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## TTA Selects Rail Car Supplier

The TTA Board of Trustees has voted to award a contract to United Transit Systems (UTS) to supply diesel multiple units (DMU's) for the Regional Rail Transit System.

UTS is a consortium of Sojitz Corporation of Japan and Rotem Corporation of Korea. TTA's proposed vehicle is scheduled to be in operation when the Regional Rail Transit System opens 12 stations along 28 miles of track between Durham, Research Triangle Park, Cary and Raleigh in 2008.

In recommending that the TTA board select UTS for the project, valued at up to \$90.1 million dollars, TTA General Manager John Claflin said, "TTA was impressed by United Transit System's experience and expertise."

TTA has chosen DMU's that meet federal railroad safety standards. The Federal Railroad Administration compliant DMU's can operate in existing rail corridors next to freight and Amtrak passenger service. They can also operate on the same tracks used by freight and passenger trains. DMU's are self-propelled, eliminating the need for locomotives or electrification of the rail corridor with an overhead catenary. Two DMU's will make a "married pair," seating 160.

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## TTA Vanpools Celebrate 15 Years

TTA's vanpool program has experienced much in 15 years. When the Triangle J Council of Governments managed the program, it had an average of 10 vanpools in operation and an average of 113 riders. Now there are 55 vanpools with approximately 700 riders.

A vanpool is made up of at least seven commuters who live and work near each other and who share approximately the same work hours. One leg of the trip must begin or end in Durham, Orange or Wake counties. TTA provides the van; pays for the gas and insurance; and arranges, oversees and pays for all maintenance. The monthly fare is determined by round-trip mileage.

Danny Bridgers of Smithfield and Casey Jones of Coats were driving vanpools when TTA began overseeing the program. Both work for state government in Raleigh, the employer with the most participants in the vanpool program.

Jones began driving in 1986, and Bridgers began in 1989. Jones has 11 riders in his vanpool, with a monthly fare of \$63. Bridgers has 14 people in his vanpool, and the monthly fare per rider is \$43. State government provides its employees who are vanpool riders with a \$15 subsidy.

Both Jones and Bridgers estimate substantial savings from participating in a vanpool for years. Jones believes he has saved at least \$100,000 on mileage and wear and tear on his vehicle. Bridgers said he believes he has saved about \$83,000 just on gas, mileage and wear and tear on his vehicle. Neither has purchased a new car for work since they began driving vanpools.

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TTA's proposed DMU's from United Transit Systems are to be ready for Regional Rail service in 2008.

## on the move >>>>>

is produced quarterly by Triangle Transit Authority (TTA). Editor: Brad Schulz. Contributors: Brian Fahey, Stephanie Gunter, Kathy Molin and Garold Smith.

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# School Calendar Highlights TTA



A Wake County elementary school's work to promote transportation has led to statewide recognition for fourth graders and TTA. Students at Jeffreys Grove Elementary presented creative ideas for alternative transportation options and created an events calendar for the school year. TTA's Richard Lucia and Kathy Molin worked with the school's art teacher through a series of events including a trolley visit at the school and a "Weekend Ride" event with parents and students using public transit for a trip to Raleigh's Exploris museum.

The calendar recently won "Best Outreach to School Children" from NC Air Awareness, a program of the state's Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

NC Air Awareness has awarded TTA and Jeffreys Grove Elementary School honors for the calendar

“ We will make sure, in every aspect, to satisfy TTA and the people in the Triangle Region.”

Hats Kageyama, UTS

## Emergency Ride Home Is A Hit

TTA's "Emergency Ride Home" provides commuters who ride the bus, vanpool, carpool, bike, or walk with a reliable emergency ride home on the day the person has used an alternative mode of transportation to get to work.

ERH Coordinator Kathy Molin says concerns about immediate transportation needs due to an emergency or schedule conflict often hinder commuters from using an alternative to driving alone. Molin researched different programs from around the country and updated an earlier program TTA had offered, one she felt would meet the needs of those using alternatives in the Triangle Region.

Molin says, "once a part of the program, participants receive a voucher for a trip by taxi

or rental vehicle if there is an emergency on the day they have used alternative transportation."

TTA introduced the program in June 2004. Currently, over 350 participants and more than 80 worksites are registered. "Emergency Ride Home" was recently honored as the "Alternative Improvement of the Year" by the Regional Transportation Alliance at the 2004 Regional Mobility Awards.

To learn more about the "Emergency Ride Home" program, check out [www.rideTTA.org](http://www.rideTTA.org), or call Kathy Molin, TTA's ERH Coordinator, at 919-485-7475.



## TTA Selects Rail Car Supplier

(continued from cover)

The contract award to UTS is contingent upon a federal "Letter of No Prejudice" which would allow TTA to draw on funds for this part of the \$631 million dollar Regional Rail Project.

TTA's base order will be for 12 married pair (24 rail cars) with an option for four additional married pair (eight cars).

UTS will manufacture the rail car body shells at Rotem's rolling stock plants in Korea. Final assembly of the planned rail cars will take place in Philadelphia. American suppliers will be part of the contract with UTS, ensuring that the vehicle meets

the Federal Transit Administration's 60% "Buy America" requirement. Federal funds will provide \$45 million of the DMU's cost.

UTS representative Hatsuhiko Kageyama said, "We are pleased to have been recommended by TTA for this project. We are confident we will produce quality products on time and we will make sure, in every aspect, to satisfy TTA and the people in the Triangle Region."

