

Our Vision

To be a recognized leader and innovator in the provision of support services to ensure efficient, effective, safe and coordinated use of mass transit resources (for public benefit).

Our Mission

To assist in meeting the mass transportation needs of South Carolina's citizens by providing statewide transportation planning and research; administration of state and federal funds and assistance programs; evaluation of existing and proposed programs and of coordination of mass transit programs.

New phase of transportation service begins in Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties

On September 16, 2009, brand new transportation services began in the City of Orangeburg and, for the first time, in Calhoun County. The Orangeburg service includes a fixed-route service that will circulate through the downtown area and will operate out of a transit hub facility to be built in the near future with ARRA (stimulus) funds. There will also be a 14 mile commuter route operating out of the hub that will travel toward the northern and western portions of the city and connect such locations as the Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College; South Carolina State University; Claflin University; Prince of Orange Mall; and the Super Wal-Mart on U.S. 178.

The Calhoun County service will have a smaller shelter facility located in the St. Matthews area. There will be a fixed-route operating in downtown St. Matthews and one extending to the town of Cameron as well as connecting with an Orangeburg fixed route. Several demand response routes will extend throughout the county to provide service to rural areas which have never had service before.

Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA) will be the contract provider of the service. However, the system will have its own identity including a new name. It will be known as the Cross County Connection and buses will be marked with its distinctive new logo. (See below).



(Story continued on page 3)

Williamsburg County Transit receives 1st batch of new buses funded by ARRA

Palmetto Bus Sales, a South Carolina bus dealer, delivered twelve new Chevrolet Starcraft All-Star 14-passenger buses to the Williamsburg County Transit System in August, 2009. Williamsburg County Transit was the first provider in the state to receive new buses provided by funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), better known as federal stimulus funds.

The new buses are fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and they include such features as first aid kits and body fluid clean-up kits. They are also among the first buses to be delivered to South Carolina transit providers to include seat belts for every passenger seat.



Deputy Secretary for Mass Transit Glennith Johnson (left) and SCDOT Commissioner Marvin Stevenson present the keys to a new bus to Williamsburg County Transit System Executive Director Michael Burgess (far right).



Chevrolet Starcraft All-Star 14-passenger buses waiting to be delivered to the Williamsburg County Transit System.

Governor signs executive order creating SC Interagency Transportation Coordination Council

Governor Mark Sanford signed Executive Order 2009-13 on September 25th establishing this council which will promote interagency cooperation and statewide coordination to cut costs and eliminate waste in current public transportation programs.

Formed by legislation in 2008, the Mass Transit and Human Services Transportation Programs Study Committee earlier this year recommended the creation of this council ---reporting that there are opportunities to better synchronize existing state government health services transportation programs and even expand transportation services to underserved areas where appropriate. The South Carolina Interagency Transportation Coordination Council created by this executive order will seek to address these issues.

"We believe this is a small but meaningful step toward better protecting both the wallets and indeed time of taxpayers," Governor Sanford said. "These efforts -- specifically consolidating and coordinating state agencies' transportation programs -- go to the core of commonsense notions like restructuring and quality of life, and for that, I'd encourage this group in its work going forward."

Governor Sanford will appoint Bill McIlwain of Lexington to the South Carolina Interagency Transportation Coordination Council. Mr. McIlwain served at the SCDOT for 42 years, including positions as statewide rail program manager; director of administration; and director of finance. Other members, to be named at a later date, will include representatives from involved agencies, key legislative leaders and stakeholders, and the executive director of the Budget and Control Board. The council will publicly offer its recommendations in quarterly reports.

--- Information from a press release from the Office of the Governor, September 25, 2009.

(Continued from page 1)

The new services represent the implementation of Phase II of a plan for transit services in the two counties that began last spring. On March 2, 2009, a "test period" was initiated that was not advertised to the general public but was known by "word of mouth" and local agency referrals. During this Phase I, riders were asked to call a mobility manager at the Lower Savannah Council of Governments to arrange for a ride. Riders were then matched with an available vehicle in their area. No fixed route service was offered during this phase and riders were encouraged to call 48 hours in advance of their need. It was decided to utilize this test phase for the project to be sure that all areas of rider concerns were addressed before the service was actively marketed.

