

Providing Public Transportation Serving  
Berks and Lancaster Counties  
in Pennsylvania



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017 - 2018

[www.sctapa.com](http://www.sctapa.com)

# FY Overview

We are now in the third year of SCTA being in existence and we are continuing to make strides to improve services in both the Reading and Lancaster areas. This year saw the completion of a combined Transit Development Plan that outlines service improvements for the next three to five years with a focus on providing access to jobs in Berks and Lancaster Counties. In particular, the area of the Turnpike and Route 222 being the main focus for providing service to meet the growing job market in that area. We held several public meetings during the development of the plan to ensure the needs of each community are being heard and were incorporated into the service recommendations. The entire report continues to be made available on the SCTA website.



Dave Kilmer,  
SCTA Executive Director

This year there was also a focus on maintaining our assets as part of new federal requirements to protect the investment in vehicles, equipment and facilities. We were able to complete the renovation of the Queen Street Station in Lancaster and start the expansion of the Reading Operations facility to enable the vehicle fleet to be protected under roof. The project is expected to be completed late summer of 2019. Other projects also include issuing a bid for the replacement of the roof at the BARTA Transportation Center (BTC) and the replacement and upgrade of parking equipment at the BTC and the Franklin Park-n-Transit Facility in Reading. We also continued our routine replacement of buses and paratransit vans with delivery of 12 new buses and 21 paratransit vans, plus another 29 buses on order for delivery FY 2019. All of these investments will help ensure that SCTA continues to provide reliable and cost effective services for the public.

For the upcoming year, SCTA will be focusing on complying with new federal requirements on safety and security. These new regulations will require SCTA to develop a comprehensive plan to address providing safe service for the public and on-going training for all employees. We will also be focusing on the need for funding, especially capital funding for our assets, as current funding legislation at the state level is in jeopardy and is due to expire.

As you can read, SCTA is continuing to move forward and make improvements to its services in order to provide the highest level and quality of service for all the citizens of Berks and Lancaster Counties.

## SCTA Board

*June Wolf, Chairwoman Kevin Barnhardt,, Vice Chairman  
Jeffrey Wibberley, Treasurer James Schlegel, Secretary  
Bonnie Glover Gail Landis Cynthia Urban  
Jeffrey Ouellet Dennis Rex Timothy Snyder  
David Kilmer, Executive Director Jill Nagy, Solicitor*

## In Memory

On November 8, 2017, RRTA and SCTA lost Jeff Wibberley, a dedicated Board Member, who served for 25 years. Jeff was passionate about providing valuable public transit service to the Lancaster community. His dedicated service will be missed.

Sandi Thompson, a former RRTA Board Member, was appointed to fill his remaining term.

# South Central Transit Authority

## Fixed-Route

**Total Ridership: 4,660,772**  
**Total Miles Operated: 3,124,119**  
**Total Revenue Hours: 243,451**  
**Total Passenger Miles: 20,521,491**

## Shared-Ride

**Total Ridership: 508,503**  
**Total Miles Operated: 3,081,765**  
**Total Revenue Hours: 199,609**  
**Total Passenger Miles: 5,218,967**

**Total Operating Revenues, Federal & State Funding: \$35,074,648**  
**Total Operating Expenses: \$33,510,128**

## **SCTA Total**

**Total Revenue Hours: 443,060**  
**Total Miles Operated: 6,205,884**  
**Total Passenger Miles: 25,740,458**

### **RRTA - Lancaster Division**

#### **Red Rose Transit (fixed-route buses)** **1,756,986 one-way trips**

Total Miles Operated: 1,640,319  
 Total Revenue Hours of Service: 114,556  
 Total Passenger Miles: 8,630,691

#### **Red Rose Access (paratransit)** **279,179 one-way trips**

Total Miles Operated: 1,953,920  
 Total Revenue Hours of Service: 120,858  
 Total Passenger Miles: 3,405,964

#### Financial Statistics

Operating Revenues: \$7,366,627  
 Federal Funding: \$511,518  
 State Funding: \$9,318,224  
 Lancaster County Funding: \$0

Operating Expenses: \$16,703,848

Service Area: Lancaster County, PA  
 Square Miles: 984  
 Population: 542,903

2017 Census Data

### **BARTA - Reading Division**

#### **BARTA Bus (fixed-route buses)** **2,903,786 one-way trips**

Total Miles Operated: 1,483,800  
 Total Revenue Hours of Service: 128,895  
 Total Passenger Miles: 11,890,800

#### **BARTA Special Services (paratransit)** **229,324 one-way trips**

Total Miles Operated: 1,127,845  
 Total Revenue Hours of Service: 78,751  
 Total Passenger Miles: 1,813,003

#### Financial Statistics

Operating Revenues: \$7,579,782  
 Federal Funding: \$268,412  
 State Funding: \$10,030,085  
 Berks County Funding: \$0

Operating Expenses: \$16,806,280

Service Area: Berks County, PA  
 Square Miles: 866  
 Population: 415,732

2016 Census Data



### BARTA Bus Highlights

#### August 2017 Service Changes

BARTA added service to the **Route 1– Temple via 5th Street Bus Route** to help with capacity issues. In addition, **Route 3– Temple/Kutztown** and **Route 5–Albright College** had time added to help improve on-time performance.

