



# AS THE WHEEL TURNS

Fall 2012



By Paul Davis

## The Year in Review

Fiscal Year 2012 was the 39<sup>th</sup> year in which Tri-State Transit Authority (TTA or the Authority) operated mass transit services in the Huntington, West Virginia urban area. This annual performance report contains an analysis of the finances and operating data of TTA for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. All references to “years” in this report are for fiscal years unless otherwise noted.

The number of trips on TTA bus and Dial-A-Ride transit services was more than the previous year by 88,295. Annual operating expenses increased 7% while annual operating revenue increased 16%. TTA offered free transit services for the Authority’s 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 17, 2011. There were 2681 trips taken system-wide compared with 2061 on the previous anniversary.

The West Virginia Public Transit Association (WVPTA) Annual meeting was held July August 29 to August 30 at the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown, West Virginia. It was well attended by other transit agencies from around the State.

TTA received three Excellence Awards. The TTA transit marketing program was recognized as the best in West Virginia for the seventh consecutive year. The Best Marketing Program recognizes not only the efforts of a transit system to advertise and promote its services but also includes its activities to support and promote the community in which it provides mass transit. The TTA maintenance department, under the leadership of Superintendent “Chuck” Boggs, was awarded the honor of being The Best Maintenance Program in a West Virginia Transit System. TTA’s maintenance program is focused on the safety of TTA customers and employees. In addition to winning the Best Maintenance Program, TTA was recognized for its

increase in Ridership and Drivers’ Safety Awards. The award program also recognized accident free drivers.

Once again TTA marketed the ease and convenience of transit service to the Marshall, Ohio University and other area College students and personnel with the annual practice of offering them free transit service in the month of September. TTA extended the free promotion to MountWest Community and Technical College, ITT and Huntington Junior College of Business. TTA has conducted this promotion for Marshall University since 1997, finding it a successful campaign each year.

Wages for drivers, mechanics, and cleaners increased by 3% on July 1, 2011. This was the second wage increase as part of a three year contract with the bargaining unit. As part of the wage progression, drivers and mechanics will receive 3% increases in wages on July 1, 2012. The three year agreement will expire on June 30, 2013.

Pullman Square entered its eighth year of operation on

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November 19, 2011. The renegotiated lease continues to work well within Metropolitan Partner’s redesigned business plan. The new lease required Metropolitan Partners to pay \$225,000 per year to TTA, beginning January 1, 2010, to lease and operate the portions of the development that were constructed with Federal Transit Administration funds. The renegotiated lease is payable in equal monthly amounts, and it automatically increases by 2% on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year beginning with January 1, 2011. The revised term will expire on December 31, 2049.

Once again, TTA conducted its annual “Food for Fares” drive on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Canned food items were accepted in lieu of passenger fares all day. The food was donated to the local Salvation Army to help meet the needs of the holiday season.

In partnership with the Kanawha Valley Regional Transit Authority (KRT), TTA and KRT continued the demonstration transit service between Huntington, WV and Charleston, WV under an agreement with the WV Department of Highways. The service, which began in January 2008, is in its fourth year of operations and is performing as expected. Through a partnership with the Division of Public Transit,

Kanawha Valley Transit Authority (KRT) and Tri-State Transit Authority (TTA) funding has been secured to continue the service through June 30, 2015.

Throughout the year, TTA continued its participation in the Cabell-Wayne County Homeland Security Committee. The committee brings together first responders and organizations such as TTA that they depend upon, from time to time, for assistance in responding to emergencies. The friendships and networking have vastly improved the ability of all involved to respond more quickly and efficiently to fires, floods and the like.

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**JOKES**



**Turning Left**

A teenaged girl was nervous as she took the wheel for her first driving lesson. As she was pulling out of the parking lot, the instructor said, "Turn left here, and don't forget to let the people behind you know what you're doing." She turned to the students sitting in the back seat and announced, "I'm going left."

**Where Are You From**

The cowboy lay sprawled across three entire seats in the posh theatre. When the usher came by and noticed this he whispered to the cowboy, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat." The cowboy groaned but didn't budge. The usher became more impatient. "Sir, if you don't get up from there, I'm going to have to call the manager. The cowboy just groaned.

The usher marched briskly back up the aisle. In a moment he returned with the manager. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the cowboy, but with no success. Finally, they summoned the police. The cop surveyed the situation briefly then asked, "All right buddy, what's your name?" "Sam," the cowboy moaned. "Where ya from, Sam?" With pain in his voice Sam replied... "the balcony."

**Finding Her Place**

On her way back into the movie from the concession stand, Julie asked a man at the end of the row, "Pardon me, but did I step on your foot a few minutes ago?" Expecting an apology, the man said, "indeed you did." Julie nodded, and noted, "oh good. Then this is my row."