For this new phase, a kick-off event was held in Orangeburg at the county fairgrounds at 11:00 a.m. on September 16th and then at 4:00 p.m., another kick-off

event was held at St. Matthews in Calhoun County. In both locations, there were agency displays; remarks by congressional representatives; drawings for donated prizes; and a lunch was provided at the Orangeburg kick-off.

The Cross County Connection is the culmination of nearly three years of planning, discussion and hard work by many people. It is a cooperative effort of volunteers; agency representatives; educational institutions; and elected officials in both Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties. Support and/or funding has been provided by both counties plus the Lower Savannah Council of Governments; the Federal Transit Administration; the South Carolina Department of Transportation; the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA); the Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA); the James E. Clyburn Transportation Center at South Carolina State University; and SR Concepts. The kick-off events were sponsored by other agencies and vendors too numerous to list here.

For more information about the new services, call the Lower Savannah Mobility Manager at 1-866-845-1550.

CAT to build new state-of-the-art "green" facility

In only a couple of months, Clemson Area Transit (CAT) hopes to begin construction on a new facility that it believes will be a showplace for transit in South Carolina. All design and engineering work has been



Deputy Secretary for Mass Transit Glennith Johnson delivers remarks at the Calhoun County kick-off for the Cross County Connection.



Architectural rendering of the proposed new state-of-the-art facility for Clemson Area Transit.

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Questions for transit managers to consider in reference to operational responses to swine flu (NIHI) concerns:

- Is my transit agency located in an area of the United States where data indicates there is a higher than normal swine flu risk based on identified cases of swine flu infection?
- Does my transit agency transport passengers that may have a higher than normal risk of susceptibility to swine flu infection?
- Does my transit agency receive regular updates and guidance on swine flu response from local or regional emergency management personnel?
- Has my transit agency developed a plan, policy or set of protocols that will guide operational response to the risk of swine flu infection in regard to employees, passengers, and other members of the community?
- Has my transit agency distributed information to all employees that will help them protect themselves from the risk of swine flu infection?
- Has my transit agency developed an operational reporting and response procedure when there is a concern that an employee or passenger has been infected by the swine flu?
- Should my transit agency consider advising all operational employees who have regular contact with the public to wear protective gloves or other protective equipment when carrying out certain activities while on duty?
- Should my transit agency consider providing all operational employees with alcohol-based disposable wipes or gel sanitizers for frequent hand cleaning use while on duty?
- Should my transit agency consider extra cleaning and disinfecting of the interior of transit vehicles to help maintain a healthy environment?

Answering these and other important operational questions in regard to transit agency operational responses to swine flu infection risk can be assisted by coordinating with local or regional emergency management personnel and by going to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

For information to help transit employees develop a personal and family emergency preparedness plan, go to the Volpe website at <http://transitsafety.volpe.dot.gov/epg/default.htm>.

The preceding information has been provided by the Federal Transit Administration Office of Safety and Security which feels that it is important to reach out to transit managers and employees throughout the country to provide them with information on responding to this threat.

(Continued from page 3)

recently completed by Neal Prince, Architects, on the 25,000 square foot structure. CAT is currently awaiting pre-award authority from the SCDOT before moving ahead with plans to award a construction contract during the first week of December, 2009. Completion is expected to take nine months.

Within the new structure will be administrative offices including a room for staff training; a vehicle maintenance area and covered storage for the vehicle fleet. The facility itself will embody many features that are considered environmentally friendly including special glass to maximize the sun's energy; recycling rainwater to use for bus washing; heating of interior spaces through solar energy panels that move with the sun's movement; and pervious paving blocks in vehicle parking areas to allow rainwater to filter back into the soil rather than allowing uncontrolled run-off.

To be located on land purchased by CAT between the towns of Clemson and Central, South Carolina, the facility will be funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds; also known as stimulus

money. Executive Director Al Babinicz says this new facility will be a model for the transit industry and is certainly the first transit structure of its kind in South Carolina and perhaps in the nation to contain so many "ecofriendly" features.

