

A Hot Topic!

Public transportation in our region is a Hot Topic among regional leaders! And now is a good time for the community to get engaged, get involved, and help shape our future.

Guilford County recently set aside \$1 million to help fund a new initiative in 2023 – a Guilford County Transportation Task Force. The Task Force will specifically look at transportation challenges in the county faced by workers and other commuters, especially those in underserved communities. PART and other regional city-run transportation agencies continue to address transportation hindrances in our region, and this recent activity is a positive step in the right direction.

In addition, the Burlington–Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization (BGMPO) has recently solicited bids from outside firms to provide professional consulting services to run a study of their regional public transit system to propose recommendations to improve services. They are also looking to determine the feasibility to further establishing regional connectivity in the area. The study will assess existing transit conditions and recommend systemwide improvements and funding options for long-term growth and sustainability.

The need for improved local and regional public transportation services is a critical component of regional growth. And the primary goal of both of these initiatives is to identify service needs and growth opportunities for local transit and connectivity across the region.



Decennial Regional Transportation Study



The second phase of our Triad Travel Counts regional survey launched in January and is well underway. PART has partnered with state and local transportation agencies to conduct this critical study.

There will be 90,000 surveys mailed to a random selection of Triad residents. Responses will be used to understand where people travel in their daily lives, how they get there, and how much time and effort it takes for their mobility. The survey results create a snapshot of how the transportation systems in the region are used. Planners will use that snapshot to plan and develop mobility improvements. All survey results are confidential, and the information received is not shared with external parties.

How can residents help? Participate in the survey if you receive an invitation in the mail. The mailing is from NCDOT and labeled “Official Business.” It’s that simple. All participants will receive \$10 to compensate for the time and effort needed to join the survey. Additional incentives will be offered for the travel reporting portion of the survey.

Community leaders can help as well. Let your constituents know this survey is happening and encourage them to participate if they receive an invitation.



988 National Suicide Hotline Initiative

On July 16, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules to establish **988** as the nationwide, easy-to-remember 3-digit dialing code for people in crisis to connect with suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors. The **988** Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a free, confidential, 24/7 phone line that connects individuals in crisis with trained counselors across the United States. This Crisis Lifeline is a network of more than 200 state and local call centers supported by the United States Department of Health and Human Services through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Because public transportation has a unique intersection with people who may be in crisis, PART is proud to participate in a 2023 National Suicide Prevention Initiative to raise awareness of the **988** Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Posters and handouts will be made available to our riders, and employees will receive information about how to identify and help people they think may be in a mental health crisis situation. Our participation will begin in April. Look for updates and join us in raising awareness for this initiative.



Taking To The Streets

PART has launched a marketing campaign to focus on Regional Connectivity. A series of four tail ads will run on WSTA (Winston Salem Transit Authority), GTA (Greensboro Transit Authority), and HPTS (High Point Transit System) buses as part of a three-month campaign. Each ad will focus on one of three Regional Programs: Vanpool, ShareTheRideNC.org, and RideTheTriad.Org.

PART's regional Vanpool Program has rebooted to 25 Vanpools running through all nine member counties ... and beyond. The program is so widely embraced that PART is gearing up to realize continued growth in 2023!

PARTnc.org/Vanpool

Share The Ride NC is a web-based service that helps commuters quickly and securely find commute partners anywhere in North Carolina! Riders can be matched to nearby commuters with similar schedules using a home, work, or school address. In addition, there is Bike/Walker information, links to local Vanpool Programs, and links to local Transit Services. **www.sharetheridenc.org**

RideTheTriad.org is currently hosted on the PARTnc.org website. The URL will relaunch in April 2023 as a dedicated website to focus on the Regional Connectivity in PART's nine-member counties. Regionally there is an extensive network of Mobility Options available, RideTheTriad.org will make connecting to the various systems easier.

RideTheTriad.org



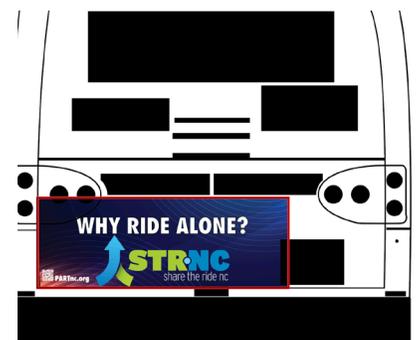
PTS New Flyer | Standard Tail
3" W x 25" H
mplate is scaled to 1/10th of original size.



GTA Gillig/New Flyer Universal Size
Standard Tail
58.5" W x 25" H
Template is scaled to 1/10th of original size.



WSTA
Standard Tail | 58.5" W x 21" H
(This template is scaled to 1/10 of original size)



WSTA
Standard Tail | 58.5" W x 21" H
(This template is scaled to 1/10 of original size)

PARTnc.org

