



CONNECTING THE PEOPLE OF THE PEE DEE

Connecting Communities Through Transit Education

This quarter, PDRTA had the pleasure of visiting various community groups across the Pee Dee to provide special travel training and informational sessions designed to build awareness of PDRTA transit services and encourage independence and mobility.

Travel Training and Transit Awareness to Timmonsville Senior Group

One of the training sessions was held at the Timmonsville Senior Center where Executive Director Don Strickland led a presentation during the group's regular Thursday meeting, sharing how public transportation services, especially in smaller communities, can help improve access to essential services, reduce isolation and promote stronger community connections.

The Timmonsville Senior Center group meets five days a week from 9 AM to 1 PM, fostering community, connection and daily enrichment. We were honored to be part of their day and are especially thankful to the group organizer, Ms. Ada, and the Town of Timmonsville for hosting us.

The visit highlighted PDRTA's free transportation service the Timmonsville Express, available every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, throughout Timmonsville and including a connection to Florence.



To make the experience more engaging, participants also had the chance to step aboard one of our transit vehicles and enjoy a short ride on the Timmonsville route. Riders were entered to win a gift basket full of treats and PDRTA branded goodies.

Altogether, we took 29 participants on three trips along the Timmonsville Express Route, offering a firsthand look at how the service works. Riders toured key stops along the way, asked great questions and gained a clearer understanding of how to use the system.



PDRTA remains committed to outreach and travel training efforts across the Pee Dee region, helping ensure our transit services are inclusive, accessible and known to all who could benefit from them. If you are interested in setting up a personal or group travel training session with PDRTA, please reach out to info@pdrta.org



CLICK TO WATCH





NEXT STOP: MOTHERHOOD

We're here to help get you there. Whether it's an appointment, a grocery store trip or accessing childcare resources we can help you plan your trip with your new baby.

Call us at (843)665-2227 or visit www.pdrta.org

Benefits of Public Transportation for new moms:

- Buses on our Florence Transit System are stroller accessible. These low-floor buses are equipped with ramps and designated seating areas make it easier to board with a stroller or car seat.
- Traveling on public transit is safe compared to other modes of private transportation. All of our buses are equipped with security cameras and monitoring. Each bus operator and staff member at PDRTA has received first aid training.
- Over 250 stops! Connecting you to pediatric clinics, grocery stores, libraries and more!
- PDRTA adheres to the Title VI Program, ensuring that everyone has the right to ride without discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. Everyone deserves equal access to transportation, and PDRTA is here for all!

HELPFUL LOCAL RESOURCES

Whether you drive, walk, ride or are just figuring it out you're not alone. Parenting is a journey, and community is your compass.



Care of children is a vital part of Genesis Healthcare and includes care of both sick and well children and teens. Genesis OB/GYN Care has a variety of services for women of all ages, that will help you happy and healthy. Genesis Healthcare can be reached via several routes in a few counties, call us to plan your trip! Visit genesishqhc.org or call (843)7452 to learn more!



Florence County Library System provides free library services, and programs to all citizens of Florence to assist them in obtaining information to meet their educational, cultural, recreational, and professional needs. Library can be accessed on our Downtown route 4. Visit florencelibrary.org or call (843)629-0832 to learn more!



Lighthouse Ministries is a faith-based nonprofit that provides various assistance to Florence County families in financial crisis. They offer basic needs assistance through rent assistance and utilities assistance. They also offer family and parent programs. Visit lighthouseflorence.org or call (843)629-0830 to learn more!

NEXT STOP: MOTHERHOOD

Celebrating Growing Communities

PDRTA was proud to join Genesis

HealthCare for their annual Community Baby Shower in Florence, SC. The event brought together local agencies and service providers to share helpful resources for navigating early parenthood, from baby care essentials to wellness support.

Our team was excited to be a part of the event and offer guidance on how public transportation can help families reach important destinations like pediatric clinics, grocery stores and childcare centers.

In preparation for the event, PDRTA organized an employee donation effort and collected wipes to give out at the event. With every pack of wipes, an informational pamphlet was given to each expectant mother which highlighted the benefits of public transportation, Title VI information and helpful local resources.



What does your mother mean to you?

Earlier this year, PDRTA held a passenger engagement session at the Florence Transit Center where passengers were able to share feedback and ask questions.

As part of the session and to celebrate Mother's day, we also connected with passengers, asking a simple but powerful question: What does your mother mean to you?

The heartfelt responses were a reminder of the care, love and guidance that shape us all. Their words reflect the many forms that motherhood takes and the lasting impact of those who show up for us.

Watch our short video and hear directly from our passengers as they share what their mothers mean to them.



