

SEACTivities

News from the Southeast Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation



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The Southeast Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation (SEACT) is a professional organization that regionally includes the states of: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

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Franklin Transit Center Opens Doors

submitted by Debbie Henry, The TMA Group/Franklin Transit Authority, Franklin, TN

In front of a magnificent crowd of dignitaries, business and community leaders, media and most importantly transit riders, the Franklin Transit Authority reached a milestone by cutting the ribbon and opening the doors of Franklin's Transit Center.

The Transit Center located in the heart of Franklin was designed especially with the transit rider in mind. The ADA compliant facility's downstairs lobby includes a ticket window, transit rider waiting area, public restrooms, vending machines, and a trolley stop. The second story houses the administrative offices of The TMA Group, manager and operator of the Franklin Transit Authority for the City of Franklin.

"Good morning! I want to welcome everyone to this momentous occasion, and thank you for being a part of this newest chapter in the story of transit in Franklin," Franklin Transit Authority Chair **Doug Langston** said. "This celebratory day began as a vision years ago; built on the rich history of transit in Franklin that began in 1908 with the Franklin Interurban system. Today, a vision has become a reality."

Franklin **Mayor Tom Miller** stated "This is Franklin's newest building. It is a brick two-story 4,490 square foot building on 1/3-acre lot that was built for the people. The design gives a nod to Franklin's rich history, while housing a public transportation system that is moving forward into the future."

Franklin's four-year old public transportation system comprised of four vintage-styled bio-diesel burning trolleys is making tracks by moving forward. In addition to the building, the Franklin trolleys will be providing more service – with shorter route times, more trolley stops, expanded service area, an All-Day Pass, and the addition of the new TODD (Transit On Demand) service. TODD will answer the need for flexible service, while the Franklin Trolleys maintain the four fixed routes service Monday through Saturday.



Diane Thorne, executive director of The TMA Group said "The face of transit is the person standing next to you today. All our riders inspire us with their stories, and with their commitment to this system. This Transit Center is for you...so, welcome!"

The Franklin Trolley system is moving forward increasing the accessibility of public transportation to the area's citizens.

Downtown Atlanta

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The Downtown Parking Website can be found at www.atlantadowntown.com. The site lists different areas and attractions Downtown and information on the parking facilities surrounding the desired location. Information provided includes a picture and type of the facility, the address, the operator, type of payment and the access points of the provided lot. For some facilities, there are even related websites listed to help in the trip planning process. Stay tuned for other deliverables of the Action Plan from the City of Atlanta, the Downtown TMA and Central Atlanta Progress.

DASH- Downtown Atlanta Shuttle

A free-shuttle service was demonstrated in Downtown Atlanta during the Final Four® Men's College Basketball Championship on March 31st and April 1st. DASH- Downtown Atlanta Shuttle service provided a trial opportunity to explore shuttle operations, raise awareness of the benefits of a Downtown shuttle, and address congestion related to weekend activities. The Downtown TMA promoted the free service, which was launched by Central Atlanta Progress in partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology's Parking and Transportation Department. DASH provided connectivity to four MARTA rail stations and countless MARTA bus stops.

The initial feedback received has been positive and the project proved to be "part of the solution" in encouraging transit use and mitigating congestion.



ACT Executive Speaks at Inaugural MSTPA Conference

submitted by Francis Kovac, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

The Mid-South Transportation and Parking Association (MSTPA) held its inaugural conference March 20 and 21 in Huntsville, Alabama. The association consists of colleges, universities, municipalities and airports in the Mid-South region. With approximately 90 attendees, the largest faction of conference participants came from colleges and universities in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and Indiana, with several cities and municipalities were represented as well.

The topics presented during the conference by an excellent group of speakers were pertinent to the parking and transportation issues that we deal with regularly. Among the speakers was **Mark Wright**, Executive Director of the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT). Mr. Wright addressed the attendees on "Transportation & Parking Demand Management for Colleges, Universities and Municipalities." I speak for the rest of the Board of Directors when I say that Mr. Wright captured our attention with the possibilities and innovations of transportation demand management.

It is always valuable to learn about new techniques and technologies in the parking and transportation industries from our colleagues. Plans are already underway for next spring's MSTPA Conference, to be held March 25 and 26, 2008, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. We hope to see many of you there!