


# Realizing Regionalism

*“Formation of the Western Piedmont Regional  
Transit Authority “*

2008 North Carolina Public Transportation Conference  
June 3, 2008

# Urban Area Delineation

## Legend

 Urban Area Defined by 2000 Census

 Rural Area

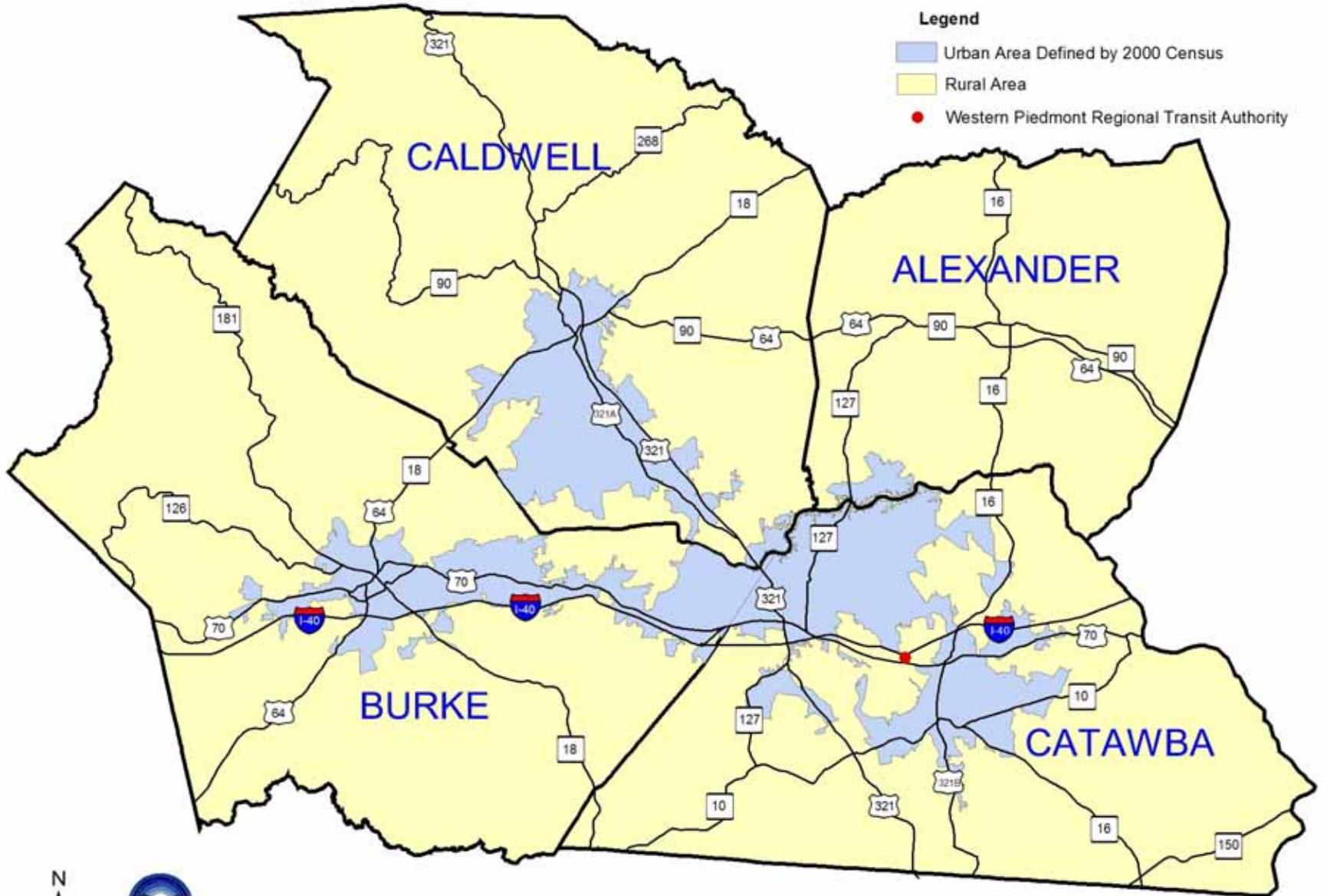
 Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority

CALDWELL

ALEXANDER

BURKE

CATAWBA



# Background

- Initial study conducted in 2004, recommended creating a regional authority
- Implementation plan started in May 2006
- Participants
  - Four counties
  - WPCOG (lead)
  - NCDOT (advisory)
- Concerns
  - Governance/equity
  - Cost
  - Service Quality

# Background (Cont'd)

- Formed under Chapter 160A, Article 25- North Carolina Public Transportation Authorities Act
- First Rural/Urban Regional Transit Authority in North Carolina

# Background - Existing Service

<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Structure</b>	<b># Vehicles</b>	<b>Annual Hours</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>	<b>Annual Ridership</b>
<b>Alexander County Transpiration</b>	<b>County Government</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>\$282,100</b>	<b>23,100</b>
<b>Burke County Transit Administration</b>	<b>Private/Non-profit</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>\$599,300</b>	<b>36,900</b>
<b>Caldwell County Area Transit System</b>	<b>Private/Non-profit Non-Profit</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>\$417,900</b>	<b>28,700</b>
<b>Piedmont Wagon Transit System</b>	<b>Consortium</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34,700</b>	<b>\$1,943,000</b>	<b>171,900</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>67,800</b>	<b>\$3,242,300</b>	<b>260,600</b>

# Objectives

- Provide seamless connections and the opportunity for more efficient multi-jurisdictional routing and scheduling
- Achieve potential cost reductions and economies of scale
- Bring more state and federal transit funding to the region
- Create a mechanism for more equitably sharing the responsibility for regional services
- Increase service quality through the development of specialized staff
- Streamline program administration
- Promote development of the public transit system

