



## A Milestone Anniversary for PDRTA

We are thrilled to announce that we are marking our 50th anniversary this year!

Since our establishment in **June 1974**, we've been dedicated to connecting communities and enhancing mobility across six counties in the Pee Dee Region.

### A Journey Through Time

Over the past five decades, we've adapted, grown, and continue to innovate, striving to better serve our communities.

### A Year to Celebrate

Throughout the year we are planning a series of celebratory events and initiatives, including: Historical exhibits showcasing growth and achievements and community events to commemorate this significant milestone.

### Looking Ahead

As we celebrate our past, we are also excited about the future! Our commitment to providing public transportation with the highest degree of integrity, respectfulness, and efficiency remains unwavering.

Together, let's pave the way for another 50 years of connecting the Pee Dee!

### Thank you for being an essential part of our journey!

Here's to 50 years of progress, community, and shared memories. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



## Did you know?

PDRTA was established as the **1<sup>st</sup> RTA** in South Carolina.

With over 3,500 sq. miles of territory, PDRTA covers the most area in the state and is the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest territory** in the US.

PDRTA was the 1<sup>st</sup> RTA in South Carolina to establish a vanpool connecting with industries and business to provide **workforce transportation**.

PDRTA was the 1<sup>st</sup> RTA in South Carolina to construct its own Office and Maintenance Facility.

# 2023 End of Year Celebration

## Celebrating Achievements & Success

Our PDRTA family celebrated the End of 2023 with an awards dinner Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

The night was filled with joy, laughter and camaraderie with colleagues and friends.

Congratulations to ALL our employees for your hard work and dedication!

“The PDRTA end-of-year celebration is a night to recognize and celebrate the hard work and dedication of each of our employees. The PDRTA family is invited to come have dinner together, play games, listen to music, and see their coworkers recognized for their achievements. I could not be more grateful and proud of our team at PDRTA. Their dedication as public servants provides so many citizens across our six counties with mobility options, but it goes further than that. For many, it provides them with a sense of independence and the ability to do the things that improve their quality of life without transportation barriers standing in their way. Thanks to the PDRTA Board of Directors and all our great employees. Here’s to another great year and looking forward to 2024.”

- **Don Strickland**, PDRTA Executive Director



**Don Strickland**  
15 Years of Service



**James Smith**  
5 Years of Service



**Deborah McFadden**  
5 Years of Service



**Devlin Moore**  
5 Years of Service



**Azalee McPhail**  
30 Years of Service



**Jovan McClam**  
Driver of the Year



**Jarrod Bell**  
Manager of the Year



**Willie McKoy**  
25 Years of Service



**Mitchell Brantley**  
Extra Mile Award



**Charles McRae**  
Support Staff of the Year

# Ride A Mile

On Tuesday, December 12th, Florence Chamber's Leadership Florence class embarked on the 2023 Ride A Mile journey.

## Simulating Real-World Scenarios

The Ride A Mile program is a simulated society experience navigating real-time life scenarios at varying degrees of economic levels.

Through this shared experience, participants are not only enhancing their leadership skills but also cultivating a collaborative spirit that extends beyond meeting rooms into the heart of the community.

## Building Empathy and Collaboration

Thank you to all the partners participating in the program for making another successful year for Ride A Mile! Together we are paving the way for a more connected, compassionate, and resilient community.



Stream on YouTube @PDRTA1

# PDRTA DRIVING Diversity

## A Transformative Partnership

Since August 2023, PDRTA and Ruiz Foods have joined forces to provide a tailored workforce transportation solution for work visa holders, creating a model for diversity and inclusion.

### Customized Transportation Routes

The heart of this collaboration lies in the development of a personalized workforce transportation route that caters specifically to the needs of visa holders working at Ruiz Foods.

The route is designed to take the work visa employees to and from work to their residence. PDRTA also provides these employees with a supplemental service in the event an emergency arises with the need to leave during their shift.

The door to door service provided by PDRTA to Ruiz Foods ensures that transportation barriers do not hinder their ability to contribute to the workplace.



Ruiz Foods work visa employees on board PDRTA

### Sustainability at the Core

Beyond accessibility, the collaboration also emphasizes sustainability. Exploring shuttle services and workforce transportation options demonstrates a commitment to environmental responsibility, aligning with the broader goals of creating a workplace that values both its employees and sustainability.

As we celebrate this step towards a more inclusive future, it is a reminder that diversity is not just a goal to achieve but a journey to embrace. This partnership stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in creating workplaces that welcome everyone, regardless of their background or journey.



PDRTA's Human Resources Director, Ania Dixon, provided language translation assistance for initial on-boarding at Ruiz Foods

### Promoting Equal Opportunities

This initiative aligns with the shared commitment of both organizations to promote diversity and inclusion. By removing transportation obstacles, visa holders are provided with an equal opportunity to thrive in their roles.

The partnership underscores the belief that a diverse workforce not only enriches the workplace but also contributes to the overall success of the community.





## Advertise with us!

Our bus, your canvas!

The "Consider What's NEXT" Florence Darlington Technical College king-kong ad is now out on our Florence Route buses.

Our partnership with FDTTC allows students to take unlimited rides with purchase of discounted semester passes. We are proud to partner with local schools around the Pee Dee creating a community where knowledge knows no bounds.

Check out our new wrap with **Florence 1 Schools!** The bright green and yellow wrap showcasing Florence One Students is out and about on our Florence Routes each day.

### Why Bus Wraps?

By choosing bus wraps, you're not just advertising; you're investing in local infrastructure and supporting public transportation, strengthening community ties. Support your local community and reach thousands with your ads daily!

If you would like more information on bus wrap or advertisements please reach out to us at [info@pdrta.org](mailto:info@pdrta.org)



# Next Stop: Chesterfield County

Beginning January 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have two new fixed routes in Chesterfield County. One route will connect McBee, Jefferson and Pageland. The other route will connect Cheraw, Chesterfield and Pageland going through Ruby and Mt Croghan. Each route will provide five round trips on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with Demand Response available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Patrick and Cash.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, we will begin the Pageland Express. This route will have 30+ stops in and around Pageland and will connect with the two connect routes from around the County.

This expansion is not just about routes; it's about connecting people and making everyday journeys more accessible. We look forward to being an integral part and enhancing the quality of life in Chesterfield, SC.

Thank you to Chesterfield County and all the supporting partners for making this expansion possible. Stay tuned for more details, including route maps, schedules, and additional information!



To **subscribe or unsubscribe**  
email Lauren Leonard at [lleonard@pdrta.org](mailto:lleonard@pdrta.org)

For **questions or comments**,  
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**Community Feedback! We value your input!**  
Share your thoughts on the new routes, suggest improvements, and help us tailor our services to better meet your needs.



For more updates  
and information,  
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