



# CAPE FEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

### Wave Transit Celebrates Ten Years



On July 23, 2014 local elected officials and over 100 guests recognized ten years of service to the community by the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority. Mayors from the region's cities spoke to the value of a strong regional public transportation network and congratulated the Authority for turning a small urban transit system into a regional network providing multiple public transportation offerings. The event highlighted several awards received by the Authority during its first ten years. Passengers and agencies submitted testimonials that were included in the Anniversary program. The Authority will continue its celebration until June 30, 2015 offering special prizes and giveaways.

### Operations Center Nears Completion

After eighteen months of work the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority Operations Center is nearing completion. Scheduled to open in February 2015, the facility promises to deliver a state of the art maintenance and operations center that will serve the region for many years to come. Excitement is building as over one hundred Authority and contract employees prepare to move into the center.



The \$13.5 million dollar project was funded by several Federal Transit Administration grants, NCDOT, the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County. It boasts sustainable features like geothermal heating and air conditioning, water reclamation and energy efficient LED lighting. A fully automated bus wash will ensure the Wave Transit fleet is aesthetically pleasing to the community. Improved maintenance workspace, training facilities and an employee wellness center will improve employee retention and promote a healthier and safer workforce.

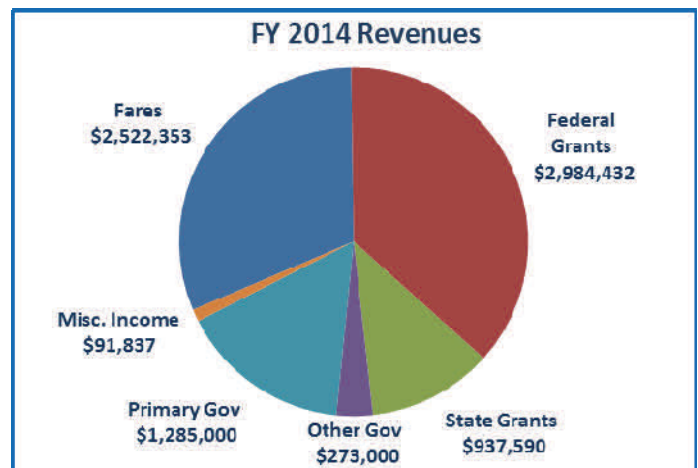
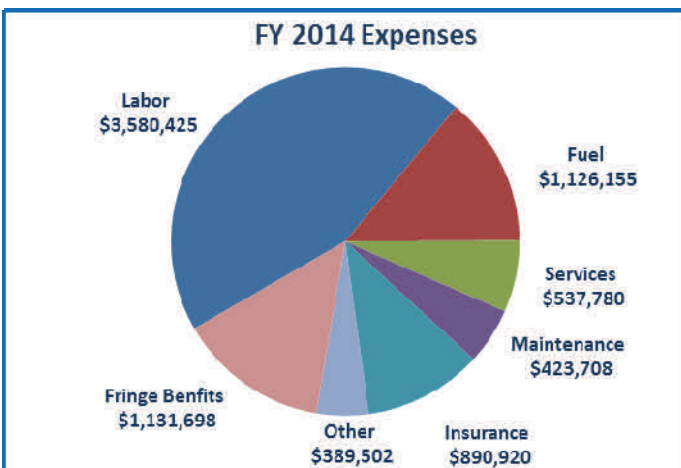
In addition to full gasoline and diesel fueling facilities, the center includes a new compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station. CNG buses will lead to better air quality in the region and reduce fuel costs. The first two CNG buses are scheduled for delivery in May 2015.

### Interlocal Agreement Extends Regional Transportation Authority

In November 2014 the Wilmington City Council and New Hanover County Board of Commissioners voted to extend the Interlocal Agreement to jointly fund and support the Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority. The updated agreement was drafted after 18 months of meetings and public input. The agreement created a vital fund balance for the Authority which will allow the Authority to manage its cash in a more efficient and economical manner. The agreement also extends the Interlocal Agreement for a period of 20 years and establishes the Authority as the provider of public transportation in the region for the foreseeable future.

### Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Operating Revenues & Expenses

In FY 2014, actual charges for transportation services represented over 31% of all revenues. This return represents the highest amount of fares as a percentage of overall revenue in the Authority's history. Direct recovery for services reduces the amount of subsidies required. The Authority's annual audit report is available online at: [http://www.wavetransit.com/Portals/0/documents/FY\\_14\\_Audit.pdf](http://www.wavetransit.com/Portals/0/documents/FY_14_Audit.pdf).



### Authority Members

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

**Honorable Kevin O'Grady**  
Wilmington City Council Vice Chairman

**Jeff Petroff, PE**  
Chairman

**Don Betz**  
Secretary

**William Bryden**

**Samuel B. Grundman**

**Steven D. Kelly, PE**

**Andrew Koepfel**

**Rick Richards**

**Anne K. Ryan**

**Wylie Beckman Smith, III**

### Staff

**Albert Eby**  
Executive Director  
(910) 202-2035  
aeby@wavetransit.com

**Megan Matheny**  
Director of Planning & Development  
(910) 202-2057  
mmatheny@wavetransit.com

**Joseph Mininni, CPA, MBA, CMA**  
Director of Finance & Administration  
(910) 202-2056  
jmininni@wavetransit.com

**Jean M. Smith**  
Director of Operations  
(910) 202-2062  
jsmith@wavetransit.com



## Carolina Beach

In July 2014, the Authority made a presentation to the Carolina Beach Town Council regarding Route 301: Pleasure Island. Authority Chairman Jeff Petroff reported that since launching the route in February 2013, ridership had increased over 100%. Following a discussion regarding the demographics of the route's passengers, the Carolina Beach Town Council voted in August 2014 to provide financial support to ensure continuation of the route.

