



2007 Annual Report

Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

December 2007

Wave Transit Purchases Land for Transfer & Administration Facility

By far the biggest news of the year was the purchase of property on North College Road for our future transfer and administration facility. Following extensive negotiations with property owner Corning Inc., Wave Transit purchased a 3.02 acre parcel located at 517 North College Road near Costco in Wilmington on April 11, 2007.

The center will serve as the primary transfer facility for all Wave Transit routes. The current transfer center is located at Second and Princess Streets in downtown Wilmington. Passenger amenities at the new facility will include: an indoor passenger waiting area; public restroom facilities; real time bus arrival information; customer service representatives; and ticket vending machines. None of these services are currently offered due to the lack of indoor facilities at the current transfer location. When completed, the approximately 7,500 square foot facility will also house the Wave Transit staff.

"Relocating the facility and allowing passengers to transfer at a location that is in the center of our service area will increase the efficiency of our routes while providing the most economical delivery of service to the residents of Southeastern North Carolina" said Wave Transit Director Albert Eby. "This modern facility will also provide our customers with a convenient and comfortable area to make more seamless transfers. This important project will also help the Authority achieve its goal to increase ridership by offering passengers shorter trips and more comfortable amenities."

Ninety percent of the property acquisition was funded by Governor Easley's *Moving Ahead* Initiative. The local match was funded by the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County. "We are extremely grateful to North Carolina Board of Transportation Member Lanny Wilson, City of Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, Wilmington City Councilmember Laura Padgett, and New Hanover County Commissioner Nancy Pritchett for their assistance in acquiring funding and the site for this important project," states Authority Chairman Jeff Bellows. "The foresight of these elected officials and their peers to implement these types of transportation solutions will provide benefits for all future public transportation users throughout the region."

In preparation of the facility, Wave Transit is in the process of restructuring all of its routes to meet the demands of the dramatic growth over the past few years. The new routes are estimated to be implemented early in 2008. Wave Transit is in the process of securing funding to construct the facility.

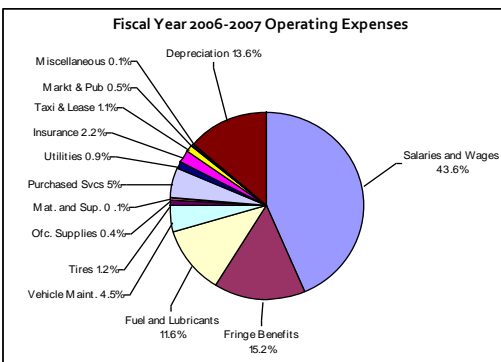
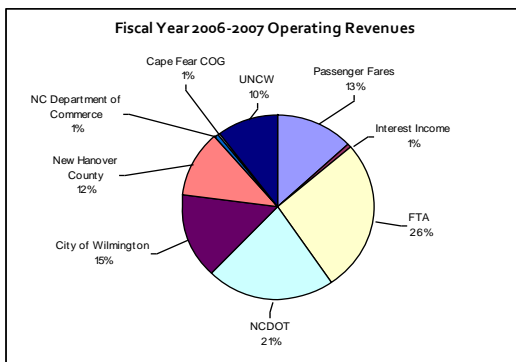
AUTHORITY MEMBERS

- Honorable Nancy Pritchett
New Hanover County
- Honorable Laura Padgett
City of Wilmington
- Jeff Bellows, Chairman
- William Bryden, Vice-Chairman
- Fannie Freeman, Secretary
- Don Betz
- Andrew Koepfel
- Aileen Mair
- Christine McNamee
- Robert Ronne
- John W. Stukes, Sr.

STAFF

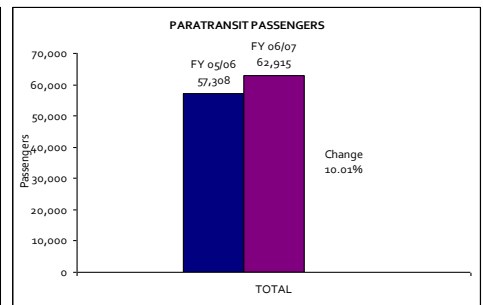
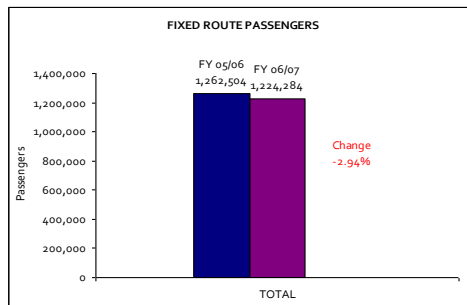
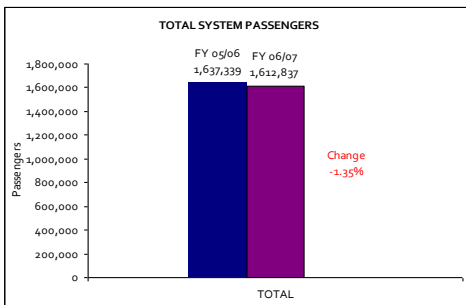
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Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Revenue & Expenses



Copies of the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority's Annual Audit Report are available by contacting the Authority Finance Director.