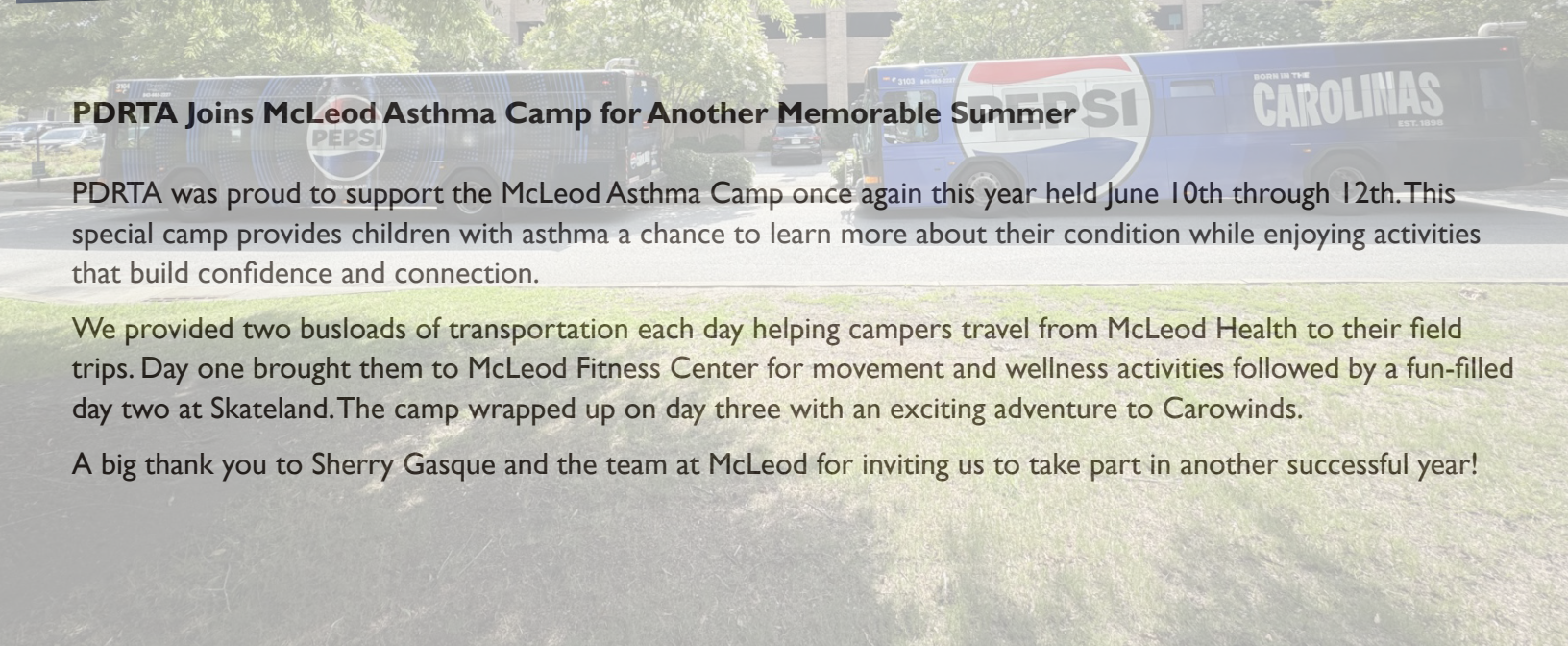
MCLEOD ASTHMA CAMP

PDRTA Joins McLeod Asthma Camp for Another Memorable Summer

PDRTA was proud to support the McLeod Asthma Camp once again this year held June 10th through 12th. This special camp provides children with asthma a chance to learn more about their condition while enjoying activities that build confidence and connection.

We provided two busloads of transportation each day helping campers travel from McLeod Health to their field trips. Day one brought them to McLeod Fitness Center for movement and wellness activities followed by a fun-filled day two at Skateland. The camp wrapped up on day three with an exciting adventure to Carowinds.

A big thank you to Sherry Gasque and the team at McLeod for inviting us to take part in another successful year!



OUR DRIVING FORCE



Quarterly Training Builds Safety, Awareness and Teamwork

On Friday, June 21, PDRTA bus operators and staff gathered for a Quarterly Driver Safety and Training session. At these meetings we review important safety information, other necessary communications, answer questions and collect feedback. With 40 drivers across the six counties that we serve, these meetings are pertinent for us to connect, review and focus on the mission that moves us forward.

DRIVING FORWARD

Policy, Safety and Operations Take Center Stage

Ania Dixon, HR Director, covered key policy updates from Title VI, Drug and Alcohol, EEO and Standards of Conduct keeping all team members up to speed on the latest workplace standards and expectations. Cindy Crowley, Safety Director, delivered a review of wheelchair securement procedures, railroad crossing safety and the accident reporting process. These are critical areas where precision, preparedness and accountability make all the difference in rider safety and bus operator protection. David Adorno, Operations Director, guided attendees through a range of frontline topics including DOT physicals, schedules, ADA guidelines, clock-in/out protocol, leave requests and managing security codes.





Looking Ahead

Executive Director Don Strickland closed the session with remarks on agency priorities and the importance of clear communication across departments. He acknowledged the hard work of PDRTA's drivers and staff, underscoring how every employee plays a role in the success of public transit in the Pee Dee region.

