

CITY OF HIGH POINT

AGENDA ITEM



TITLE: Agreement with the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) to provide fare free transit passes to transit employees for all urban fixed routes systems in the Triad	
FROM: Greg Venable, Transportation Director	MEETING DATE: 3/4/2024
PUBLIC HEARING: n/a	ADVERTISED DATE/BY: n/a
ATTACHMENTS: Resolution MOA and Fare Free Summary PART Board Resolution	

PURPOSE: Consideration of an Agreement with PART and member jurisdictions to provide fare free transit to transit employees on all urban fixed route systems in the Triad.

BACKGROUND: In 2021 the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation invited the four Piedmont Triad Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to form a regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) partnership. The partnership works together to promote TDM Strategies locally and regionally. During its first year the partnership organized and developed a program called the Piedmont Triad Regional TDM Initiative. The stakeholders in the partnership include MPO and transit agency staff. Several initiatives were jointly accomplished include a regional “Ride Transit” campaign, a regional transit rider survey, re-energizing the regional vanpool program, and several social media campaigns.

The parties to this agreement are the City of High Point on behalf of High Point Transit System (HPTS), Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA), Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART), Davidson County on behalf of Davidson County Transportation System (DCTS), City of Burlington on behalf of Link Transit (LINK) and City of Greensboro on behalf of Greensboro Transit Agency (GTA). Other agencies may participate in this fare policy by notifying partners to this agreement, signing a copy of this agreement, and establishing procedures for implementing the program. A similar agreement was created in 2014 but did not include the benefit to transit employees. Staff are currently working on the next goal which will be an updated agreement that will offer fare free transit service to all city employees of each party listed above.

BUDGET IMPACT: The current fare to ride an HPTS bus is \$1.25 per trip. The budget impact will be minor. This will be an additional employee benefit for our High Point Transit System employees who wish to take advantage of the program.

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION REQUESTED: Staff recommends approval of this agreement and allowing appropriate city staff to execute all associated documents.



**RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF HIGH POINT AND THE PIEDMONT AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION TO OFFER FARE FREE TRANSIT FOR TRANSIT EMPLOYEES
ON ALL URBAN FIXED ROUTE TRANSIT SYSTEMS OF THE TRIAD**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 160A-461 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the City of High Point (“City”) is authorized to enter into interlocal agreements with other units of local government and local political subdivisions in order to execute any undertaking; and

WHEREAS, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (“PART”) is a body politic and corporate in the State of North Carolina, established and regulated in accordance with the provisions of Article 27, Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, PART and the member jurisdictions each operate separate, fixed route bus systems; and

WHEREAS, the benefit for the dedication of the employees' from each system is bestowed for their ongoing commitment to the industry and the customers PART serves by providing the following:

1. Partner system employees riding a partner system that is fare free or does not have a digital fare payment system can show their employee ID badge and will be provided with a free ride.
2. Partner system employees riding a partner system with a digital fare payment system shall be provided an Employee Pass providing free rides. (The Employee Pass must be applied for and issued prior to the first trip).

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of PART and the member jurisdictions have ratified this Agreement by resolution and that action being recorded in their respective minutes; and

WHEREAS, PART and the member jurisdictions have determined that it is in the public benefit and interest to enter into this Agreement to provide for an efficient public transportation service to their service areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the High Point City Council, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement between the City of High Point and the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation to offer fare free transit for transit employees on all urban fixed route transit systems of the triad.

Adopted this the 4th day of March 2024.

Sandra Keeney
High Point City Clerk

Cyril Jefferson, Mayor

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT GOVERNING FARE POLICY AND EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FOR TRANSIT EMPLOYEE'S OF THE PIEDMONT TRIAD'S URBAN AREA PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCIES

This Memorandum of Agreement covers the purpose and participation as contained herein to provide reduced fares for all transit employees of the Piedmont Triad's Urban Area providers on each participating agencies transit system. The ease of access at a reduced fare are established for the public transit industry employees as identified herein for all systems that have joined this agreement by signature.

The parties to this agreement are Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA), City of High Point on behalf of High Point Transit (HPT), Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART), Davidson County on behalf of Davidson County Transportation System (DCTS), City of Burlington on behalf of Link Transit (LINK) and City of Greensboro on behalf of Greensboro Transit Agency (GTA). Other agencies may participate in this fare policy by notifying partners to this agreement, signing a copy of this agreement, and establishing procedures for implementing the program.

WHEREAS, the gratitude recognizing the invaluable commitments provided by the employees' of the public transit industry in the Piedmont Triad is an ongoing effort of management and policy boards; and

WHEREAS, the work force of the Piedmont Triad Urban Transit employees' help promote the use of public transit service to the citizens of the Piedmont Triad Region; and

WHEREAS, the operators, maintenance and administrative staff of each respective agency help keep our systems functioning at the highest levels on a daily basis for the citizens we serve; and

WHEREAS, the benefit for the dedication of the employees' from each system identified herein is bestowed for their ongoing commitment to the industry and the customers we serve by providing the following:

1. Partner system employees riding a partner system that is fare free or does not have a digital fare payment system can show their employee ID badge and will be provided with a free ride.
2. Partner system employees riding a partner system with a digital fare payment system shall be provided an Employee Pass providing free rides. (The Employee Pass must be applied for and issued prior to the first trip).

WHEREAS, the initial guidelines and procedures are outlined in Exhibit A and may be modified by a participating system due to a change in fare collection technology or fare policy with noticed to the participating agencies. Partners adjusting a procedure or wishing to no longer participate in this agreement shall notify each participating agency with a minimum 30-day notice to each respective agency that has entered into this Memorandum of Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that by signature on the following page each system identified as a participating party will make these employee benefits available to the dedicated staff of our agencies in recognition of the manner in which they perform their job and represent our agencies at the highest level of professionalism.

