

Transit

Public transit is an important facet of the Central Midlands transportation network. It serves a variety of population groups, who utilize this service to access jobs, medical care, professional services, and other aspects of daily life. While few people doubt that private automobiles will still be the predominant mode of transportation in the Central Midlands thirty years from now, public mass transit will fulfill some important functions, including:

- Providing a mobility option for persons unable to rely on private automobiles due to age, disability or income.
- Efficiently moving people within densely populated areas and congested corridors.
- Connecting workers with employment centers
- Connecting the Central Midlands to other population centers, such as Charlotte, through the Southeastern High Speed Rail Corridor.
- Responding to the rapid growth of the elderly population
- Offering a more environmentally friendly alternative to the automobile

Existing Conditions

- CMRTA uses a fleet of 43 transit buses, 17 paratransit vehicles, and 6 rubber-tired vintage trolleys in providing the bulk of bus and paratransit services throughout the Central Midlands region.
- CMCOG has developed a commuter rail study that looks at establishing commuter rail and high speed rail services in the future.

Recommendations & Strategies

- 1. Encourage land development and travel patterns that support higher utilization of mass transit.**
 - Promote “transit-friendly” development in potential transit corridors.
 - Explore CMRTA’s role in promoting TDM strategies (e.g. carpool/vanpool, transit incentives).
 - Explore the potential for neighborhood circulator service.
 - Study the establishment of neighborhood transit centers.
 - Investigate the feasibility of high-capacity transit modes.
 - Improve frequency of service on high-demand routes.
 - Continue to develop express routes in major corridors.
 - Expand transit options in unserved or underserved areas.
- 2. Provide a high quality transit services, within the system’s financial constraints.**
 - Implement new bus stop signage program.
 - Provide ADA-compliant electronic signage at Transfer Center.
 - Install video cameras on buses and procure Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) / Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) equipment for DART vehicles.
 - Explore partnerships with advertising companies to provide bus shelters.
- 3. Facilitate Regional Commuter Rail Service**
 - Support regional transit and secure stable local funding for transit.
 - Adopt land use ordinances and policies encouraging transit-supportive development.
 - Develop interim transit service in corridors.
 - Establish a regional educational program on the benefits of transit.
 - Identify and preserve potential station sites
 - Coordinate on a continual basis with freight rail operators
 - Seek a “champion” to advocate for transit interests.