In late 2014, the Authority and RS&H Consultants undertook a detailed analysis of passengers using Route 301. The purpose of the study is to provide elected officials an overview of the economic benefit realized by Pleasure Island from Route 301. The study included onboard surveys over a period of two months. The report is due to be presented to the Authority and Carolina Beach in early 2015.

## Seahawk Station Opens

In September 2014, University of North Carolina Wilmington officials dedicated Seahawk Station on the UNCW campus. The \$35,000 transfer center was funded by UNCW and the Authority. Located in the center of the growing campus, Seahawk Station services six shuttle routes. The station hosts an outdoor covered waiting area with seating and two 60 inch LCD displays that provide real time shuttle service information.



## Authority Welcomes New Members

Appointment of new Authority members by the Wilmington City Council and the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners set a record in 2014. During the year, five new members joined the Authority's eleven member board.

Appointed by Wilmington City Council:

- Mr. Samuel Grundman, Web Developer
- Mr. Andrew Koeppel, Commercial Real Estate Broker

Appointed by the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners:

- Mr. Steven Kelly, PE, Civil Engineer
- Ms. Anne Ryan, Retired Educator and Wave passenger

Jointly appointed Human Services Representative:

- Mr. Rick Richards, CEO of Elderhaus PACE

Recognition of appreciation was shared with the following Authority members following years of faithful and dedicated service:

- Cpt. David R. Scheu, USN (Ret.)
- Mr. Henry "Hank" Adams
- Mr. Julius "Chris" Hawkins
- Mr. George Dolan

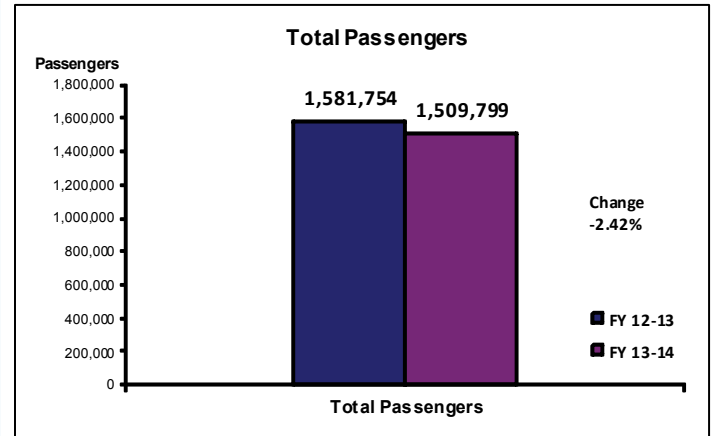
# Looking Ahead 2015

## Planning Retreat

Following a successful first ten years, efforts are underway by the Cape Public Transportation Authority to begin planning the next ten years. On April 28, 2015 at 10:00 am, the Authority will convene at the new Operations Center for a four hour planning retreat to discuss past successes and challenges, and to lay the groundwork for the 2016 Short Range Transit Plan. Many challenges face the Authority in the coming years and careful analysis and planning are critical to the long term success of Wave Transit. The retreat is open to the public and comments regarding the future of transit in the region are welcome at [comments@wavetransit.com](mailto:comments@wavetransit.com).

## Fiscal Year 2013-14 Operating Statistics

Overall ridership showed a 2.42% decrease over FY 2013. Ridership on the Seahawk Shuttle increased 5.88% and reflects a growing student population. Intercity transportation from Forden Station demonstrated tremendous gains, especially Amtrak Thruway service which nearly doubled.



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In 2014 the Making Waves Foundation received donations totaling over \$13,000 and granted requests for reduced transportation services for nearly 2,200 trips. The foundation continues to deliver upon its mission to provide assistance to members of the community in need and individuals who otherwise would not have access to transportation.

## Intercity Route to Charlotte Launched

On July 01, 2014, Horizon Coach Lines launched the Queen City Coastal/Connector. The route was part of an agreement with the Authority to serve as the Wilmington agent. Forden Station serves as the Wilmington hub for the Connector integrating with Greyhound Intercity lines and Amtrak thruway service. The Connector provides service from Wilmington to Charlotte with stops in Whiteville, Lumberton, Fayetteville, Laurinburg, Rockingham, Wadesboro and Monroe. Fares for the route are as low as \$10.00. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is partnering with Horizon Coach Lines to fund the Connector.

## A Bright Future

The Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority has a lot of exciting projects underway and 2015 is poised to be a year of many milestones. In addition to the new Operations Center, several fleet replacements, including CNG powered vehicles, are scheduled for delivery in the first six months of 2015.

After years of planning and solidifying revenue, the Authority will undertake its most ambitious passenger amenity program ever. At least fifty new shelters and passenger waiting benches will be installed in an effort to provide shelter, comfort and security to our passengers. A copy of the amenity plan is available on our website at: [http://www.wavetransit.com/Portals/0/documents/Five\\_Year\\_Bus\\_Stop\\_Amenities\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.wavetransit.com/Portals/0/documents/Five_Year_Bus_Stop_Amenities_Plan.pdf)