

## **RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY AT SENTARA WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER MARKS INSTALLATION OF FIRST BENCH IN ADOPT-A-BENCH PROGRAM**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., June 30, 2015 — As part of its Adopt-a-Bench program, the LEAD Historic Triangle Class of 2015, in partnership with the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA), celebrated the installation of its first bench at a bus stop at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, June 30.

The group continues to raise awareness and funds for an Adopt-a-Bench program to initially install 10 benches at WATA bus stops for riders throughout the Historic Triangle.



“I want to thank the LEAD Historic Triangle group for its effort,” said Mark Carter, WATA Board vice chairman and representative from York County. “We’re really thrilled about this type of improvement for our riders. We think this is going to be a great benefit for the many riders of WATA. We certainly appreciate your efforts to bring this to fruition.”

The first bench was dedicated to LEAD Historic Triangle Coordinator Bob Hershberger and Administrative Coordinator Ellie Wade.

Engraved bricks were placed by the first bench just outside the Geddy Office Building.

“We are surprised and honored to be recognized with this bench,” said Bob Hershberger.

Remarks on Tuesday morning also were provided by members of the LEAD Class of 2015, Dave Masterson, Sentara Williamsburg president, and Dawn Oleksy, James City County environmental coordinator.

“I think we have witnessed our fellow rider waiting for a bus,” said Dawn Oleksy, a member of the LEAD Class of 2015 who has been instrumental in working with WATA on the bench project. “Our class decided that a simple bench would improve safety and comfort and also add an element of beautification to our community. Additionally through individual and corporate sponsorships, we knew that this would add an element of community pride.”

Most of the 294 WATA bus stops do not have a bench for riders while awaiting a commute to a variety of locations to and from work and school, business and medical appointments, shopping and tourist destinations.

Sentara Williamsburg was the first to become a “presenting sponsor” to place three benches at stops along the two bus lines servicing Sentara hospital. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals to contribute to the Adopt-a-Bench effort through monetary or in-kind contributions. So far, 10 benches have been purchased for installation at WATA bus stops.

## ADOPT-A-BENCH – 2

LEAD Class representatives are working with WATA to select bench locations in the community based on a variety of criteria, from the number of riders at each bus stop, proximity to amenities and shopping areas, sufficient space for a bench and pad, and ownership of land where a bench is proposed. The cost for a business or individuals to sponsor one bench is \$3,500. Various levels of sponsorships are available with recognition opportunities.

Throughout the process, the LEAD Class is working with government agencies in the City of Williamsburg, James City County and York County. A successful first year will encourage the expansion of the program throughout the region in the future.

To learn more about how you or your company can join Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center in supporting the Adopt-a-Bench program, visit [www.adoptabench.com](http://www.adoptabench.com). Contributions by credit card and PayPal can be made by mail to The Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce Foundation, a 501c (3) organization, at 421 North Boundary Street, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.



PHOTO CAPTION:

**LEAD Historic Triangle Coordinator Bob Hershberger joins members of the LEAD Class of 2015 in cutting the ribbon on the first Adopt-A-Bench installed at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center on June 30. The bench was dedicated to Hershberger and LEAD Administrative Coordinator Ellie Wade.**

###