Final announcements covered uniforms, tech updates like the Paychex app and reminders before wrapping up.

This quarterly training is part of our ongoing efforts to provide our team with the tools, knowledge and support they need to serve the public safely and effectively.



Mark your calendars! Our next Quarterly Driver Safety and Training session is scheduled for September. Stay tuned for more details!





FROM STATE CHAMPIONS TO NATIONAL ROADEOS

Fueled by Community: Veronica Competes on the National Stage

Thanks to the incredible support of our community, PDRTA's Sponsor a Mile campaign raised \$1,954 to help send State Rodeo Champion Veronica Bostic to the National Community Transportation Rodeo in San Diego, California.

Twelve generous individuals and organizations stepped up, with contributions ranging from \$10 to \$500 every dollar helped pave the 2,432-mile journey. This support made it possible for Veronica to proudly represent PDRTA and South Carolina on Sunday, June 1st, among 60 of the nation's top transit drivers.

This was Veronica's first time competing at the national level, facing seasoned drivers many of whom have participated several times before.



CLICK TO WATCH

The Roadeo competition tested skills in pre-trip inspections, wheelchair securement, passenger sensitivity and safe maneuvering through a challenging obstacle course. With focused preparation and determination, Veronica made a strong impression on both the judges and her peers.

This opportunity was a milestone not just for Veronica, but for PDRTA as a whole. It spotlighted the talent, professionalism and safety-first mindset that drives our team every day.



APTA Roadeo: Austin Texas

Earlier this year, Mitch Brantley another of PDRTA's many dedicated drivers, represented South Carolina at the APTA International Roadeo in Austin, Texas.

This event brought together 396 participants, including 75 operators, 52 maintenance teams and 133 committee members.

Mitch's participation helped shine a spotlight on South Carolina's transit excellence and further demonstrated the high standards upheld by our team across all levels of competition.

We are incredibly proud of both Veronica and Mitch for their achievements on the national stage and we look forward to cheering them on again at the next Bus Roadeo!



NEXT STOP?

7/4 (Friday) - July 4th - Admin Closed - Limited Service - Myrtle Beach & workforce routes only

8/19-21 - TASC Conference - Myrtle Beach

8/22 - FMU First Friday

8/26 - Harbor Freight Lunch and Learn

September - Quarterly PDRTA Driver Meeting

9/1 (Monday) - Labor Day - Admin Closed -

Limited Service - Myrtle Beach & workforce routes only

10/1 - October Quarterly Newsletter

10/10 - Boo Bus - Downtown Florence Frigate Fest

November - Passenger Appreciation and Survey

11/1 - SC Pecan and Music Festival

11/11 (Tuesday) - Veterans Day - Admin Closed - Normal Service on all PDRTA routes

11/27 - Thanksgiving Day - Admin Closed - No Service - No Service on all PDRTA routes

11/28 - Day after Thanksgiving - Admin Closed - Normal Service on all PDRTA routes

12/24 (Wednesday) - Christmas Eve - Admin Closed - Normal Service on all PDRTA routes

12/25 (Thursday) - Christmas Day - No Service - No Service on all PDRTA routes

12/26 (Friday) - Day after Christmas - Admin Closed - Normal Service on all PDRTA routes

12/31 (Wednesday) - NYE - Admin Normal - Normal Service on all PDRTA routes

SCHEDULE AHEAD for 2025

MLK DAY-JANUARY 20 NORMAL Service Hours on all PDRTA routes.	VETERANS DAY-NOVEMBER 11 NORMAL Service Hours on all PDRTA routes.
GOOD FRIDAY-APRIL 18 NORMAL Service Hours on all PDRTA routes.	THANKSGIVING DAY-NOVEMBER 27 NO service on all PDRTA routes. Normal schedules will resume Friday, November 28th.
MEMORIAL DAY-MAY 26 ONLY routes serving Myrtle Beach and Workforce locations will be operational.	ROUTE 7 / FMU BREAKS Route 7 / FMU - CLOSED mid December through early January.
ROUTE 7 / FMU BREAKS Route 7 / FMU - CLOSED during May through August.	CHRISTMAS EVE NORMAL Service Hours on all PDRTA routes.
JUNETEENTH-JUNE 19 NORMAL Service Hours on all PDRTA routes.	CHRISTMAS DAY NO service on all PDRTA routes. Normal schedules will resume Friday, December 26th.
JULY 4TH ONLY routes serving Myrtle Beach and Workforce locations will be operational.	NEW YEARS EVE NORMAL Service Hours on all PDRTA routes.
LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 1 ONLY routes serving Myrtle Beach and Workforce locations will be operational.	2026 NEW YEARS DAY ONLY routes serving Myrtle Beach and Workforce locations will be operational.



FOR NEWS AND UPDATES



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Share your thoughts, suggest improvements.

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lleonard@pdrta.org

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