Signature page of Public Transit Agency Commitment

The signatures below indicate agreement and willingness to implement to above reference fare policy for transit employees.

Date:
City of Burlington, Link Transit
John C. Andoh, Interim Transit Manager

Witness

Date:
Davidson County, Davidson County Transportation (DCTS)
Richard Jones, Transportation/Fleet Maintenance Director

Witness

Date:
City of Greensboro, Greensboro Transit Agency (GTA)
Bruce Adams, Public Transportation Division Manager

Witness

Date:
City of High Point, High Point Transit
Angela W. Wynes, Transit Manager

Witness

Date:
Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART)
Scott W. Rhine, CEO/General Manager

Witness

Date:
Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA)
Donna Woodson, General Manager

Witness

EXHIBIT A



TRANSIT EMPLOYEE PASS PROGRAM

In 2021 the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation invited the four Piedmont Triad Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to form a regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) partnership. The partnership works together to promote TDM Strategies locally and regionally. During its first year the partnership organized and developed a program called the Piedmont Triad Regional TDM Initiative. The stakeholders in the partnership include MPO and transit agency staff. Several initiatives were jointly accomplished include a regional “Ride Transit” campaign, a regional transit rider survey, re-energizing the regional vanpool program, and several social media campaigns.

To promote the use of public transportation and increase ridership, the stakeholders wish to promote riding public transportation as an employee benefit. A similar agreement was created in 2014. But there are more transit systems and fare payment processes that require updating for expansion of the benefit to employees. Should the program prove to be beneficial, consideration to expand the program to City/County employees should be considered. How the program would work is outlined below.

Regional TDM Initiative

Strategy: Support Services

Component(s): Transit Subsidies

Objective: Increase usage of public transportation

Program: Transit Employee Pass Program

Implementation: 1st Quarter FY 23

- Provide fare free transit to all transit agency employees across all Piedmont Triad systems, including contract transit employees.
- Transit employees of a system using the UMO fare payment system (GTA, HPT and PART) and wishing to ride a system using UMO would need to request an employee pass from that system.
 - Transit employees would request an employee pass from that agency's UMO account rep. The account rep would in turn contact the partner agencies account rep to set up the pass. Employment verification would be the responsibility of each agency's account rep.
 - Once request is received, the goal will be to have the pass active.
- Transit employees wishing to ride a system NOT using the UMO fare payment system would need to show their employee ID badge. Images of all transit employee ID's would be shared with all agencies.

- This employee benefit would be terminated if the transit employee was no longer employed by the agency. Transit employees using ID badges would no longer have their ID badges. Transit employees with an UMO employee pass must renew pass every six months.
- Program would be promoted internally as an employee benefit.

Procedure Matrix

Employee of	Riding					
	DCTS	GTA	HPT	LINK	PART	WSTA
DCTS	N/A	Shows ID	Shows ID	N/A	Shows ID	Shows ID
GTA	N/A	UMO Employee Pass	UMO Employee Pass	N/A	UMO Employee Pass	Shows ID
HPT	N/A	UMO Employee Pass	UMO Employee Pass	N/A	UMO Employee Pass	Shows ID
LINK	N/A	Shows ID	Shows ID	N/A	Shows ID	Shows ID
PART	N/A	UMO Employee Pass	UMO Employee Pass	N/A	UMO Employee Pass	Shows ID
WSTA	N/A	Shows ID	Shows ID	N/A	Shows ID	Shows ID

Note: DCTS and LINK are currently fare free systems.

Examples of Transit Employee ID Badges



**Endorsement of the Board of Trustees
for the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation
Seeking Member Agency Participation**

WHEREAS, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) was created in 1998 by enabling legislation NCGS §160A, Article 27 from local governments to enhance the transportation systems and services of the Piedmont Triad; and

WHEREAS, the PART Board of Trustees began meeting in October 1998 and is represented by designated Cities, Counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Airport Authorities and NCDOT; and

WHEREAS, PART began managing the RideSharing and Vanpooling of the Piedmont (RSVP) in July 2000 and further developed a Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program with PART member agencies to expand mobility options for our member agencies and citizens of the Piedmont Triad; and

WHEREAS, the PART agency is seeking participation from our City members to work with PART to expand mobility resources and help us fulfill our agency's mission statement and agency's goal with the following:

1. Expand the City website to link directly with PART and the Regions mobility resources to enhance Transportation Demand Management (TDM) options for our citizens and create consistency in messaging and promotion of our public services; and
2. Expand your City employee benefits package by offering an employee mobility resource that includes a free transit pass program acceptable on all urban fixed route transit systems of the Triad and financial contributions to create or join a PART Vanpool service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the PART Board of Trustees endorse the efforts to enhance mobility and encourage our member agencies to set the standards for expanding mobility options within our local governments and local government workforce.

.....
A motion was made by Fleming El-Amin and seconded by Kevin Mundy for adoption of the above ordinance, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted on this 11th day of August 2021.
.....

I, Marikay Abuzuaiter, PART Chairperson does hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt for the minutes of a meeting of the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation duly held on the 11th day of August 2021.

Approved: Marikay Abuzuaiter
Marikay Abuzuaiter
PART Board Chairperson

Witnessed: Thomas E. Terrell, Jr.
Thomas E. Terrell, Jr.
PART Legal Counsel

Certified: Scott W. Rhine
Scott W. Rhine
PART CEO/General Manager

Seal:

