



Plan For Transit



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Planning Sessions at 35th Annual FPTA Conference

The 35th Annual Florida Public Transportation Association Conference took place October 25-27, 2009 in Jacksonville, FL. The conference included a substantive and diverse program with topics of interest for everyone in the public transit industry including:

- **Senior Mobility Issues - Here Come the Baby Boomers!** - This session highlighted the challenge of developing mobility services to meet the needs of a growing elderly population. Three approaches were presented: Lucinda Shannon of the National Center for Senior Transportation talked about the “National Perspective”, Sara Hendricks of CUTR presented “[Senior Ridesharing Opportunities: Programs that Match Seniors with Volunteer Drivers](#)”, and Cathy Brown of the St. Johns COA presented “The Sunshine Bus Company’s Experiences with Boomers”.
- **Emerging Air Quality and Energy Planning Issues** - This session explored the topics of air quality conformity, issues, and funding opportunities related to attainment or maintenance of air quality standards, and innovative mitigation projects that are underway. Presentations included: Michael Roberts, Air Quality Specialist with FHWA, “[Transportation and Emerging Air Quality Issues](#)” and Lisa Darnall, LYNX, “[LYNX Bio-diesel Project](#)”.
- **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - A new ARRA for Transit** - This session provided an overview of what ARRA has meant for Florida. Presenters were Elizabeth Stutts, FDOT, and Jamie Pfister, FTA Region 4 Director of Planning and Program Development.
- **Transit Development Plans (TDPs)** - This session focused on how the TDP can reflect a well planned and coordinated mobility roadmap for the future that will help establish support and cooperation from stakeholders. Presenters included Diane Quigley, FDOT, “TDPs: More than a Compliance Document”, Dr. Steve Polzin, CUTR, “[TDP Manual and Review Guidance](#)”, and Jonathan Roberson, BCT, “Effectively Using the TDP: An Agency Perspective”.
- **Regional Planning Perspectives and FTPN General Meeting** - This session included a presentation concerning regional public transportation issues and opportunities presented by Bill Morris, CUTR, “[The 2010 Census, Urbanized Areas, and Transit](#)”. Also, Diane Quigley, FDOT, shared FDOT central office updates and Mark Mistretta, CUTR, shared briefly on the results of the Planning Network survey as well as the functions of the new [Planfortransit](#) website.

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Coming Up



**February 11, 2010
1:00pm EST**

**Special Webinar -
Major Trends Shaping
the Future of Transit**

To register - visit <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=65685>

For additional presentations given at the FPTA Conference, please [click here](#).

TDP/TBEST Training Courses 2009-10

The Florida Department of Transportation is offering a Transit Development Plan (TDP) and Transit Boarding and Estimation Simulation Tool (TBEST) training course. This is a two-day course designed to guide professionals in the preparation of TDPs and the operation of the TBEST tool for use in TDP development. The first day of the workshop focuses on the development of TDPs and the second day covers the TBEST tool. Participants are welcome to register for either day or both days. There is no charge for registration.

How to Register

To register, visit the Plan For Transit website and find the “Event Registration” tab under the “Resources” menu. You may register for one or both days of the workshop. Stay tuned for dates being added later this year in northwest and southeast Florida.

For additional information regarding upcoming transit training courses, please contact Diane Quigley at diane.quigley@dot.state.fl.us.

Florida Department of Transportation
Guidance for Producing a
Transit Development Plan



Prepared for
Florida Department of Transportation
August 2009



Florida Transportation Plan - Horizon 2060

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLAN



The Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) is the state’s long range transportation plan. The FTP establishes long range goals and objectives that will provide a framework for the efficient movement of people and freight, while sustaining our economy, environment and quality of life. The FTP is being updated to respond to new trends and challenges to meet the future mobility needs of Florida’s

residents, visitors, and businesses. For the first time, the plan will extend beyond the current 20 year horizon to a 50 year horizon (2060).

The Florida Department of Transportation is taking the lead in the development of Horizon 2060 by convening a broad coalition of transportation providers; government agencies, and economic, business, environmental and citizen interest groups to develop a vision for Florida’s future transportation system.

Through the fall of 2010, there will be a variety of opportunities to participate and provide input to Horizon 2060 including steering committee meetings, statewide kick-off events and regional workshops. You are encouraged to visit the Horizon 2060 website www.2060ftp.org to view the dates and locations of scheduled events and to register for electronic project updates.

Transit Agencies “In-the-News”

LeeTran Unveils first hybrid bus of its kind in Florida - *December 2009*

LeeTran introduced its first hybrid bus to the public at a ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10 at Florida Gulf Coast University. The innovative hybrid vehicle is a demonstration project for the state of Florida, funded in part by the Federal Transit Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation. It is an ultra-low emission gasoline-electric hybrid, the first to go into service outside the state of California.

