

Connecting Communities is what we do!

As part of our *Explore with Express* series, this month's focus will be on PART's Route 9, Davidson County Greensboro Express. This route connects at the Greensboro Depot with a few stops in-between to the High Point Terminal as it makes its way into Thomasville. It operates several runs Monday - Friday and offers easy connections to the High Point Transportation System and the Davidson County Transportation System.

This route connects in Thomasville at PART's Highway 109 & Cooksey Drive Park & Ride lot, one of 4 located in Davidson County, three of which are served by PART Express on Route 9. Some of our Park & Ride locations can connect you with PART Express Bus service, while others are only available for meeting your carpool or vanpool group...because Connecting Communities is what we do!

Thomasville is a beautiful city and it's worth a day trip over to enjoy this historic town. Well known as part of the state's furniture industry, with its neighbors, High Point and Lexington, Thomasville is also home to the oldest railroad depot in North Carolina. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981 and now houses the Visitor's Center. Along with the oldest rail depot in NC ... the city is known as the "Big Chair City". This concept came to fame in 1960 when Lyndon Johnson, vice presidential candidate of JFK, did a whistle-stop tour in Thomasville and stood atop the "World's Largest Chair".

A unique way to take in this city is to enjoy one or all 3 of Thomasville's self-guided Historical Walks. Each walk begins at the Visitor's Center, and they are all less than one mile long (round-trip). Walks include *The Church Walk*, *The Commerce Walk*, and the *Historic Homes Walk*. For more information, go to <https://visitthomasvillenc.com/home>



Gildan is spinning new ideas!

The lack of people actively seeking work is a significant factor contributing to the ongoing workforce shortage, leaving employers looking for ways to adapt their recruiting and retention practices to attract and keep the talent they need (source: US Chamber).

Spinning a creative and valuable way to attract and retain employees, Gildan Yarns utilizes PART's Vanpool Program, offering three Vanpools to their employees. One from Elkin to Mocksville and two from Greensboro to Mocksville. This incentive is paid for by Gildan, and offered to qualified employees to utilize to get to-and-from work. And the Gildan Vanpools are offered Reserved Parking as an additional 'perk'! This type of stewardship sets an example for environmental sustainability and represents a company looking out for the health of our community and their employees.

**RESERVED
PARKING**

PART *Vanpool*

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GILDAN®

Accurate Data In, Equals Good Results Out

PART and the four MPO's in the Piedmont Triad maintain and use the Piedmont Triad Regional Model (PTRM), a travel model, to evaluate and develop transportation projects. This model consists of complex algorithms that utilize data inputs to assign trips to the highway network. Perhaps the most straightforward output to understand is projections of where traffic congestion will occur in the future: the more accurate and current the data input, the more reliable the results.

More accurate and less subjective.

Transportation planners and modelers at PART are guiding three efforts to improve the data inputs within the current regional travel demand model. These projects are the 2022 Base Year Update, the Implementation of a tour-based freight model, and a regional Household Travel Survey. The 2022 Based Year Update primarily consists of projecting population and job growth across the region by traffic analysis zones (TAZs) which are kin to census tracts. This update is performed every several years, but for the first-time transportation, planners are using CommunityViz, which is a scenario based planning tool. This tool assigns a growth potential to each parcel of land in the region, then assigns growth based on population and job growth totals for that county and is governed by development suitability factors. Transportation and community planners can determine the suitability factors, but the model will assign the distribution of growth across a county, generating more accurate and less subjective growth allocation.

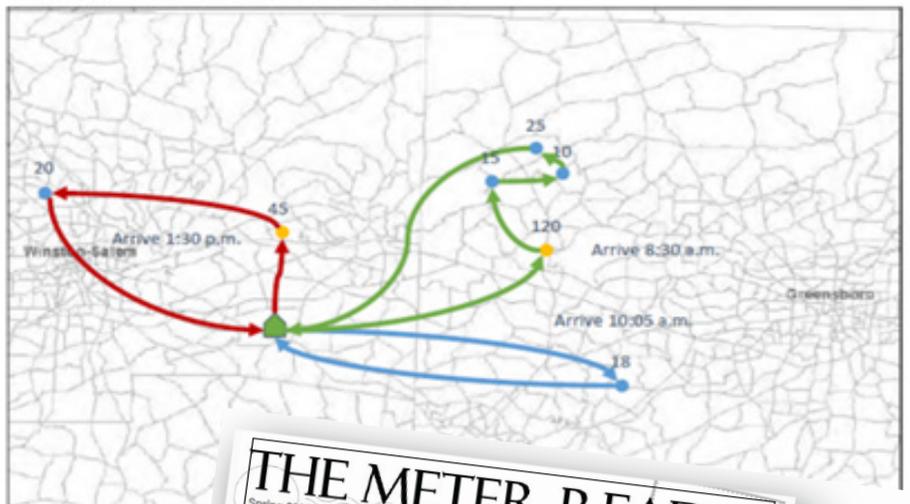
Eight years of collaborative work!

The inclusion of a Tour-Based Freight Model into the PTRM has been under development for eight years. The freight model will provide a more accurate depiction of truck and freight movement across the region. Currently, the PTRM only assigns freight trips to the highway networks based on a single trip from point A to point B and does not consider the carried commodity. The freight model will assign trips based on the commodity being carried and in a more typical tour-based trip pattern, point A to point B to point C to point D. For example, think about the journey a FedEx or UPS truck might take during the day.

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data." – Sherlock Holmes.

Household Travel Surveys will be conducted across the region this fall. This type of survey was last performed in our region over ten years ago. Residents of the Piedmont Triad will have an opportunity to complete a survey related to their travel patterns and modes of transportation. When completed, the results will be tabulated and used to inform the PTRM and validate its outputs.

Example of a Tour-based Freight Trip



Transit Agency Swag Bags!

Planners and citizens benefit from good information, and we aim to get it! RCATS, PART, and the City of Asheboro are working together to plan creative ways to gather information from Randolph County citizens. A digital survey is live now, accessed by scanning a QR code or through a website link. It was distributed in Asheboro's May utility bill mailing as part of their monthly Newsletter. Following will be social media posts, print collateral, website publications, and paper surveys that will be distributed to RCATS and PART bus riders, running May 23rd - June 3. As an incentive, we are collecting participants' names to enter into a drawing to win one of our *Transit Agency Swag Bags*. We mean business when it comes to collecting good data for planning!

