



March 23, 2010

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Regional Transportation Alliance New Transit Poll Results Released

### Highlights:

- >> Continued support for rail and expanded bus services throughout all three counties
- >> Promising support for sales tax in all three counties
- >> Respondents report that transit will benefit their quality of life

DURHAM—The Regional Transportation Alliance business leadership group released the results of its most recent transit poll to the Triangle Transit Board of Trustees this afternoon at the board's monthly business meeting. This is the second RTA poll since the approval of long-range transit plans by our region's two metropolitan planning organizations for transportation in 2009.

"Triangle voters continue to support expansions in bus and rail transit offerings," said Joe Milazzo II, PE, RTA executive director. "Respondents report that transit will benefit their quality of life, including those who don't expect to use it."

Paul Fallon, pollster for the project, noted that a substantial number of people said they would be willing to consider using transit. And more than 50 percent of registered voters would vote for a half-cent local option sales tax to improve public transportation in the Triangle. That's encouraging to the RTA.

"Numbers are actually slightly up in all three counties surveyed, which is promising given both the current economic downturn and the one penny sales tax increase last year," Milazzo said.

Regarding a potential focus for an initial investment, the registered voters surveyed responded more favorably to a cheaper, shorter rail system, in order to "prove the concept," rather than a more expensive, comprehensive system that would serve more areas—by more than 2-to-1 margins in all three counties.

Durham and Orange county voters listed inter-county travel and travel to Research Triangle Park as their most important destinations. Wake County residents listed those same two destinations, although in the reverse order. A majority of voters continue to have a favorable opinion of the efforts of Triangle Transit.

Interviewers surveyed 901 registered voters in Durham, Orange, and Wake counties from March 7-10, 2010. The margin of error is +/- 3.26 percent. Fallon Research supervised the poll.

The RTA will continue its series of community feedback initiatives during the coming months as the region explores transit alternatives. For more information on this poll or on transit in the Triangle, visit the RTA Web site at [www.letsgetmoving.org](http://www.letsgetmoving.org).

### About the Regional Transportation Alliance

*The Regional Transportation Alliance strives to ensure economic vitality and sustain a world-class quality of life by providing a business leadership focus on investments and policies that will relieve traffic congestion and enhance mobility throughout our region. The Alliance is a regional program of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce that is spearheaded by more than 100 leading companies and anchored by 23 chambers of commerce in 10 counties.*