The unique hybrid electric drive system was developed by ISE Corporation of California, and installed in a 40-foot Gillig bus. The drive system requires no transmission; an ultra-capacitor energy storage system distributes charge to the electric motors. A regenerative braking system recaptures kinetic energy from the vehicle as it slows down, further enhancing fuel efficiency.

This technology provides higher fuel efficiency and emits over 40 percent less NOx than similar diesel hybrids. Although the fuel savings will vary depending upon driving conditions, LeeTran anticipates a 30 to 100 percent gain in fuel economy.

FDOT has offered the services of the University of South Florida Center for Urban Transit Research (CUTR) to independently validate all of the data necessary to certify the vehicle for operation on Florida roadways. Coach Crafters of Tavares, FL was selected to provide maintenance support.

“Transit agencies in California report that this technology provides a smooth, quiet ride and reduced maintenance costs due to increased brake life,” said Steve Myers, LeeTran’s Transit Director. “We plan to test the vehicle on a variety of routes and share the data with our partners in the industry.”

Manatee County’s Desoto Station opens - *October 2009*

Manatee County, your transit hub has arrived. Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) opened DeSoto Station, the county’s first mass transit hub, on October 11th, 2009.

The new station includes covered and well-lit waiting areas, a ticket station, restrooms, vending machines, an information center with maps and bicycle racks. It’s all part of MCAT’s goal to become an appealing alternative to

the use of the private automobile says MCAT Manager Ralf Heseler. “This station really puts us out there visually and it will offer great comfort and amenities for the passenger,” Heseler said. “We want to be an appealing alternative to the automobile, so we have to be appealing both visually and functionally. We want people to say, ‘There’s a transit center, maybe I can check it out and it will work for me.’”



Federal Transit News

DOT Announces \$280 Million for New Livability Initiative

FUNDING FOR STREETCAR, NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS

On December 1, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the availability of funding through the new Interagency Partnership on Sustainable Communities of the Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Environmental Protection Agency. The funding will be used to create a Federal Transit Administration bus livability grant program and an urban circulator livability program.

Applications for the new grants programs are due by February 8, 2010, and DOT anticipates making formal grant announcements by the end of March. Complete details on eligibility and application requirements are available at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-29245.htm> (urban circulator) or <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-29242.htm> (bus livability).

Funding for the new program comes from unallocated discretionary funds for the New Starts/Small Starts Bus and Bus Facility programs. DOT is using \$280 million in previously unobligated funds for the program. Approximately \$130 million will be available for the circulator program largely aimed at funding streetcar, circulator, and other local transit and mobility projects. Grants will be limited to a maximum of \$25 million per project. According to the agency, eligible projects will promote walkable, mixed-use development. \$150 million will be available for projects that focus on linking buses and bus facilities and improving job access or neighborhood redevelopment. Key evaluation criteria include the promotion of livability and sustainability, and addressing the six livability principles previously outlined by the interagency partnership.

Congress Reaches Agreement on Transportation and Housing Appropriations

\$150 MILLION PROVIDED FOR NEW SUSTAINABILITY GRANT PROGRAM

House and Senate conferees reached an agreement on provisions of the FY 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations conference report. Funding for five additional agencies was added to the THUD language as Congress races to wrap up the FY 2010 funding bills before the current continuing resolution expired on December 18. Included in the "minibus" package will be funding for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; Financial Services and General Government; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; and State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Combined, the six bills totaled \$446.8 billion in discretionary budget authority.

The THUD provisions totaled \$122.1 billion, including \$67.9 billion in discretionary funds, a \$13.4 billion increase over the fiscal 2009 level. Following the lines of the administration's request, the transportation package included \$41 billion for federal highways, \$10.7 billion for the Federal Transit Administration, and \$1.6 billion for Amtrak. The agreement included \$2.5 billion for high-speed rail, which is \$1.5 billion more than the White House had requested. This final agreement also left out language regarding the National Infrastructure Bank because the bank has not yet been legislatively authorized.

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Federal Transit News

(Continued from Page 4)

The spending package included \$4.45 billion for Community Development Block Grants, including \$150 million for the Sustainable Communities Initiative. The sustainability funding included \$100 million for planning grants. Details of the grant program, including eligible uses and the application process, will be released in early 2010.

The package included a key funding change for HOPE VI and Choice Neighborhoods: It appropriates \$200 million for HOPE VI and \$65 million for Choice Neighborhoods. The Obama administration has proposed overhauling and expanding the scope of HOPE VI by establishing the Choice Neighborhoods program. Congress has yet to authorize the new program, although draft language is now circulating. The Senate allocated \$250 million for Choice Neighborhoods, with the intention of replacing HOPE VI. The House allocated \$250 million for the existing HOPE VI program with the understanding that the funds would be transferred to Choice Neighborhoods upon the program's authorization.

