

Triangle Mobility News

The e-newsletter of the Regional Transportation Alliance

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SPECIAL EDITION

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Editor's Note

This Special Edition of the Regional Transportation Alliance's monthly e-newsletter, *Triangle Mobility News*, offers a mid-year review of Alliance accomplishments. Since our first Annual Meeting in October, Alliance staff has been hard at work on identifying mobility solutions in our region through the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS Mayors' Group) monthly meetings and Alliance policy meetings. In addition to working on this RTS Initiative, we have also been dedicated to improving the Alliance for our members. Please contact Alliance Executive Director Joe Milazzo II at 664.7065 or joe@the-chamber.org or myself at 664.7062 or katy@the-chamber.org with any questions or concerns.

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Alliance continues discussions with Mayors, Legislators

The Regional Transportation Alliance continues to facilitate monthly discussions with Triangle mayors at Regional Transportation Strategy meetings. With a transportation-funding shortfall exceeding \$8 billion over the next 25 years, the group is working to identify potential funding mechanisms and specific projects to improve mobility in the region. The Mayors of Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh have suggested a five percent sales tax on gasoline and a \$20 vehicle registration fee as possible funding sources. Sales tax on gas would generate \$26 million in revenue annually while the registration fee would generate \$18 million in revenue annually. The Alliance Leadership Team expressed concern that these two funding sources may not generate enough revenue to make an impact on the transportation problem. Therefore, the Alliance also supports consideration of a ½ cent sales tax increase to generate additional funds. Sales tax will provide a larger source of income and help ensure that all users, not just those living in the Triangle, pay for road improvements here. Both the Alliance and the RTS group agree that user fees are a good way to introduce funding options to the legislature.

Revenues generated from any of the proposed funding sources would be divided among the three Triangle counties. The Alliance supports the mayors' suggestion that 2/3 of the additional

revenues would go towards street and highway projects, while the remaining 1/3 would go towards transit. Currently, the Alliance is working with the two area Metropolitan Planning Organizations (Capital Area MPO in Wake County and Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO in Durham and Orange Counties) to identify specific projects to benefit from the additional revenue. With the MPOs, the Alliance is looking to put together a holistic package of primary and secondary routes, focusing on locations with recurring traffic problems. The Alliance will seek to hold a series of meetings with local elected officials and interest groups as the legislative process continues.

Alliance Executive Director Joe Milazzo II has been meeting with the members of the Triangle legislative delegation over the past several months. During these meetings, Milazzo introduces the legislator to the Alliance and discusses the importance of improved mobility in the Triangle. Each legislator recognizes the transportation problem facing the Triangle and other urban areas in North Carolina and wants to see a mobility solution come about. When the Alliance and the RTS generates a consensus package and gained support from the community, we will seek to have the bill introduced by a Triangle legislator. We will then advocate for its success in the General Assembly during the current session.

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Freddoso named Alliance Transportation Champion

The Regional Transportation Alliance Steering Committee has selected Alliance volunteer and Gold member, **Joe Freddoso** of **Cisco Systems** as the Spring 2003 **Transportation Champion**. Joe has been involved with the Alliance for several years and has dedicated countless hours to improving mobility in the Triangle. Freddoso also serves as an Alliance representative at monthly RTS Mayors' meetings. In addition, he has volunteered to help with the Alliance membership campaign by making personal visits and telephone calls to potential members.

Freddoso has also been instrumental in the creation of **SmartCommute@RTP**. Led by Joe, Cisco Systems received several awards at the SmartCommute awards ceremony hosted by Cisco and IBM.

The Alliance would like to congratulate Joe Freddoso for being chosen as the second Transportation Champion and thank him for his continued support of the Alliance. Joe will receive his award at the April Steering Committee Meeting.

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Alliance membership list

In the past six months, the Alliance has received continued support from current members and has grown with the addition of many new members. Ten Triangle chambers of commerce now support the Alliance. Below is a complete listing of all Alliance members.

Gold Members

Capitol Broadcastings, Inc.
Cisco Systems **
GlaxoSmithKline **

IBM Corporation
Logistics **
Progress Energy

Research Triangle Foundation
of North Carolina **

Silver Members

Blue Cross and Blue Shield
of North Carolina
Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP
First Citizens Bank

Kimley-Horn & Associates **
Research Triangle
Regional Partnership *

Time Warner Cable
Raleigh/Durham Division
Wachovia Bank, NA

Corporate Members

Access Medical Development *
ALLTEL
Alphanumeric Systems
American Kennel Club **
Angus Barn
Arcadis G&M of NC, Inc.
Capital Bank
Chubb Insurance
Duke Power Company
Duke University
Earth Tech of NC, Inc.
East West Partners
Excel Moving & Storage, Inc.
Allied Van Lines

Harris Wholesale *
HNTB North Carolina, PC *
Kennedy Covington Lobdell &
Hickman LLP *
Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP
Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.
Owen & Minor, Inc. *
The News and Observer
Publishing Company **
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Sodexo Health Care
Services
SRI/Surgical Express *

Stantec Consulting Services **
Storr Office Environments, Inc. *
Success Today *
Toll Brothers
Triangle Business Journal
Triangle Community Coalition **
Triangle United Way **
Wilbur Smith Associates **
York Properties **

Gold Chamber Partners

Cary Chamber of Commerce
Greater Durham Chamber of
Commerce

Greater Raleigh Chamber of
Commerce

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber
of Commerce

Silver Chamber Partners

Apex Chamber of Commerce
Fuquay-Varina Chamber
of Commerce *

Holly Springs Chamber of
Commerce *
Knightdale Chamber of
Commerce *

Morrisville Chamber of
Commerce *
Wendell Chamber of
Commerce *

Senior Public Affiliates

Capital Area Metropolitan
Planning Organization
(CAMPO)

Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro
Metropolitan Planning
Organization (DCHC)

Triangle Transit Authority (TTA)

* Denotes new members since October, 2002

** Denotes membership renewals since October, 2002

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