### BARTA Special Services Highlights

Senior Citizen Trips: 92,269

ADA Trips: 17,574

Persons With Disabilities (PWD) Trips: 2,740

Access to Jobs Trips: 158

Dialysis Trips: 37,903



#### Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority Board

*Timothy Snyder*, Chairman  
*Kevin Barnhardt*, Vice Chairman  
*James Schlegel*, Treasurer  
*Dennis Rex*, Secretary  
*Gail Landis*

### Red Rose Transit Highlights

#### August 2017 Service Changes

RRTA now has service to Shady Maple in Blue Ball, extending the **Route 12/New Holland** bus route. RRTA also modified the **Route 5/Grandview** route to serve the area of Lancaster City where the former Giant closed, allowing the residents to travel to the Giant on Lititz Pike. On both the **Route 14/Rockvale Square** and **Route 17/Columbia** bus routes, additional service was added to increase the frequency of trips.



### Red Rose Access Highlights

Senior Citizen Trips: 116,156

ADA Trips: 29,713

Persons With Disabilities (PWD) Trips: 9,233

Access to Jobs Trips: 9,612

Dialysis Trips: 30,744

#### Red Rose Transit Authority Board

*June Wolf*, Chairwoman  
*Cynthia Urban*, Vice Chairwoman  
*Jeffrey Wibberley*, Treasurer  
*Jeffrey Ouellet*, Secretary  
*Bonnie Glover*

# BARTA and RRTA Offers 25 Cent Ride Promotion in Effort to Boost Ridership



In an effort to boost ridership, SCTA provided 25 Cent Rides on BARTA and RRTA for the entire month of October 2017. All bus routes on both systems allowed all customers to ride for just 25 cents a ride.

Prior to the start of the promotion, SCTA projected a 7% to 10% gain in ridership for each transit system through the remainder of the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 for the promotion to be considered a success. The promotion ended up being moderately successful.



RRTA had provided the promotion almost ten years ago in an effort to boost ridership. At that time, RRTA saw a 37% increase in ridership during the month.

**BARTA saw a 28.81% increase in ridership compared to October 2016 ridership.**

**RRTA saw 12.94% increase compared to October 2016 ridership.**

## Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Throughout FY 17-18, The South Central Transit Authority (SCTA) completed the development of a Transit Development Plan (TDP) for the fixed-route bus and paratransit services in Berks and Lancaster Counties. The TDP will serve as a guide for meeting future demands for transit services and increasing the overall use of public transit.

Development of the TDP included:

- Identifying demographics and travel trends
- Evaluating current RRTA and BARTA service
- Gathering input from riders and the public regarding existing services and future needs
- Establishing goals and strategies to address unmet transit needs and services issues, such as connecting employees to their place of work
- Identifying and evaluating opportunities for potential growth
- Estimating the level of funding available to provide transit services over the life of the plan
- Conducting a fare analysis

The Final TDP Report is available on the SCTA website for review. Recommendations in the report are suggested for over the next ten years with short term and long term improvements for consideration.

## Transit Asset Management Plan

The SCTA Board adopted a Transit Asset Management Plan (TAM) that included 2019 performance goals as required by the FTA. The plan is also a requirement that ensures that all capital assets are being maintained and replaced in order for SCTA to reach a State of Good Repair. The Plan was also presented and adopted by both Berks and Lancaster Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's).

# Reaching Out to a Community in Need

When displaced families from Puerto Rico started coming to Pennsylvania because of the devastation from Hurricane Maria in Fall 2017, the Pennsylvania community wanted to help. The PA Dept. of State, PEMA/FEMA & the PA Governor’s Advisory Commission of Latino Affairs created traveling resource fairs across the state to provide information and resources for displaced families trying to transition to living in a new location. SCTA staff participated in several of the events in Lancaster and Reading providing information about BARTA and RRTA transportation services. Our staff reached out to people of all ages and provided them with information about public transportation services and the programs to help with their transition.

## Helping Showcase Lancaster City’s History

As part of an effort by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of the National Park Service/US Department of the Interior, SCTA allowed a historical display panel to be mounted on the wall beside the elevator entrance of the Queen Street Station Parking Garage. Queen Street Station Parking Garage, owned and operated by SCTA, is located on the corner of Queen & Chestnut Streets where the



former Lancaster railroad station was located. This new historical panel adds to other historical panels erected at Queen Street Station Parking Garage educating visitors about the significance of the corner of Queen & Chestnut Streets in the City of Lancaster.

## Community Investment

SCTA is focused on the communities we serve by investing locally whenever possible to help our area thrive and grow. BARTA, RRTA and SCTA all make impactful investments in the local economy.

**BARTA Investment in Berks County Economy: \$2,694,405.50**

**RRTA Investment in Lancaster County Economy: \$1,862,952.07**

**SCTA Investment in Berks and Lancaster County Economies: \$18,923,839.90**

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