



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“PART” IMPLEMENTS NEW AND IMPROVED ROUTES AND FREE RIDE WEEK**

**Martinsville, VA (May 18, 2009)** – The Piedmont Area Regional Transit (PART) will implement new and improved route changes along with a “free ride week” beginning Monday, June 1 through Friday, June 5, 2009. The transit will run from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., beginning June 1, and will be without the regular \$1.00 charge the week of June 1 through June 5.

Changes were made within the route schedule to help make the system more available to citizens. County and city officials are hoping that with the new route system and implementation of a “free ride week”, more local citizens will be introduced to the public transportation system.

The fixed-route system will include stops within the City of Martinsville and Henry County, including the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Social Services, the Social Security Office, the Health Department, City and County Government buildings, Grace Network/Adult Day Care Center, Patrick Henry Mall, Patrick Henry Community College, medical facilities and major retail locations. After the “free ride week,” charges will go back to normal. An exact amount of \$1.00 is due upon boarding the transit and any child six (6) years old and under rides free with an adult accompaniment.

Individuals who are ADA certified may request that the transit digress off route to make pick-ups and drop-offs. The distance, however, may not exceed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. A requested pick-up or drop-off must meet the bus’ regular schedule and requests must be made 24 hours in advance by calling (800) 964-5707. The transit is managed by RADAR, a non-profit organization out of Roanoke that has organized and maintained both public and private human service transportation for more than 25 years.

Maps of the new routes are available at the County Administration Building and City Municipal Building and can be downloaded from [www.henrycountyva.gov](http://www.henrycountyva.gov) or [www.martinsville-va.gov](http://www.martinsville-va.gov).

For more information on PART, please contact Leon Towarnicki, Director of Public Works for the City of Martinsville, at (276) 403-5154; Lee Clark, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Inspection for Henry County, at (276) 634-4620; or Curtis Andrews, RADAR, at (800) 964-5707 Ext. 102.

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