—Information provided by Al Babinicz, Executive Director of CAT

Updates on Ongoing Projects

Statewide Compliance and Oversight Review

As reported in the last issue of TRANSITlines, the Division of Mass Transit has begun this year reviewing transit agencies who are grantees of FTA funds administered by the SCDOT.

These reviews, which are required by FTA and state regulations, look at every aspect of a transit agency's operations including financial accounting, drug and alcohol abuse programs, administrative procedures and vehicle maintenance. To date, four agencies have been reviewed this year and four more reviews are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2009. Each such review requires about four business days to complete.

State Management Plan Updates

The Division of Mass Transit began updating this plan during this summer and will conclude in November, 2009. The current State Management Plan may be reviewed by going to

www.scdot.org/getting/Masstransit.shtml

Teleconferencing with Transit Providers

This initiative has proven to be a very good tool for getting information out in a timely manner to all providers in the state. In view of the rather rapid rate of speed at which new information was forthcoming this year; e.g. ARRA (stimulus funds) requirements, etc., it was necessary to be able to disseminate new information very quickly. Also, new policy change information from the SCDOT and the federal government had to be passed along quickly as well. The last teleconferenced meeting with providers was held in early September and, like previous such teleconferences, saw very good participation.

TIGGER Discretionary Grant Application

The consolidated application submitted by the Division of Mass Transit in May, 2009 was not awarded to South Carolina. The division submitted this application on behalf of four transit agencies in the state in the hopes that a consolidated application would have a better chance of approval than four individual applications. The projects for which the division had hoped to receive funds under the TIGGER (Transit Investment for Greenhouse Gas & Energy Reduction) discretionary grant program included more energy efficient vehicles; structure lighting that requires less electricity; and solar panels for heating structures.

(Editor's note: In the previous issue of TRANSITLINES, it was reported that the SCDOT had submitted a consolidated TIGGER discretionary grant application. While there is a TIGGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), it should have been noted that the SCDOT's application was for TIGGER (Transit Investment for Greenhouse Gas & Energy Reduction) funds. This program provided \$100 million in discretionary grants to transit agencies for capital projects to reduce energy consumption or reduce greenhouse gas emissions or reduce both energy consumption and emissions. As noted above, the SCDOT was unsuccessful in its bid to receive these funds on behalf of the four agencies. Your editor regrets any confusion resulting from this misinformation.)

People in TRANSITION

The Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) has recently hired **Richard Eberle** as transit projects manager. He will be working directly on the implementation of their new Travel Management and Coordination Center (TMCC) which will provide transit information; assistance and linkage to rides throughout their six county region; and he will coordinate a network of six partnering transit agencies in the Lower Savannah region. LSCOG's TMCC was one of three national projects funding by the USDOT's Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA) initiatives to implement a one-call and coordination center using new technology. Richard will also work on other LSCOG transit projects such as the Best Friend Express of Aiken County. Richard comes to the LSCOG from the Atlanta area and has experience in the operation of one-call centers and transit networks.

Carl Jackson has been named the new director of public transportation for the City of Greenville, South Carolina. Carl was previously general manager and CEO for the Macon Transit Authority in Macon, Georgia. He comes to Greenville with 33 years of experience in public transportation. Before his position at Macon, Carl managed the York Regional BRT Project in Ontario, Canada; managed a transit operations control center with the Chicago Transit Authority; and started his career with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of New York as a ticket collector on the Long Island Railroad. Carl holds a MBA degree from Long Island University; a master of arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook; and a bachelor's of science degree from Adelphi University.

Gregory Baney is the new transit planner and grants manager at Greenlink, the Greenville Transit Authority.

He began his new duties on September 8, 2009. Greg was formerly with the Salvation Army in St. Louis, Missouri as a senior grants manager. Prior to that, he served the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Council in southeast Missouri as their transportation coordinator/grants manager. Greg has a bachelor's degree from Oral Roberts University; a master's of public administration degree from the University of Missouri and a master of arts in theological studies from Covenant Theological Seminary. Greg now lives in Greenville, SC.