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Passenger Statistics



Downtown Trolley

To meet the needs of a growing downtown with the opening of PPD, Wave Transit added a second trolley to our downtown circulator route. Funding for the route was provided by the City of Wilmington. In April 2007, the first full month of increased trolley service, ridership increased by 106.31% over the previous April, to a monthly total of 8,440 passengers. The tremendous response to the second trolley demonstrates the public support for public transportation initiatives that meet the needs of an urban lifestyle. The new vehicle was generously funded by a grant from Rep. Mike McIntyre. Local support was provided by NCDOT and the City of Wilmington.



Wave Transit downtown Trolley

Seahawk Shuttle

As the University of North Carolina Wilmington continues to grow, so does the need to provide increased and improved public transportation options. Supported by a contract with the University, Wave Transit increased service to UNCW in FY 07. An additional intercampus loop shuttle as well as a second park and ride lot located on Oleander Drive are good examples of how public transportation serves a diverse clientele. It is also a great opportunity to introduce students to the environmental advantages, as well as the convenience and reliability of public transportation. The service is funded by student transportation fees.



Seahawk Shuttle

Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL)

During FY 07 Wave Transit implemented Phase II of our Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) initiative. The system allows Wave Transit to monitor all vehicles as they traverse through the area providing vital information like speed, location, and schedule adherence. This not only allows Wave Transit to provide a higher quality of customer service, it also serves as a vital management tool. Phase III will implement the technology in our fleet of Paratransit vehicles and Phase IV will provide real time schedule information to bus stops, stations and terminals. Funding for the AVL Phase II was provided by a technology grant from NCDOT and local support was provided by the City of Wilmington.

Looking Ahead - 2008

Route Restructuring

The current bus routes in the area date back to 1974. Although minor modifications have been made, routes haven't kept up with the changing traffic patterns and demographic makeup of the area. In an effort to be more efficient and economical, Wave Transit will be rolling out all new routes beginning in the first quarter of 2008. The new routes include more efficient routings as well as extended service to Castle Hayne, the Ogden area, North Market Street and other typically underserved areas.

The effort included a year long assessment and planning process that included Wave Transit, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and passengers. Public meetings were held in November 2007 which provided feedback and minor changes to the plan. Passengers will transfer buses at multiple locations reducing wait times, and making for shorter commutes. A temporary central transfer location behind Target in Wilmington will serve the Authority until completion of the Transfer and Administration Facility. New signs, benches and shelters will also be introduced as part of the restructuring. These are exciting times for transit in the region and success in making these important changes would not be possible without cooperation of many individuals and the agencies that they represent.

Wave Transit Community Attitude Survey

A communitywide public attitude survey administered by the UNCW Department of Public and International Affairs has given the Authority a great barometer of the how Southeastern North Carolina residents feel about public transportation. In early 2008, the Authority plans to present the findings and analysis of the survey to local elected officials. The survey sought public attitudes on items ranging from public perception, to use of the system, to funding of transit initiatives in the area.

Regionalism

To meet our goal to be the regional public transportation provider, Wave Transit continues to provide vital services to Brunswick and Columbus Counties. Additionally, a daily route to Pender County is currently being studied.

Beach Service

Based on a scientific study by the UNCW Department of Public and International Affairs, 87% of community residents favor public transportation service to New Hanover County beaches. This important link would serve tourists, residents, employees and UNCW students in enjoying area beaches while reducing pollution, traffic congestion and parking issues. Wave Transit is currently working with elected officials from the area beaches and their staffs to find ways to fund these much needed routes.



Alternative Fuels

Realizing the need to protect our precious natural resources has always been a focus of public transportation providers and advocates. With advances in alternative fuel technology, the time is right for Wave Transit to explore the many areas we can make a difference to the quality of air that we breathe. In January 2008, Wave Transit will release a white paper analyzing a conversion of the current fleet to clean burning biodiesel. In addition, Wave Transit Director Albert Eby is currently serving on a committee of statewide transit professionals tasked with providing the North Carolina Department of Transportation an analysis of hybrid bus technology. The study will focus on funding, reliability, fuel economy and other aspects that will benefit the transit providers statewide. The report is scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2008.

Facility Projects

In addition to the transfer and administration facility, Wave Transit has entered into an agreement with NCDOT to purchase 6.5 acres on Division Drive to house our future operation & maintenance center. We plan to begin construction on the center following a three year lease period with NCDOT.

Property acquisition for the downtown multimodal transportation center is underway. Although construction for the facility is uncertain, this vital intermodal link will serve the region with intercity bus service, local bus service, taxi service and the return of passenger rail service.

This document was published in-house by Wave Transit.