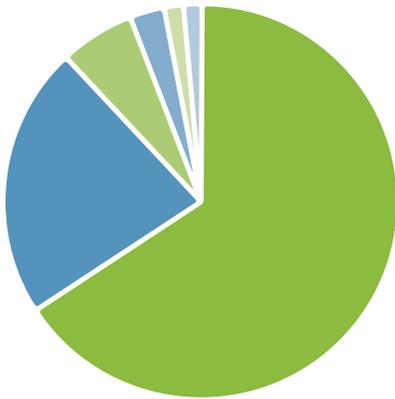
PART Express ridership increased from 475,481 in FY13 to 480,821 in FY14. During this time, PART Express expanded shuttle service to include Kernersville to Winston-Salem and Kernersville to the PART Hub. The Winston-Salem Express Route began direct service from downtown Winston to the PART Hub. The addition of dedicated Kernersville shuttles and route improvements have enhanced on-time performance. In September 2013, the Surry County route was expanded to include three

additional AM and PM trips. PART has also added six 18-passenger Champion shuttle buses to the Express fleet. New to Express Operations are Automatic Passenger Counters (APCs). The APCs were installed on each vehicle and greatly improved the ability to evaluate routes, stops and overall system efficiency.

PART Express participated in National Dump the Pump Day on June 19th by offering a fare-free transit day. On that day, trips on PART Express were free and

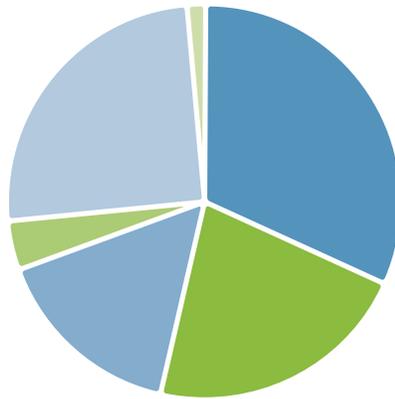
riders received an "I dumped the pump for transit" sticker to proudly wear and show their support for transit. Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), National Dump the Pump Day is a day that encourages people to ride public transportation and save money, instead of driving alone. The fare-free day resulted in a 32.3% increase in ridership for the day! PART hopes to make that a "FREEquent" occurrence.

**PART Express Expenses
FY 2014**



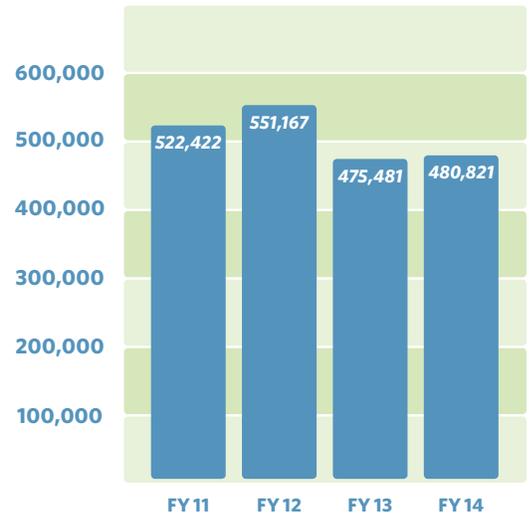
- Vehicle Operations Contract
- Fuel & Lubricants
- Salaries, Benefits & Travel
- Building and Grounds Management
- Space Furnishings and Office
- Miscellaneous

**PART Express Revenue
FY 2014**



- Vehicle Rental Tax
- State Maintenance Assistance
- Fares/Passes
- JARC Grant
- 5370 Operating and Preventative Maintenance Grant
- Vehicle Registration — Randolph County

Passenger by Fiscal Year



- PART Express increased revenue hours of service to 34,396 in FY2014.
- PART Express saved \$117,358 by utilizing mobile bus technology to reduce total miles of operation.
- PART increased Federal Funding to support operations and capital expenditures.

PART Express/National Express Bus Operator places 2nd place in 2014 Statewide Bus "Roadeo"

In early April, the North Carolina Public Transportation Association (NCPTA) held its 2014 Annual Training, Conference, Roadeo, & Expo in Charlotte. Over 70 public transit drivers competed in the NCPTA/NCDOT statewide ROADEO on-course competition. National Express and PART's own J.W. Gilley placed 2nd place in LTV Division. The event recognizes North Carolina's top bus operators for their professionalism and showcases multiple driving skills with close attention to safety. Mr. Gilley has been operating Express vehicles for over a decade and PART congratulates him on his accomplishments.



**"I ride PART because it is convenient;
a clean bus with a good atmosphere.
It is also punctual."**
~Robin McKinzie,
Greensboro Express



PIEDMONT AUTHORITY
FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

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2014 Annual Report Finance

Audit for FY 2013 presented a position by Dixon Hughes Goodman of no deficiencies or findings in internal control of the PART financial statements or major programs.

PART's Fund Balance has steadily rebounded since 2011 and ended 2013 with a balance of \$3.7M. We are on track to exceed \$4.7M for the FY 2014 fund balance.

All Departments at PART underran their yearly budget in FY 2014 by controlling such costs as headcount, legal, fuel, scheduling of conferences and advertising. Fuel expenses were controlled by developing a process to reduce deadhead mileage for the buses.

PART recently went through a Classification and Pay Study in which all staff positions were analyzed to determine the appropriate

classification and compensation range for each position. The implementation of the Employee Classification and Pay Grade system was very important because it established a pay range framework for our company and ensured that staff were receiving the appropriate compensation based on position. The Employee Classification and Pay Grade system also ensures that PART is in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act set forth by the Department of Labor.

In FY 2015, PART plans to invest up to 83% or \$5.1M of the PART expense budgets into local, state and national vendors and suppliers. This investment will enhance economic development and continue to support the local workforce.

Capital Reserve Fund Balance

AUDITED ACTUALS

FY 2012	\$3,594,195
FY 2013	\$3,693,170

BUDGET

FY 2014	\$4,713,019
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\$1,118,824 added to fund balance in 2 years.

2014 Outstanding TDM Program Award

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) is the leading advocate for commuter transportation and Transportation Demand Management (TDM). PART competed against programs within the Southeast (SEACT) chapter representing the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico. PART ranked #1 as Outstanding TDM Program (Southeast) for developing and implementing a results-oriented TDM program.

*Chantale Wesley-Lamin, PART TDM Manager
Katherine Molin, SEACT President*



TRANSIT PARTNERS

