

Red Rose Transit Authority 2011 Annual Report

JULY 1, 2010–JUNE 30, 2011



RRTA

RED ROSE TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RED ROSE TRANSIT • RED ROSE TROLLEY • RED ROSE ACCESS

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Overview

In fiscal year 2010–2011 RRTA, like many organizations, had to continue making tough decisions about providing the best, most efficient services and keeping a balanced budget. Yet RRTA was challenged with making the best decisions for RRTA customers and The Authority in the wake of uncertainty with federal and state funding and the slow recovering economy.

During the year, RRTA approved a modest fare increase and service reduction on the fixed-route service. Red Rose Access, RRTA's shared-ride service remained strong providing critical service for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. RRTA administrative and maintenance staff moved back into the newly, renovated "green" Operations Center, continuing operations in the more energy efficient facility.

Even with the challenges, RRTA continued service and provided more than two million trips during the year.



Red Rose Transit Service

Red Rose Transit provided 1,852,503 trips in Fiscal Year 2010–2011. In August 2010, RRTA approved a modest fare increase and service reduction. A 10 cent fare increase for all cash fares was put into effect during the annual Route and Schedule Changes. Dave Kilmer stated, "Our customers tell us over and over that they would rather pay a little more than lose the service."

10 Ride Rewards Promotion Hits Record Sales

Even with lower ridership numbers, RRTA's 10 Ride Rewards program hit record sales for the second year in a row. The promotion offers deep discounts of \$2.00 and \$3.00 during the month of March. RRTA customers definitely took advantage of the deep discounts and saved money. They benefited from purchasing passes that don't expire so they can use them whenever they want to ride RRTA.



Red Rose Access Service

Red Rose Access provided 345,811 door-to-door trips in Fiscal Year 2010–2011. Red Rose Access provides door-to-door, shared-ride transportation to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The Red Rose Access service is a life-line for many customers to get to critical health care appointments. Many customers use the Red Rose Access service for dialysis and chemotherapy treatments.

Regional Partnerships

In July 2010, RRTA began participation in a Regional Transit Coordination Study (RTCS). The purpose of the RTCS is to identify a range of opportunities for better transit service coordination among the transit agencies in the nine-county region covered by Commuter Services of Pennsylvania. The nine participating counties are: Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York.

The study is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) through the Berks Area Regional Transit Authority (BARTA). A Joint Study Committee, comprised of members from the Board of Directors of Commuter Services, is overseeing the study's progress. The final report is expected to be released in the fall of 2011.



RRTA Community Outreach

Each year RRTA has many opportunities to participate in various community events across Lancaster County. Here are just a few that RRTA was involved in:



IU-13 Bus Training Sessions

In September 2010, RRTA coordinated several one-hour training sessions across two days with The Lancaster-Lebanon IU-13 job trainers and their students within the 16 different Lancaster County School Districts. Sessions were held at the IU-13 Administrative Offices to inform students about RRTA services and how to utilize them when seeking employment during school and once they graduate. The training sessions educated the students on the basics of how to ride a bus and helped them feel comfortable on the bus.

UDS Grand Opening Event

RRTA also participated in United Disabilities Services (UDS) Grand Opening event for their new Accessible Living Center at their Homestead Lane, Lancaster location. UDS invited RRTA to participate in their event since UDS serves many people who use RRTA services.

Earth Day at Lancaster Laboratories

In April 2011, RRTA participated in Lancaster Laboratories Employee Earth Day event. RRTA staff set-up an information table in their cafeteria to promote RRTA services as an environmentally friendly alternative to driving alone in a car.

Capital Projects

Electric Hybrid Buses

While RRTA is restricted on how it can use its federal funding, the replacement of older buses that are beyond their useful life of 12 years continues to be a priority. RRTA awarded a contract to Gillig Bus to purchase two new electric hybrid buses that will not only reduce the amount of fuel being used, but are also expected to reduce maintenance costs as the hybrids eliminate the need for some major components of the engine and the elimination of belts, which are high maintenance items. The delivery of these vehicles is expected by Spring 2012.



Queen Street Station Parking Garage

The construction of the new parking garage and additional bus stops at Queen Street Station continued throughout the year with the pre-cast parking garage structure being completed in May. The garage is expected to be completed in the Fall 2011 with 400 parking spaces and three new bus waiting areas. Buses will exit onto Chestnut Street, which will eliminate the excessive looping of the buses in the downtown area. RRTA was also successful in getting a tenant, a restaurant/bar, for the corner lease space at the new facility that is expecting to open for business in the first quarter of 2012. The revenue from the parking and lease space will help RRTA fund bus service.

Green Operations Center

After eight months of being back at the renovated Operations Center, the energy reduction measures included in the project are paying dividends. The solar panels are generating roughly 50-60% of the electrical needs of the facility and with the geothermal and waste oil burners, RRTA did not have to purchase heating oil this year and does not expect to purchase heating oil in the future. All together, RRTA has shown a roughly 68% reduction in overall energy costs for the facility.

Funding Update

Funding at both the state and federal levels continued to be uncertain during this fiscal year. RRTA again saw a reduction in state funding due to the economy, and federal funding was delayed through a number of continuing resolutions by Congress as it wrestled with the federal budget. RRTA joined with several other groups at the state level to push for a dedicated, growing and reliable source of funding for all transportation sectors, including public transit. Governor Corbett established a special Transportation Funding Commission to recommend how to increase funding. A report was due to the Governor on August 1, 2011. The report is expected to lay out a funding plan that will generate \$2.5 billion over the next five years with public transit increasing by \$400 million. Without passage of new legislation, which is expected in Fall 2011, RRTA will once again be faced with the need to reduce service and raise fares, but at much higher levels in order to balance the budget. At the federal level, the latest proposal from the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee is to reduce transportation funding by 30% in response to lower revenues from the federal gas tax as part of the reauthorization of the Transportation Bill that expired October 1, 2009.

Fiscal Year 2010–2011 General Statistics

Service Area:

Lancaster County, PA
Square Miles: 942
Population: 519,445
(2010 census data)

Ridership Statistics

Red Rose Transit (fixed-route) passengers:	1,852,503
Red Rose Access (paratransit) passengers:	345,811
Total Passengers:	2,198,314
Total Hours of Service:	314,187
Total Miles Operated:	5,079,510
Total Passenger Miles:	12,243,200

Financial Statistics

Operating Revenues:	\$7,133,557	Operating Expenses	\$15,493,402
Federal Funding	\$1,598,211		
State Funding	\$6,439,969		
Lancaster County Funding	\$244,753		



Special Recognition

RRTA's Executive Director, David Kilmer, was named 2011 Public Transportation's Manager of the Year by PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation during the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association's Annual Conference this past April 2011. The three-day conference was held at the Lancaster County Convention Center where transit officials from across the state gathered to discuss improvements for PA transit systems. During a luncheon, Kilmer was presented the award by Toby Fauver, PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Local and Area Transportation for his outstanding contributions to the industry.

Red Rose Transit Authority Board

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