

Upcoming Events

NARCOG Board Meeting
DATES: May. 25 at 10 a.m.
LOCATION: NARCOG Board Room - Decatur

Agency Contacts

RTA Office
256-580-2088

Falguni Patel
Director
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David Clemons
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Dee Tucker
Administrative Assistant
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Hours of Operation

Open Monday through Friday
from 7 a.m. -5 p.m.

Schedule a Ride

Schedule a ride by calling 256-580-2088. The NARCOG RTA provides transit services in Lawrence and Morgan counties and serves both rural and urban areas. This service is available by scheduling a ride at least 24 hours in advance and by no later than 2 p.m. the day before. Trips outside the Region are limited to a 50-mile radius of the NARCOG office, and cannot cross state lines.

Connect Cards are available for \$20 and can be purchased at the NARCOG Transit Office.

Information ON THE WEB

www.narco.org
SOCIAL MEDIA
facebook.com/narcoag

RTA can provide election day transportation

Election day in Alabama is on the horizon.

The Alabama primary elections are scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, which means people across the Region will be heading to polling

stations to cast ballots.

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) Regional Transit Agency (RTA) can assist voters reach their designated polling destinations.

Those who need to schedule an election day ride should contact NARCOG at least one business day in advance at 256-580-2088.

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Regional Transit Agency



Saving with Transit

Public transportation delivers option to help with rising fuel costs

Fuel prices are on the rise, reaching record highs this month. Relief does not appear to be in the near future.

According to the American Automobile Association's (AAA) Alabama office, the average cost of gas throughout the state is \$4.20 per gallon.

That's an increase of 28 cents from a month ago — and more than a dollar from the previous year.

Because of the rising costs, peo-

ple across the country are feeling the financial pinch in their bank accounts.

For most people, gasoline is needed to complete many essential daily activities.

Work commutes. Doctor's visits. Trips to the grocery store.

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RTA's Lucas takes 1st at RTAP Roadeo

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) Regional Transit Agency (RTA) staff attended a pair of Roadeos this spring, with staff mechanic Jarrod Lucas claiming a

top honor.

NARCOG attended the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) Vehicle Maintenance Conference and Mechanics Roadeo in Mobile, and the RTAP Statewide Bus and

Paratransit Roadeo in Eufaula.

Lucas claimed first place in Mobile, which included a trophy and a cash prize.

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Robby Cantrell | Executive Director

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NARCOG seeks volunteers to deliver meals

Senior citizens in Lawrence and Morgan counties need assistance.

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) is searching for volunteers to assist with the "More than a Meal" program, delivering nutritious meals to homebound seniors in the Region.

Through the NARCOG More than a Meal program, seniors who are 60 and older are provid-

ed a nutritious meal five days a week at their local senior centers. But, for those seniors who are homebound, the meals are delivered to their homes.

Delivering these meals, however, requires help.

In Lawrence and Morgan counties, NARCOG is seeking volunteers to deliver meals to homebound seniors.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and

2021, the number of volunteers decreased, prompting the NARCOG Regional Transit Agency (RTA) to depend primarily on its drivers to ensure homebound seniors received daily meals.

Now that some of the pandemic restrictions have been loosened, the agency has shifted back to its traditional services of providing transportation to customers. The RTA resumed non-essential trips on Nov. 1, 2021.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help deliver meals to homebound seniors in Lawrence and Morgan counties.

To volunteer for this program, contact NARCOG Director of Area Agency of Aging Justin Graves at 256-355-4515.

FROM PAGE 1: Fuel

If you do not live near the destination, then most likely an automobile is needed to help you arrive.

And for those who live on a fixed income, fitting the high fuel costs into the budget requires trimming some other items out.

But for those who live in the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) Region, there is another option:

Public transportation.

The NARCOG Regional Transit Agency (RTA) provides affordable public transportation in Lawrence and Morgan counties.

For those who reside in Cullman County, the Cullman Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS) provides public transportation.



The NARCOG RTA provides one-way trips in the Urban Area of Decatur, Hartselle and Trinity for \$2.

Each one-way trip in Lawrence

and Morgan counties is \$2 per every five miles, but no one-way trip will exceed \$10.

In Cullman County, CARTS provides one-way trips up to seven miles for \$2. One-way trips rang-

ing from 7-15 miles are \$4, and any one-way trip that exceeds 15 miles is \$6.

CARTS provides a 50-percent discount on its fares for those who are disabled or 60 and older.

Both the NARCOG RTA and CARTS offer discounts for those who frequently utilize the public transportation services.

The NARCOG RTA offers Connect Cards, which allows riders to purchase \$22 worth of fares for \$20. For those utilizing Urban Area fares, this means for every five one-way trips, the sixth would be free.

CARTS offers a similar program with \$10 and \$20 punch cards, along with \$3 Cullman County shopping routes.

FROM PAGE 1: Roadeo

"We are extremely proud of Jarrod," NARCOG RTA Director Falguni Patel said. "Jarrod, and all of our Regional Transit Agency staff who participated

in these events, did a wonderful job of representing NARCOG at this year's Roadeos."

Roadeos are one of the fun aspects of working in public trans-

portation.

The events are opportunities for public transportation personnel to showcase their professional skills with friendly com-

petition among peers, while also networking and collaborating on everything from equipment to preventive maintenance practices.

FROM PAGE 1: Election

"Election days typically can be a busy day for public transportation, so it's important that people call early if they need to schedule

a ride," NARCOG RTA Director Falguni Patel said.

One-way Urban Rides in Decatur, Hartselle and Trinity are \$2.

Each one-way trip in Lawrence and Morgan counties is \$2 per every five miles, but no one-way trip will exceed \$10.

The NARCOG RTA's hours of operation are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday through Friday. The office is closed on weekends.