



# CAPE FEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

### Forden Station Becoming a Reality

After six long years, the opening of the region's first indoor local bus transfer facility is in sight. Construction of Forden Station, a 9,000 square foot transfer and administration facility is scheduled to be complete in the first quarter of 2011. Named in honor of former Wilmington Transit Authority Chairman and Board Member, the late Harry Forden, the facility will offer amenities to passengers that will make their commute safer, more comfortable and attract passengers to the growing bus system.

Located at 505 Cando Street in Wilmington, Forden Station will replace the current on street transfer location located on Columb Street. Over 100,000 passengers will utilize the facility annually. Customer service representatives will staff the facility whenever bus service is provided to answer questions and provide information to passengers. Amenities include: real time bus arrival and departure information both inside the terminal and at the bus loading area; public restrooms; and vending machines including bus ticket vending. The facility will also have a 28 foot metal sculpture by renowned local artist Dumay Gorham. A free Wi-Fi internet link will also be available for waiting passengers.

The facility will also house the Authority's ten member administrative staff. Board meeting facilities will allow the public a greater interaction with members of the Authority and senior staff. A driver's room with restrooms will allow bus operators a safe and clean break area. The facility was designed to meet Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) gold standards. Funding for the project was a joint effort of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the City of Wilmington, and New Hanover County.



### Authority Members

**Honorable Jonathan Barfield**  
Chairman - New Hanover County Board of Commissioners

**Honorable Kristi Tomey**  
Wilmington City Council

**Don Betz**  
Chairman

**George Dolan**  
Vice-Chairman

**Andrew Koepfel**  
Secretary

**Henry "Hank" Adams**

**Euran S. Daniels**

**Julius "Chris" Hawkins**

**Linda Pearce**

**Jeffrey Petroff**

**Capt. David R. Scheu, USN (Ret.)**

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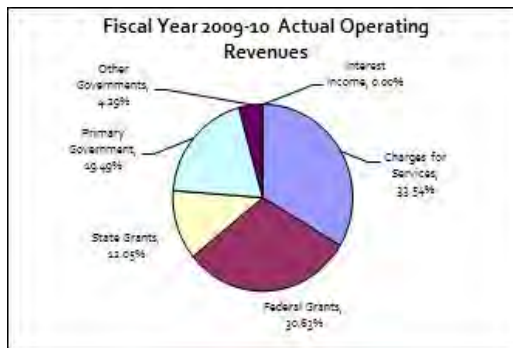
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### Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Revenues & Expenses

When comparing FY 09 to FY 10, revenues and expenses remained fairly consistent. The fiscal year budget was prepared in a manner that would allow the Authority to recover from a two year operating deficit caused by rising fuel prices in 2008. The fiscal year ended with a net change in fund balance of \$588,442. An additional route serving New Hanover Regional Medical Center and Longleaf Park was also introduced during FY 10 using FTA New Freedom funding. Copies of the Authority annual audit report are available by contacting the Authority' Director of Finance & Administration.



### Operations & Maintenance Facility Awarded \$6,000,000 Toward Construction

On October 04, 2010 U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced a combined \$776 million for urban and rural transit providers in 45 states and the District of Columbia to help bring buses, bus facilities and related equipment into a state of good repair. Money from the Federal Transit Administration's new State of Good Repair discretionary grant program will go to 152 projects.

"Safety is our highest priority, and it goes hand-in-hand with making sure our transit systems are in the best working condition possible," said Secretary LaHood. "The millions of people who depend on transit each day to get to work, to school or to the doctor expect a safe and comfortable ride."

"America's transit users want bus service that is safe, reliable, comfortable, and clean," said FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff. "These funds will go a long way in helping more than 100 urban and rural transit agencies deliver the high quality bus service that Americans deserve." FTA reviewed nearly 400 project applications representing \$4.2 billion in funding requests from transit providers across the country.

The Authority's application detailed the need for a new operations and maintenance center to replace the nearly seventy-five year old facility located on Castle Street. The move will eliminate the industrial bus maintenance facility from the Bottom neighborhood and allow for appropriate redevelopment in the area. The new facility will be located at 124 Division Drive on approximately 6.5 acres acquired by the Authority in 2008. Design of the facility began in October 2010 utilizing ARRA funds. Construction on the 25,000 square foot facility is tentatively scheduled to begin in the summer of 2011 and take approximately one year to complete.



## Authority Adds Hybrid Buses to Fleet

Utilizing funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Authority added two new diesel - hybrid buses to its fleet. The buses were manufactured in Hayward, CA by Gillig Corp. The buses are replacing two 1999 Thomas Built buses that have exceeded their useful life



In addition to the hybrid drive, the buses meet the stringent 2010 EPA emissions requirements. They also have lightweight seating, automatic vehicle locaters, four video cameras and electronic fareboxes. Stainless steel bike racks adorn the front of the new vehicles.

Wave Transit will monitor the operating cost of the new buses to determine if hybrid technology is a cost effective solution for a major fleet replacement in 2015.