Division of Mass Transit employee **Awanda Livingston** was recently promoted to a program assistant position. Awanda joined the DMT as an administrative specialist II on November 2, 2000. In January, 2007, this position was reclassified as an administrative assistant

whereupon she assumed the duties of managing the daily operations of the mass transit office; assisted with the RTAP program; and provided clerical assistance to DMT staff. In her new duties, Awanda will be working closely with Michelle Rayford, of the accounting office, assisting in the management of FTA grants. She will also assist in the management of the general mass transit program grants.

Also in the Division of Mass Transit, **Erica Boatman-Dixon** has been made a full-time permanent employee effective August 17, 2009. She is now the administrative assistant for the DMT. Erica was previously a temporary receptionist for the division. She had been contracted through a temporary agency in June, 2008 to assist the deputy secretary for mass transit in the temporary absence of his executive assistant. During her time there, Erica has been an integral part of the Mass Transit Human Service Transportation Study Committee, assisting them with logistics; transcribing extensive minutes; and being instrumental in getting their final report printed and bound. Erica has received a bachelor's degree from California State University in 1993 and has over ten years of experience in administration and management.



Over the summer of 2009, the SCDOT's Division of Mass Transit benefited greatly from the assistance of two summer interns. Under the School-to-Work Internship Program, funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the SCDOT and administered by Benedict College in Columbia,

Whitney Gaines served in the division under the supervision of Economic Development Manager Brenda Perryman.

Working in the role of an entry level economic development manager; Whitney assisted with reviewing budgets; assisted with the logistics of a Partners Meeting in July; assisted with research on student rider discounts for the new Orangeburg transit service; designed ARRA and TIGER funding logos to appear on vehicles funded with these monies (See photo at right); and visited two public transit providers in the state (Chester County Connector and Williamsburg County Transit System) to learn about their operations in depth.

Whitney is a rising senior at Claflin University where she is majoring in sociology. She expects to graduate in May, 2010.



Under the same program, **Matthew McCants** also worked in the division this summer and was supervised by vehicle coordinator Marion Carman. Matthew worked on title files for vehicles; pre-award and post-delivery vehicle inspections; and developed "review books" for transit providers to use in ensuring they are in compliance with

requirements for pre-award and post-delivery inspections of vehicles; "Altoona" or bus testing; and FTA certifications. Books were completed for Pee Dee RTA and Santee-Wateree RTA and will be developed for other transit providers who plan to make vehicle purchases totaling more than \$100,000.

Matthew is a graduate of Lower Richland High School in Columbia and currently attends Francis Marion University as a sophomore where he is studying to be an occupational therapist.



ARRA and TIGER funding logo affixed to exterior of new Williamsburg County Transit System bus.



OCTOBER 22-23, 2009

**High-Speed Rail 2009 Conference
Washington, DC**

Be part of the high-speed rail event of the year! Hear the world's leading experts discuss high speed rail around the world and how it revolutionized their countries. Hear about the many ways high speed rail can improve America. A national high-speed rail system creates efficient, safe mobility for all, ends our dependency on oil, and is the most significant solution to climate change. High-Speed Rail 2009 Conference is an initiative of the US High-Speed Rail Association and Europoint Rail Technology Conferences and Exhibitions. The conference takes attendees into all current innovations and developments within the high speed rail sector. This promising two-day conference puts emphasis on the following themes: Bringing high-speed rail to America; why high-speed rail?; high-speed rail around the world; scaling up the industry in America; planning and financing; tracks to a sustainable America; technology of HSR; and making it happen—next steps. As a conference attendee, you will also hear from members of Congress with a major focus on high speed rail; hear from the Obama administration about their commitment to high speed rail; listen to the USDOT's plans for funding and schedules; and listen to the business case for private high speed rail operators and the profit potential. Registration costs are \$1,175.00 for general registrants; \$875.00 for scientists and educators; and \$350.00 for government employees. For more information, please go to e-mail@ushsr.com or call (202) 777-0500.

NOVEMBER 2-6, 2009

**Introduction to Urban Transportation
Planning
Tampa, Florida**

This course is sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation and explores the challenges, emerging methods and new solutions in transportation planning in an urban setting. Included will be workshop sessions which will introduce the participant to the use of computer solutions to transportation planning and design problems.