The first DMU's are expected at TTA's Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility, planned for Ellis Road near the Durham Freeway, in late 2007. After several months of testing, they'll be ready for service in 2008.

# Transit Riders Earn More Home-Buying Power

Fannie Mae has teamed up with local mortgage lenders and public transit providers to offer lending breaks to Triangle residents who purchase homes near public transit lines.

The Triangle Smart Commute Initiative will provide greater home-buying power to residents who purchase homes within a quarter of a mile from a public transit stop in Durham, Orange or Wake counties. By crediting the money saved to the borrower's qualifying income, they will be eligible to borrow about \$10,000 more.

The initiative was introduced to the public at an event at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this spring. Organizers say the program is an attempt to increase the use of public transportation.

"Every time someone steps on a bus, he or she is saving his or her hard-earned money that would have been spent on gas and car maintenance," said John Tallmadge, TTA director of commuter resources. "It just makes sense that mortgage lenders would factor that in when determining how much house someone can afford. TTA is proud to promote this new benefit to public

transportation customers throughout the Triangle. The more that we can connect the public transportation services with the people who live near them, the better off the whole community will be."

The initiative also will provide a number of other benefits to home buyers including:

- Lower down payments. Borrowers may be able to make down payments as low as \$500 from their own funds, depending on income eligibility.
- Lower car expenses. Participating home buyers can reduce or eliminate the expense and upkeep of a personal vehicle by using public transportation.
- Environmentally friendly practices. Homeowners help the environment by reducing traffic congestion and vehicle-related emissions while conserving natural resources.

Participating Smart Commute lenders include Allied Home Mortgage Capital Corp., Central Carolina Bank, Countrywide Home Loans, RBC Centura and the State Employees' Credit Union. Local lenders will originate the mortgages under the Smart Commute Initiative; Fannie Mae will purchase the eligible loans.

*For more information on the initiative, please contact Fannie Mae at 1-800-7FANNIE (1-800-732-6643).*

## TTA Vanpools Celebrate 15 Years

*(continued from cover)*

Jones said he likes the convenience and safety aspects of the vanpool. "It saves wear and tear on the car. It's safer, and it saves riders money on insurance. It's convenient, and less hassle than driving by yourself." Bridgers said. "As I got into it, I realized it was helping the traffic problem. And it helps combat air pollution."

It's not just driving from start to finish, Jones and Bridgers like the social aspect that the van provides.

"You always have someone to talk to," Bridgers said. "We're kinda like a family."

Jones also has played matchmaker while driving a vanpool. One of his female riders kept noticing the same guy in traffic with them each morning, he said. One day she wrote her phone number on a piece of paper and held it up to the window. He called her, and they eventually got married.

Neither Jones nor Bridgers has any plans to return to driving a personal vehicle to work. And they both wish that more people would join the vanpool program.

"When I look around and see one person backed up in traffic, I wish he had 13 or 14 people with him to lighten the traffic," Bridgers said.

*For more information on the vanpool program, visit [www.rideTTA.org](http://www.rideTTA.org) or call Brian Fahey, commuter assistance specialist, at (919) 485-7465.*



Top: TTA General Manager John Clafin thanks Danny Bridgers (at right) for his long running vanpool.

Bottom: Casey Jones has been a vanpooler since 1986.



## Art In Transit Update!

Triangle Transit Authority created the Art in Transit Program to help create community-oriented Regional Rail Transit System facilities that will contribute to the quality of life of local residents.

The program is seeking artists and artisans from North Carolina and beyond to integrate works of art into the 12 Regional Rail Transit Stations and along the rail corridor.

The Call to Artists is available online at [www.rideTTA.org](http://www.rideTTA.org)

Open: November 19, 2004

Submission deadline: January 7, 2005

To request a hardcopy of the Call to Artists contact the Art in Transit program at: [artintransit@rideTTA.org](mailto:artintransit@rideTTA.org)

or by mail to:  
Community Relations Manager  
Art in Transit Program  
Triangle Transit Authority  
PO Box 13787  
Research Triangle Park, NC  
27709

# Leadership



## Worthy Elected TTA Trustees Chair

M. Carter Worthy has been elected Chair of the Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) Board of Trustees, succeeding William G. Smith of Durham. Board members

also elected Alice Gordon of Orange County, Vice-Chair; W. Lewis Hannah Jr. of Wake County, Secretary; and Bill Strom of Chapel Hill, Treasurer.

Worthy has served on the board since 2001 representing the city of Raleigh and has long been an advocate for securing long range solutions to the Triangle's mobility needs. "The work of the TTA is an important, critical component of our future quality of life here," she says. "A consolidated bus system will provide easier, more

efficient service for our customers and our regional rail system will increase transportation options and drive new tax base growth in our most strategic locations--like our downtowns and the RTP."

Worthy owns a commercial real estate firm and is an active community volunteer. In addition to her work on the TTA Board, she has served as chair of the Wake Education Partnership and on the boards of the New Schools Project, the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance. Recently, she was named a recipient of the "2004 Women in Business Award" by the Triangle Business Journal.

Officers serve one-year terms from October to September. Ten TTA board members are appointed by city, county and town boards in Durham, Orange and Wake counties. Three members are appointed by the NC Secretary of Transportation.



Visit our Web site: [www.rideTTA.org](http://www.rideTTA.org),  
or call TTA Customer Service at (919) 549-9999



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