

## Approval – Public Transportation Program

Following the recommendation of Miriam Perry, Director of Public Transportation Division, a motion was made by Board Member Wilson, seconded by Board Member Tulloss, and the vote was unanimous to allocate funds to the following projects:

### State Intercity Program

#### Division 10

Project No.	<b>Community Link of Charlotte</b> , provides traveler's aid to stranded travelers in the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area, including neighboring counties where Greyhound bus service has been discontinued. Funding will enable this program to provide intercity bus tickets to disadvantaged individuals, individuals with mental illness, violence victims, stranded travelers, and indigent individuals needing travel to shelter or travel to return home.	\$39,000	Total
09-IC-005		\$19,500	State
		\$19,500	Local

In FY08, 591 tickets were purchased through this program. For FY09 it is projected that an estimated 600 passengers will be served through this program. The recommended effective date for eligible cost is September 1, 2008.

### Rural Capital Program

The Rural Capital Program is designed to assist community transportation systems with their capital needs, including vehicles, technology and facilities.

#### Division 3

Project No.	<b>Brunswick Transit System, Inc. (BTS)</b> provides community transportation services to six human service agencies and to the general public through subscription and dial-a-ride routes. Currently BTS is operating with one phone line. The system requests to upgrade their phone system by purchasing a multi-line phone system to provide better customer service.	Capital	
09-AT-085		\$2,500	Total
		2,250	State
		250	Local

## International Trade Show Transportation Program

### Divisions 7 and 9

09-DG-020 The **Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation**, in junction with the International Home Furnishings Market, is requesting funds to support transportation for the annual Fall and Spring furniture markets in High Point. The Legislature appropriated up to \$1,200,000 from funds available for public transportation in each year of the biennium for transportation services for annual or semiannual trade shows of international significance.

\$1,200,000 State

This funding will be used to provide free shuttle services for market attendees to Piedmont Triad area hotels and designated park and ride lots, the Home Furnishings Market, and for circulator services in the High Point and Thomasville areas. The fixed route transit system in High Point and a private vendor will provide the service. This is a request to disburse up to \$600,000 for each market.

**Item I-1 Summary**

**3 Projects**

**State: \$1,221,750**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION DECISION ON DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY PURCHASED FOR TRIANGLE TRANSIT AUTHORITY RAIL PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Section 25.7 of G. S. 136-44.20 authorized the Secretary of Transportation to enter into a State Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Research Triangle Public Regional Transportation Authority committing the State's share of the Research Triangle Public Regional Transportation Authority Phase 1 Regional Rail System project;

WHEREAS, the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, purchased property for the project with the concurrence of the Federal Transit Administration and in accordance with the State Full Funding Grant Agreement executed between the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority and the NC Department of Transportation;

WHEREAS, the properties were purchased with funding shares from the Federal Transit Administration, the NC Department of Transportation and the Research Triangle Regional

Public Transportation Authority, giving each of the parties an interest in the development and completion of the project;

WHEREAS, the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority Board of Trustees voted on August 23, 2006 to withdraw the project from consideration by the Federal Transit Administration, thereby breaching the terms of the State Full Funding Grant Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration, in a letter dated February 15, 2007, agreed to withhold action on the disposition of any project property for eighteen (18) months from the date of said letter to allow for a planning process to be undertaken to recommend major transit projects for the region;

WHEREAS, the NC Department of Transportation entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority to withhold until July 2008 any return of the state's contribution to the project, including the \$7,331,340 of state funds used by the Authority to purchase property for the project;

WHEREAS, the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, together with the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the Triangle region and the NC Department of Transportation, with the Federal Transit Administration concurrence, entered into a planning process to develop a regional transit vision and recommendations for major transit projects for the Triangle region through a Special Transit Advisory Commission made up of elected and appointed government officials, business, education, development, and community leaders and subsequent consideration by the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations for inclusion of the recommended projects in the update of their respective Long Range Transportation Plans;

WHEREAS, the Special Transit Advisory Commission completed its work on April 25, 2008 and made recommendations for a number of major rail and bus transit projects throughout the Triangle region and recommended consideration of provision of a number of major funding sources at the local level;

WHEREAS, the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations are now actively considering the project proposals for inclusion in their respective Long Range Transportation Plans, as part of their Long Range Transportation Plan update process;

WHEREAS, the discussions are underway at the state government level by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Committee and the North Carolina General Assembly to provide additional revenue options for local governments and transit authorities to enhance state government funding for transit projects for congestion relief and to support a balanced transportation network in urban counties;

WHEREAS, the discussions and resultant decisions by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, state legislature, local governments and the community as a whole are underway and need time to be completed;

WHEREAS, there is general recognition that some level of rail transit services in the Triangle region are necessary components of a multimodal transportation network needed to maintain an acceptable level of mobility and to sustain economic growth;

WHEREAS the properties in question are important and, in some cases, irreplaceable components of such future rail transit projects in the Triangle region; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration is currently considering a decision on the disposition actions for the properties purchased for the Regional Rail project, including a possible deferral of disposition action with conditions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING, AS FOLLOWS:

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation recommends that the Federal Transit Administration agree to defer until December 31, 2009 any requirement of the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority to dispose of the property purchased for the Regional Rail project subject to the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority identifying next steps and a schedule for development of a rail transit project or project(s) for which use of the subject properties would be needed and furthermore that the Federal Transit Administration and the NC Department of Transportation agree on the reasonableness of the next steps and schedule;

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation encourages and supports the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the Triangle region and the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority, with this Department's participation, to complete the planning work necessary to identify specific rail transit projects, and their priority for implementation by December 31, 2009; and

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation approves an amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority and the NC Department of Transportation, dated March 2, 2007, to extend the Project Scope and Schedule of that Agreement to December 31, 2009 to allow for the completion of the work of the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the Triangle region and the Research Triangle Regional Public Transportation Authority to meet the Federal Transit Administration's deadline.