



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
December 30, 2008

Transit system to begin carrying passengers Monday

Beginning Monday, January 5, citizens can take "PART" in our community.

The Piedmont Area Regional Transit system, or PART, will begin carrying passengers January 5, 2009. The service will operate Monday through Friday between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. A fare of \$1 per trip will be charged with exact change required. This fare must be paid before boarding the bus. Children under the age of six (6) years old ride at no charge.

PART will follow a fixed-route system through parts of the City of Martinsville and Henry County. Routes will be served by a 14-passenger handicapped accessible bus and will consist of two loops with a connecting point at Wal-Mart. Designated stops will be located at high traffic retail areas, industrial parks, college campuses, medical facilities, and government offices.

The system will be managed by RADAR of Roanoke, a non-profit organization that has organized and maintained both public and private human service transportation for more than 25 years.

Among the locations set to have bus stops are the Virginia Employment Commission, Social Services, Social Security Office, Health Department, and City and County Government buildings, as well as major retail locations.

After a public information meeting December 8, the route was adjusted to include stops at the Grace Network/Adult Day Care Center on Commonwealth Boulevard and the Patrick Henry Mall on Church Street in Martinsville. A map of the route and a listing of stops and times may be downloaded from www.henrycountyva.gov.

Individuals who are ADA certified may request the bus to deviate off the route to make pick-ups and drops-offs. The distance of deviation may not exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and the requested pick-up or drop-off time must meet the bus' regular schedule.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board recently approved \$114,000 to go toward the funding for the pilot program in the Martinsville-Henry County area. The pilot project will provide a one-year look at a public transit system for the Martinsville-Henry County area. If the project is successful in its first year, the localities can apply for federal and state funding in subsequent years.

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

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