The agreement also resolved a difference over funding for HUD's brownfield and economic development initiative (BEDI). Both the Obama administration and the Senate proposed eliminating funding for the program while the House allocated \$35 million. The compromise includes \$17.5 million for BEDI. Also included are \$25 million for the Rural Innovation Fund, \$50 million for the Energy Innovation Fund, and \$8.5 million for Section 8 Project-Based Vouchers. Congress is expected to adopt the appropriations package before the holiday recess.

Success in Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Policy

TDM Planning and Policies

ENCOURAGING AND SUSTAINING SUPPORTIVE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One initiated a district-wide regional commuter services program in February 2007. As part of the evaluation of existing conditions during the strategic planning process, an inventory of local planning goals and development policies was conducted. The results indicated that many jurisdictions have policies supporting TDM (strategies that reduce traffic congestions by influencing changes in travel behavior such as transit subsidies, parking pricing and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure). The effectiveness of these policies was limited; however, due to the fact that most policies did not require TDM inclusion, they provide allowances for TDM applications only when desired.

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Success in Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Policy

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To date, over 100 meetings with stakeholders and organizations have been held, and 39 training seminars and presentations have been conducted to educate individuals, employers, and local government officials about the benefits of TDM. A guidance document, including model language for the incorporation of TDM strategies into the MPO Congestion Management Process was prepared, along with sample language for use during updates to the comprehensive plan and potential revisions to development regulations. As a result, 19 plans and policies have been modified to include more effective TDM language and 13 additional policies and plans are currently undergoing revisions. Examples include the City of Lakeland's development regulations, Lee County's parking policy, Polk County's Consolidated Transit Development Plan, and the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Long Range Transportation Plan.

The activities and success of the first two years of the program are described in a short report available at [http://www.mediafire.com/file/ugyrycayvth/Commuter Services Program FDOT D1.doc](http://www.mediafire.com/file/ugyrycayvth/Commuter+Services+Program+FDOT+D1.doc).

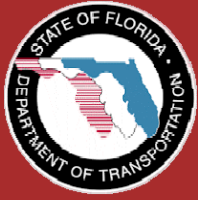
StarMetro Spotlight - Nova 2010 Plan

Since the StarMetro brand was introduced approximately 3 years ago, new services have been introduced to previously unreached areas, wireless internet access has been provided and new smart fareboxes have been introduced.



The next big innovation in transit service in the Tallahassee area is being called Nova 2010. Following an extensive public outreach campaign and a thorough analysis of residential and employment densities, Nova 2010 is in the final stages of development. The plan will completely restructure StarMetro's centralized "hub and spoke" network to a much more decentralized system. Currently, approximately 95% of transfers take place at one downtown location. The proposed network will include approximately 5-13 transfer points located throughout the service area which will reduce travel time, eliminate route redundancy, decrease headways, and allow for wider service area coverage.

A goal of Nova 2010 was to design cost neutral service enhancements. It is anticipated the current 26 route system can be restructured into approximately 12 new routes that will provide higher levels of service throughout most of the community. If adopted in the spring of 2010, Nova 2010 should be fully implemented later this year. For more information concerning StarMetro's Nova 2010 plan, visit <http://www.talgov.com/starmetro/nova2010.cfm>.



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Visit us on our website at:
<http://planfortransit.com>

Planning Resources:

[http://www.mediafire.com/
planfortransit](http://www.mediafire.com/planfortransit)

[http://delicious.com/
Plan for Transit](http://delicious.com/Plan%20for%20Transit)

Upcoming Training Sessions/Webinars

National RTAP

“The Future of Transit” Webinar
February 11 - 1:00 p.m.
<http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=65685>

NTI National Transit Database Workshop

March 2-3, 2010
CUTR - Tampa, FL
No registration fee
CEU's - 1.4
For more information, contact [Molly Buffington](mailto:Molly.Buffington@dot.state.fl.us), (813) 974-7810

Preparing for the Triennial Review– Plus

June 28-30, 2010
CUTR - Tampa, FL
No registration fee
For more information, contact [Molly Buffington](mailto:Molly.Buffington@dot.state.fl.us), (813) 974-7810

Upcoming Events/Conferences

International Practicums on Implementing High-Speed Rail in the United States

February 8-9 - Washington, DC
February 9-11 - Chicago, IL
February 11-13 - Los Angeles, CA

APTA TransITech Conference

February 23-26, 2010
Westin Beach Hotel
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

11th Annual Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Day

March 25, 2010
At the Capitol
Tallahassee, FL