## Milestones

### YEARS OF SERVICE

Deborah Bryan-Bator .....	29
Stella Fowler .....	28
Jim Forto .....	27
Larry Collins .....	26
Curtis Hodges.....	26
Roger Kipp.....	25
Mark Hunt.....	25
Jeff Heidl.....	25
Paul Davis .....	24
Chuck Boggs.....	22
Robert Patrick .....	22
Fredrick Adkins.....	21
Danny Stanley .....	19
Jim Pine.....	18
Julian "Lee" Spires.....	15
Renee Mullins .....	13
Greg Kipp.....	13
Scott Stultz.....	13
Dianna McCallister .....	13
John Smiley .....	13
James Howerton.....	12
Robert King.....	11
Thomas McRae .....	11
Shaun Upchurch.....	10
John Webb.....	10
Randy Rodriguez.....	10
Janie Fraback.....	9
Brian Frazier .....	9
Donnie Tiller .....	8
Carole Holbrook.....	8
Peggy Miller.....	8
David Mannon.....	7
Norman Andrews .....	7
Ben Martin .....	7
James Edmonds.....	6
Jeffery Connor.....	5
Denny Wheeler .....	5
Keith Murdock .....	5
Ronald Thomas .....	4
Cathy J.Craighead .....	4
DuVaughn Hale.....	4
Mary Marcum .....	4
David Budd .....	4
Michael Dickerson .....	4
Mary Gold.....	4
Donnie Adkins .....	4

Randall Waller .....	4
Steven Kunges.....	3
James Williamson .....	3
Lonnie Black .....	3
Tom Day.....	2
Mark Taylor .....	2
Jennifer Woodall .....	2
Brenda Wells .....	2
Jason Mullens.....	2
Scott Williams.....	2
David Banks .....	2
Craig Miller .....	1
Casey Steele .....	1
Howard Curtis .....	1
Timothy Ferguson .....	1
John Scott .....	1
Ronald Miller .....	1
Randy Mullins.....	-
Dean Fuller.....	-
Robin Lusher .....	-
Lonnie Bledsoe.....	-
Steven Hughart.....	-
Donald McKenzie .....	-
Brooks Johnson .....	-
Gene Bragg.....	-
Kimberly Templeton .....	-
Grace Taylor.....	-
Jamie Morris.....	-
David Ball .....	-

Danny Stanley .....	10/27
David Mannon.....	10/27

### **November 2012 Birthdays**

Dean Fuller.....	11/06
Casey Steele .....	11/13
Thomas McRae .....	11/24

If you should see these folks on their special day, please wish them a Happy Birthday.

### **Jeff's World**



By Jeff Heidl

### **Trailer Fever**

The leaves have fallen from the trees, the grass has browned and the four walls of this trailer are getting entirely too close. To say that these past few months have been a challenge would be an understatement. Scott Stultz measured the round trip distance between our trailer to the storage bay (which we have affectionately dubbed "Area 52") and found it to be an eighth of a mile. If this is true then I am easily averaging two miles per day, walking back and forth between my office, dispatch and the storage bay.

### **Birthdays Aren't They Great?**



### **September 2012 Birthdays**

Timothy Ferguson .....	09/04
Brooks Johnson .....	09/27

### **October 2012 Birthdays**

Brian Frazier.....	10/03
Dianna McCallister .....	10/05
Roger Kipp.....	10/13
Denny Wheeler.....	10/16

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Exercise is good, but working out of this trailer is getting just plain inconvenient. Consolidation of trips is a noble thought, but you know what they say about the best laid plans of mice and men. Upon returning to the trailer you invariably discover the need to go back. If Chuck Boggs erected a toll booth along our passageway, he'd be able to dine regularly with Donald Trump. It is impossible to condense 5 full size file cabinets (which contain all of my “essential stuff”) into the mere 4 drawers in my trailer office.

I shudder to think what life would be like without our computers! They have drastically reduced the rate of global deforestation. The current litigious society we “enjoy” has formed an unholy alliance with an unrestrained bureaucracy and we are compelled to store more and more of our “stuff.” Stuff has a tendency to take on a life of its own. What records do you keep and what can you throw out? Did you know that they actually hold seminars and webinars dedicated to topics such as these? Stuff is creating its own cottage industries! People are probably making a living, putting their children through college and taking vacations in Negril, because of our self imposed fears of

accidentally tossing out the wrong piece of paper.

As I type this story I have 10 separate stacks of “organized” stuff spread around me. Just to create enough writing space, 2 or 3 stacks have to be crosshatched to avoid mixing them up. My office has become the nexus of all things TTA. What to hang on to and what to send to storage changes from day to day. What I take to storage one day needs to be on my desk in one of the stacks a week later.