# Transition Process Phases

- Consolidation –get everything under one roof
- Reallocation/Visioning –identify efficiencies, assess needs, set priorities
- System Development – deploy new services, improve service levels, expand markets

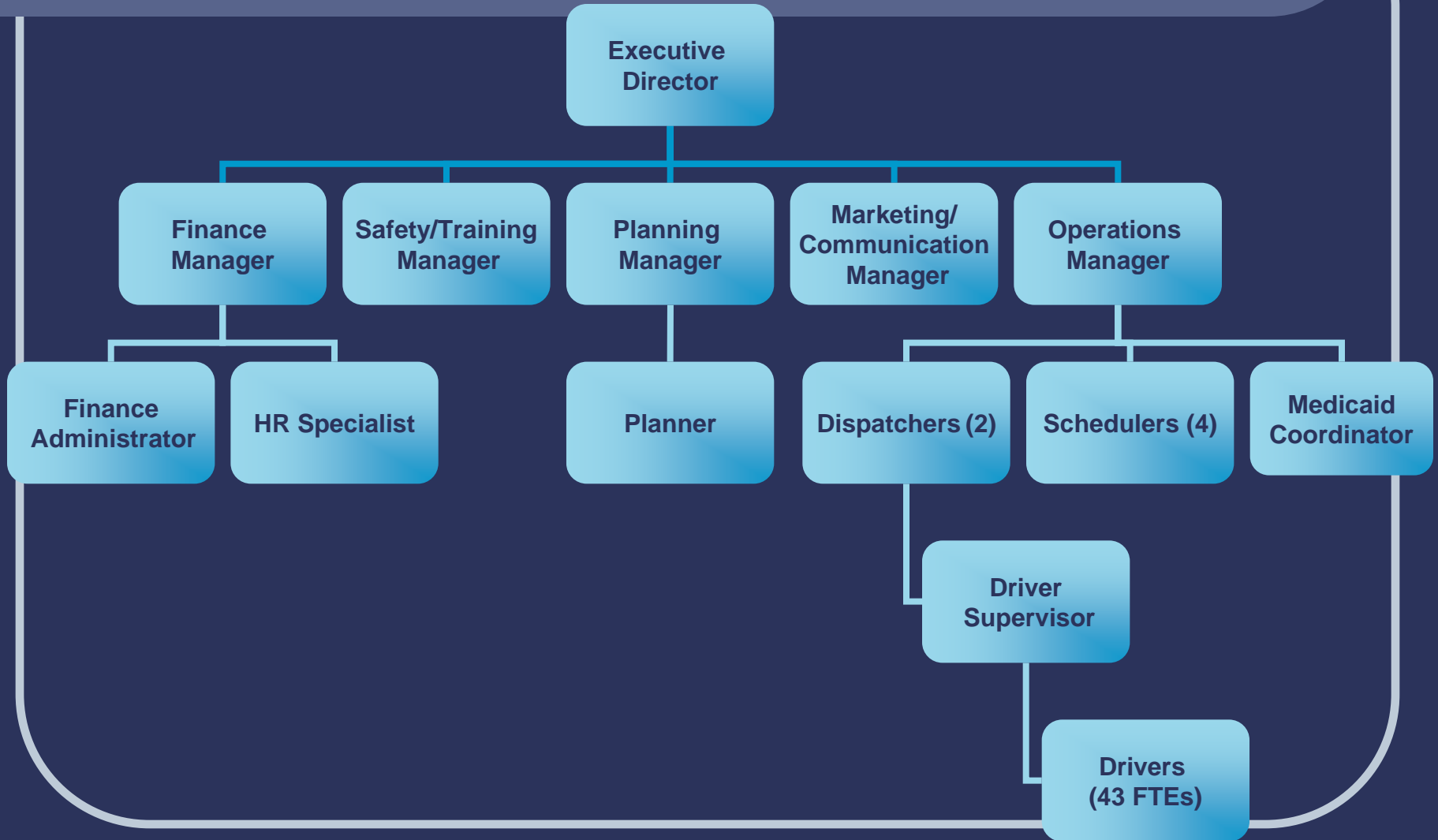
# Consolidation Milestones

- September-December 2007
  - Approve resolution creating Authority
  - Establish Governing Board
  - Hire Executive Director
- January-March 2008
  - Appoint management team
  - Lease additional offices
  - Issue Maintenance RFP
  - Procure new scheduling software
  - Approve by-laws
  - Approve Interlocal Local Agreement supporting Authority
  - Submit FY 2009 NCDOT CTP Grant
  - Begin new funding recipient paperwork

# Consolidation Milestones (Cont'd)

- April-June 2008
  - Expand computer network
  - Procure insurance
  - Procure and install new phone system
  - Set up budget and chart of accounts
  - Establish operating reserve
  - Standardize operating procedures
  - Standardize employee pay rates and benefits
  - Transfer vehicles
  - Begin closeout of non-profits
  - Establish logo and agency name
- July 1, 2008
  - Start operating as WPRTA

# Authority Organization



# What Worked

- Outreach
- Partnerships
- Implementation planning
- Retaining existing staff
- Win-win approach
- Formalizing/documenting agreements
- *“The will to do it”*

# Challenges

- Timing
- Communication/keeping everyone in the loop
- Developing operating reserve
- Coordinating the closeout of non-profit agencies
- Volume of tasks to be completed

# Regionalism Success Factors

- Operations with 50+ vehicles
- Contiguous geographic area with overlapping services.
- Political environment of cooperation
- Public support for transit
- Stakeholders that have the will to do it
- An inclusive planning process
- A formal implementation plan