## Breathe Easy...

In late 2010, Wave Transit launched our *Breathe Easy...* campaign to promote the environmental benefits of public transportation and the sustainability efforts being undertaken by the Authority. As we promote transit as an eco-friendly source of transportation, we feel that we also have a responsibility to ensure that we are practicing what we preach.

Our efforts range from simple everyday practices like recycling, minimizing document printing, reducing vehicle idling and reducing electrical consumption. More complex *Breathe Easy...* initiatives include: hybrid buses; the Wave Pool vanpool program; LEED gold certification for our new administration and transfer facility; LEED gold design for the maintenance and operations facility; and solar lighting in passenger waiting shelters. The initiative is expected to escalate in 2011 as the new facilities begin to come online.

## Looking Ahead 2011

### Making Waves Foundation to Launch in 2011

Wave Transit has formed a corporation to provide transportation fare subsidies to nonprofit agencies who provide assistance to members of the community in need and individuals who otherwise would not have access to transportation, and aid the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority, otherwise known as Wave Transit, in raising funds to promote and improve public transportation in Southeastern North Carolina.

The Authority has filed the necessary paperwork to have the corporation recognized as a non-profit organization under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. In late 2010, the Authority, as the sole member of the corporation, adopted bylaws



and approved a three member board to provide oversight for the corporation.

With the assistance of Authority staff, Making Waves Foundation Board Chairman Bill Bryden, Vice Chairman Frankie Roberts and Secretary Laura Padgett have begun the process to review applications for service and raise funding for this important endeavor. Once 501c3 status is granted by the IRS, fundraising will begin in earnest.

### 2011 Legislative Priorities

In an effort to minimize expenses to management contractors located abroad, the Authority is working on a local act seeking exemption from NCGS §95-98. If approved, the change will allow Authority staff the ability to directly manage the operation of Wave Transit.

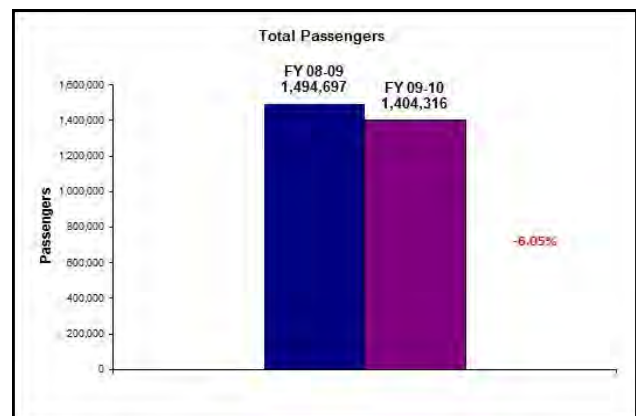
As requests for expanded service increase, the Authority is finalizing plans to implement service to Pleasure Island and Wrightsville Beach. Legislation would be required by the New Hanover County Commissioners to fund the initiative.

## Restructured Organization Improves Efficiency

Following adoption of an organizational analysis undertaken by TJR Advisors, the Authority restructured its staff in 2010. The restructuring reflected the tremendous growth realized by the Authority since its inception in 2004. In addition to restructuring, the analysis offered the Authority a blueprint for adding positions including job descriptions and salaries based on peer agencies. A copy of the full report is available on our website at: [www.wavetransit.com/org\\_study\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.wavetransit.com/org_study_final_report.pdf).


## Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Statistics

Overall, ridership showed a decline for the second straight fiscal year. This is largely due to the economic downturn. Most of the decline was realized in the first half of the fiscal year. The trend began to reverse in April and every month since April 2010 has shown an increase over the same month of the previous year, with each of these months are reporting double digit percentage increases. Wave Transit is confident that eight months of increasing ridership is proof that the worst is most likely behind us.



## New Initiatives Broaden Traditional Transit Services

In addition to developing the initiatives started in 2010, Wave Transit is working on an exciting variety of new programs for 2011:

- Wave Pool** - a vanpool service in which a company or a group of employees who live and work in close proximity to one another commute together in a Wave Transit owned and maintained vehicle. Vanpool participants or companies pay the actual cost of the service. Significant federal income tax benefits are available for vanpool participants. The pilot program is expected to launch in the first quarter of 2011 with two vanpools.
 
- Updated website** - the Authority is putting the finishing touches on an update to [wavetransit.com](http://wavetransit.com). The site will be more interactive with a host of new passenger information initiatives including: a trip planner which will allow passengers to input arrival and destination locations into the site and get detailed information including bus route, bus stop location and bus arrival times; commute calculator detailing the cost of commuting in a personal vehicle vs. using public transportation; mobile applications for real time arrival information; and more public information to improve transparency detailing how the Authority spends taxpayer subsidies.
- Wilmington Multimodal Transportation Center** - environmental work is continuing on the transit portion of the WMMTC and is expected to be finished in the summer of 2011. Design for the downtown transfer center that will house Greyhound will commence after approval of the environmental document. The center, located on Campbell Street in downtown Wilmington between Third and Fourth Streets, will rehabilitate two historic buildings and promote economic development in the area.