I stare longingly out my trailer window with an eye toward the future and a completed construction project. To have all of your files in the same room conjures images of Captain Kirk on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise. Information at the click of a mouse, all of my “stuff” in one room ... one can only dream! The ability to conduct training on-site, hold various meetings as well as streamline day to day operations are but a few of the benefits we will one day realize. Things will be great once we get all of this construction behind us. Until that day arrives we will persevere, secure in the knowledge that this too shall pass.

There is an existential mindset that finds expression in the saying “All change is loss, all loss must be

mourned.” Change frequently makes us uncomfortable for a period of time. It is up to each of us to look beyond the current mourning period to a better day. Steel yourself by chanting this mantra as you dodge the rain drops between your car and the work trailer.



By Fred Adkins

I had little time to write a story this month so I thought I would give you some more words of wisdom to ponder on. Here they are:

1. I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather .... Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.
2. We live in a society where the pizza gets to your house faster than the police do.
3. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear to be bright until you hear them speak.
4. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in your fruit salad.
5. CHILDREN: You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and

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talk, and the next 16 years telling them to sit down and shut up.

6. It’s better to remain silent and to be thought of as a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt.

7. The shinbone is a device used to find furniture in a dark room.

8. The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good idea’s

9. A little boy asked his father; “daddy how much does it cost to get married?” Father replied: “ I don’t know son I’m still paying.

10. There are three signs of old age; loss of memory ..... I forgot the other two.

11. Leisure time is when your wife can’t find you.

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## SHOP TALK

By Danny Stanley



As the construction continues at TTA you will notice the contractors drilling in and around the building. They are using a system called helical piers. Helical piers use a screw pile that is the lead section and additional piles to extend the helical to the depth that is intended. The piers are screwed into the ground with

a hydraulic torque motor to a depth of around 54 feet. Once all of the piers are drilled, a platform plate is added on top of the pile and concrete poured around them making a concrete pier to set structural steel beams onto. On the east side of the building pouring a concrete foundation and laying of the cinder blocks has begun for the elevator area. Structural steel should be arriving soon, most likely before all of the concrete piers have been completed.

Be aware of all the construction as you enter the hallway area leading to the restrooms. A change in configuration could happen from day to day.

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## From the Chief



By Scott Stultz

## Congratulations

We would like to send out our congratulations to **Corey and Grace Taylor**, on their recent marriage. They were married on 7/29/12 at the Davis Creek Church of the Nazarene in South Charleston. Grace is the Dial-A-Ride Dispatcher.

## Editor’s Corner



By Jennifer Woodall

## Construction



The roofing materials have been delivered. The concrete foundations are poured and anchor bolts are in place. The structural steel has arrived on site, however erection of the steel will be delayed until the contractor can ensure adequate concrete strength. The door schedule is being revamped and adjustments made to minimize delays. We will start seeing some significant movement on the project in the VERY near future.



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## American Public Transit Association



The 2012 APTA Annual Meeting was held on September 30-October 3, 2012, at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle, WA. The industry’s premier event, included general sessions and forums focused on current issues facing public transportation and as always featured first-rate professional speakers. The success of our industry depends on our ability to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient public transportation system that meets the needs of all communities and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future. Transportation issues are front and center in the country’s legislative agenda, but what lies ahead? National leaders offered their insights on the challenges and opportunities we face.

## IT Service Funding

TTA applied to the State Senate for funds to support the “iT” route

between Huntington and Charleston. Although we had initially requested to fund the service for a year, they were only able to provide \$4,000.00 to help with miscellaneous expenses. **Senator Evan Jenkins** helped us obtain the grant funds.



Pictured above **Bob Bailey, Board President** and **Paul Davis, CEO**.

## Halloween



I hope everyone saw the memo that was put out. All employees are invited to compete in a Creative Hat Contest on Oct. 30, 2012. Prizes will be awarded for most creative, funniest, and most beautiful. Everyone is eligible to enter. Everyone who wears a creative hat will

have a picture taken to be displayed then all entries will be judged to determine the winners. Prizes will include: Movie Tickets, Car Washes and Gift Certificates.

We look forward to a fun day for the creators of the hats as well as for the customers riding TTA.

## New Employees

Welcome aboard.....

Jamie Morris    Mechanic  
David Ball      DAR Driver



## Food for Fare

Customers boarding a TTA bus on Saturday, November 17, 2012, with a non-perishable food item will ride for free. Customers riding with a canned food donation will also receive free zone fares. The donations from Food-For-Fares day will be given to the Salvation Army this year to help make holiday food baskets for needy folks in the TTA service area.