A special emphasis will be on the role of public transit in transportation planning. The course is specifically designed for people who need a good overview of the transportation planning process and need to understand how information is used and generated in transportation plans. Instructors will be individuals with over 75 years of experience in urban transportation planning and travel forecasting: Dr. Edward Beimborn, Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and Dr. Frederick Wegmann, Research Professor of Civil Engineering at University of Tennessee. The course will be conducted at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida at Tampa. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Embassy Suites Hotel nearby. The course registration fee is \$135.00 which includes four lunches, a Wednesday evening meal, breaks and course handouts. Registration deadline is Monday, October 19, 2009 or when the course is filled. For more information contact Dr. Edward Beimborn at edward@beimborn.com or beimborns@sbcglobal.net or call (262) 377-5467. To register by internet, go to www.beimborn.com/ed and register via pay pal. You may also register by writing to Dr. Edward Beimborn at 8120 Pleasant Valley Road, Saukville, WI 53080 or contacting him at the phone number shown above or at either of the e-mail addresses shown above. Reserve hotel rooms no later than October 23, 2009 by calling (813) 977-7066, ask for the UTP rate.

NOVEMBER 9-13, 2009

**RouteMatch University
Atlanta, Georgia**

This is an expert-level course for experienced schedulers and technical individuals who desire to create efficient schedules with RouteMatch TS software. Before attending this course, you should have participated in RouteMatch TS Level 1 and 2 training and been involved in your agency's RouteMatch TS "Go Live" event. The course provides a series of lecture sessions delivered in a software interactive environment. Upon completion of this course,

you will become a certified RouteMatch scheduler who will have the knowledge to configure and troubleshoot the RouteMatch TS software to create the most efficient scheduling for your agency. Cost of the course is \$2,900.00 which includes all lodging, meals, snacks, training materials and manuals, an outing, and a certificate upon completion. To register online, or for more information, go to <http://www.routematch.com/events/rmu.aspx> Registration deadline is October 30, 2009.

NOVEMBER 17, 2009
Transportation Training at Annual Fall Retreat of SCLBC
McCormick, SC

This is the annual 3-day fall retreat of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) with sessions on topics ranging from health care to higher education to rural economic development. On Wednesday, November 17th, there will be several sessions of interest to public transportation providers and stakeholders. They are a training workshop led by SCDOT's Division of Mass Transit at 9:00 a.m.; a session on minority contracting and DBEs also led by SCDOT staff at 2:00 p.m.; and a transportation town hall meeting at 5:30 p.m. The entire event will be held in the conference facilities at Hickory Knob State Park in McCormick, South Carolina. For more information and for any questions, contact (803) 734-3041 or e-mail at scabc@scstatehouse.gov or visit the website at www.sclbc.org

Santee-Wateree RTA's Ann August named as CTAA's Southeastern Regional Director and TOPS Committee Chair

Ms. Ann August, executive director of the Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority (SWRTA) in Sumter now has two more distinctions to add to her already impressive resume. She was recently selected to serve on the Community Transportation Association of America's (CTAA) National Board of Directors as the southeastern regional director. In this capacity, she will represent her peers in the public transportation industry in eight southeastern states. Those states include North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky.

The CTAA is comprised of small urban and rural transit systems as well as human service agencies that provide transportation. Ann is taking over a position formerly held by Ms. Joann Hutchinson of Florida.

Ann was also appointed chair of the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Transportation Oversight Project Selection (TOPS) Committee. The TOPS Committee is responsible for allocating approximately \$10 million in funding annually for public transit research projects around the country. All of the transit programs and projects are administered for the TRB by the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP). The TCRP is located at the National Research Council in Washington, DC.

Ms. August will serve as chair of TOPS for two years. At the conclusion of this term, she will have served for six years. Her previous four years was as a member of the TOPS Committee. Ms. August's travel for both organizations will be 100% reimbursed by each of them respectively.



Robert Brownstein (left) of AECOM Consulting, former chair of TOPS, passes the symbol of chairmanship to Ann August (right) of the Santee-Wateree RTA.

