

MARTIN COUNTY TRANSIT HISTORY

May 1st of 1996 – Inception of Coordinated Transportation for Martin County.

Prior to July 1st 1996 Martin County Council on Aging was designated the lead transportation agency for Martin County. Transportation was provided by the Council on Aging for the senior population with only 3 vans and 2 drivers. There was no coordinated transportation in Martin County. Each agency was responsible for providing the transportation needs of their clients. (Example: DSS hired cabs and private providers to handle their transportation for Medicaid recipients. These providers transported one person at a time and charged a dollar per mile with a 10 dollar per hour wait fee per client). May 1st of 1996 Martin County hired its first transportation coordinator. The first two months were spent meeting with the different Human Service Agencies department heads to assess their transportation needs. Great things were accomplished by coordinating transportation. An additional van was added July 25, 1996 through a Section 16 grant submitted by the Council on Aging. A 3rd driver was hired to increase service to include medicaid transportation, social services, work first, and the M-T-W health department clientele.

Fiscal Year 1996 - Martin County did 87,687 miles and 10,521 total passenger trips.

1997 – Transit increased the number of Medicaid transportation trips and expanded out of county medical transportation destinations. Total miles 101,858 and total passenger trips of 13,753.

1998 – Transit hired an Administrative Assistant. Increased the number of vehicles in the fleet to eight and hired two additional drivers. Expanded transportation services and included Martin Community College. Travel and Tourism contracted with Transit for transportation during the annual Homecoming weekend. Total Miles – 123,248. Total passenger trips – 17,624.

1999 – By the end of fiscal year, Transit increased fleet size to ten vehicles and further expanded out of county medical transportation services to all agencies in the county. An additional driver dedicated to medical transportation was hired. Transit contracted with Martin Enterprise to provide transportation service for clientele and hired five part-time drivers. Rural General Public Transportation was offered to the citizens of Martin County who needed transportation, but did not meet eligibility requirements with the human service agencies. The entire fleet was at the disposal of Emergency Management officials for evacuations during Hurricane Floyd. Total miles – 112,593. Services were down to disruption during Hurricane Dennis and Hurricane Floyd and the flooding that followed. Total passenger trips – 19,806.

2000 – By the end of December 2000, Martin County Transit provided services to the following agencies and organizations;

- Martin County Senior Center – Thirteen nutrition routes running Tuesday’s through Friday’s, medical transportation, shopping, field trips, and home delivered meals. Transit also assisted Senior Center in delivering food boxes before Christmas.
- Department of Social Services – Medicaid Transportation – five days a week. Transportation to Martin Community College for Welfare to Work participants enrolled in Human Resource Development classes.
- Martin Enterprises – six routes, Monday through Friday. Transit picks up clients from Washington, Windsor, Bear Grass, Farm Life, Oak City, Hamilton, Robersonville, and Williamston.
- Martin Community College – Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to Basic Literacy Class in Williamston. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to Robersonville for GED class.
- Tideland Mental Health Department – Group Counseling Sessions on Thursday’s.
- M-T-W Health Dept. – Parent Nurturing Classes on Monday nights running from October through April.
- Employment Transportation – Transportation provided to Southern Apparel, Holiday Inn, Comfort Inn, Days Inn, Wal-Mart, as well as several Home Health employees in Robersonville, Williamston and Washington.
- Roanoke Association for the Visually Impaired – third Thursday of every month, plus three field trips a year.
- Additional incidental services included a summer camp sponsored by Martin County Arts Council. Medical Transportation services provided for Washington and Hertford Counties Department of Social Services.

Total Miles for FY2000 – 251,815. Total passenger trips – 34,817.

FY2001 through FY2006 services continued to increase in all areas.

FY 2007 – Martin Enterprise was reduced to three routes and three part-time drivers. Out of County Transportation to Greenville was extended to twice per day, five days a week. M-T-W Health Department lost their contract and cancelled services. Mid-East, Criminal Justice Partnership, Caring Heart Health Care Incorporated, Martin County Board of Education, Martin Community College ESL class in Bear Grass contracts have been added. Currently, Martin County Transit has 1 mini van, 4 mini buses, 3 standard vans, and 5 conversion vans. There are 9 part-time drivers, and 7 Full time drivers, 1 office

assistant/dispatcher, 1 Administrative Assistant, and the Coordinator. Total miles – 343,594. Passenger trips – 52,025.

Currently Martin County Transit is averaging about 115 passenger trips per day and 1300 miles.

FY2008 – Transit has a budget of \$600,000.00. Funding is received through grants and fairs. Martin County is subsidizing the transit system with \$51, 765.

Martin County Transit has continued to increase services and continues to look for more ways to serve our community.