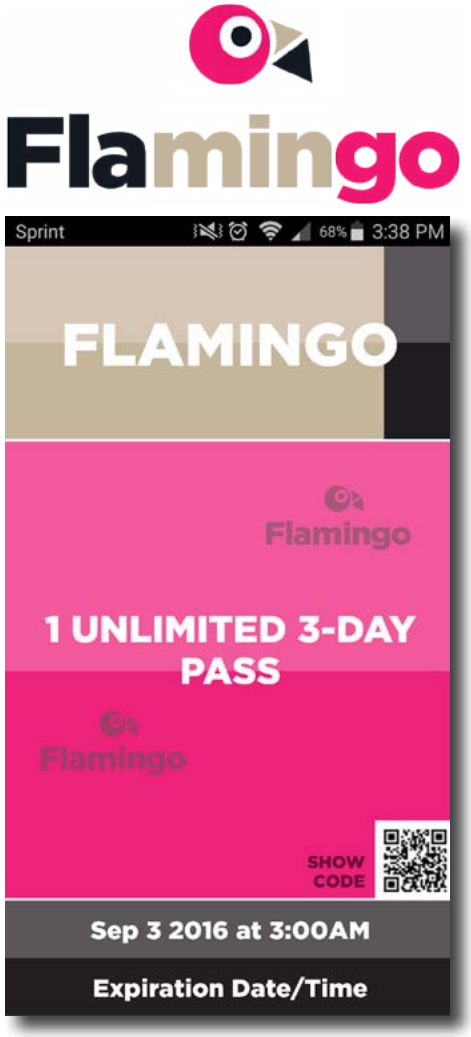
Florida Transit Planning Network

Flamingo Fares Tampa Bay

HART and PSTA riders are downloading their way to mobile ticketing technology in record setting numbers. Numbers for the initial roll-out of the regional fare collection system known as Flamingo Fares Tampa Bay were better than expected. In January, sales crossed the one thousand mark and future numbers are looking good.



"The ease and convenience of purchasing passes right from a smartphone continues to become more popular with our riders each month, making Flamingo Fares Tampa Bay successful to date," said Jeff Seward, HART CFO. "Behind Flamingo Fares Tampa Bay are scores of dedicated professionals who have worked hard to create an easy-to-use mobile ticketing technology that allows our customers to conveniently transfer from one transit system to another."

Capitalizing on its booming success, HART and PSTA will be adding more pass options to the Flaming Fares Tampa Bay App. The five new pass options on the Flamingo Fare App are valid on all HART and PSTA bus services, including HARTFlex, Jolly Trolley, Looper Trolley, and the TECO Streetcar System.

The new pass options are intended to make it easier for local residents and tourists to use HART and PSTA to get around the Tampa Bay area. Both agencies will continue to test the new system that will provide riders a new way to pay for transit fares, and seamless travel throughout the region from system to system. The launch of the full App is expected to be released in 2018.

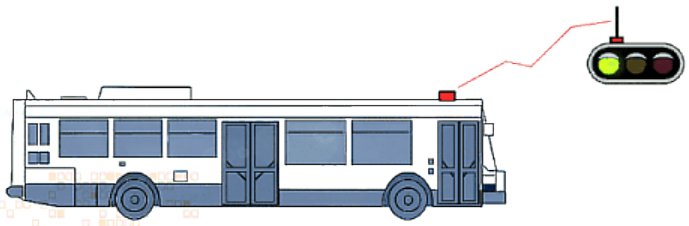
Hernando, Pasco, Manatee and Sarasota Counties are also implementing the new technology in the future.

FDOT

Upcoming Guidance for Identifying Corridor Conditions that Warrant Deployment of Transit Signal Priority and Queue Jumping

While Transit Signal Priority (TSP) has been successfully implemented across the country, it is often a challenge for transit agencies to identify locations where TSP will be both beneficial and feasible. During a series of TSP and Queue Jump forums conducted in 2015, transit agency representatives requested more guidance that establishes rules of thumb to identify conditions along corridors that warrant the consideration of signal priority and queue jumps. In response to those requests, the Florida Department of Transportation is sponsoring a research study in cooperation with Florida Atlantic University to develop minimal threshold criteria for TSP implementation. The study is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2017.

Following analyses of TSP projects undertaken across the nation, three urban corridors in Florida will be selected for more detailed simulation modeling and evaluation under normal and incident conditions. The micro-simulation model



Source: © Infodev EDI Inc. www.infodev.ca

will evaluate different signal priority scenarios to provide a logical architecture for implementation of TSP. Decision factors, including but not limited to the following will be considered: roadway geometry, traffic volumes, traffic signal systems, pedestrians, adjacent intersection operations, length of queue and acceleration.

The research effort will develop technical specifications for defining corridor screening criteria improvements and applying the screening criteria to identify a priority corridor and intersection for consideration by FDOT.

JTA Receives Grant for Mobility Program

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) has been awarded a $399,200 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The grant is part of the FTA's Rides to Wellness Initiative, which emphasizes public transportation as a strategy for people to access non-emergency healthcare, resulting in fewer hospital visits, lower costs, and better health overall.

The proposed project includes developing an interface between the medical system's software and JTA's TransPortal, the One Call/One Click Transportation Resource Center. TransPortal helps citizens in Northeast Florida find the best transportation options for their unique trip needs. It was launched two years ago in 13 counties by JTA and the Northeast Florida Mobility Coalition.

With one click, the interface will provide the appointment scheduler with public transit travel times and costs that best fit each of the available appointments. The scheduler can then select the best appointment time for the patient and provide them with travel information to the facility verbally or via email or text.

"This program will help open the lines of communication between medical staff and transportation providers," said JTA Chief Executive Officer Nathaniel P. Ford Sr. "We all must work together to find solutions to improve access to medical resources in Northeast Florida, especially for our low-income, elderly and disabled customers."

The JTA will work with UF Health to develop Northeast Florida's project plan. UF Health has three medical campuses and more than 80 primary and specialty care practices throughout Northeast Florida and South Georgia.

"We are very excited to work with JTA to implement this initiative," said Rita James, Vice President of ambulatory care services for UF Health practices. "We believe this will provide patients greater access to high-quality health care by some of the region's top physicians."

New Miami-Dade County Project to Offer Free Wi-Fi Throughout County

Miami-Dade County has approved a partnership-based project with a technology company that will lead to free Wi-Fi being available on all of its public transit vehicles as well as throughout the county.

The county is implementing the network through a partnership with Massachusetts-based CIVIQ Smartscapes, a smart communications infrastructure company, according to the Miami Herald. The partnership's goal is to "implement the nation's first fully integrated smart city ecosystem throughout Miami Dade," a news release stated.

"Miami-Dade is a great example of a municipality rethinking the real value of technology as an enabler to livable, sustainable communities. The mayor is taking a very direct approach that will truly engage residents and reach out to them directly," George Burciaga, managing director of global government development and innovation at CIVIQ Smartscapes, said in the news release.

The first phase of CIVIQ Smartscapes' contract with the county will entail the company installing and maintaining up to 300 of the kiosks, called WayPoints, as well as 1,000 Wi-Fi devices in public transit vehicles and 51 Wi-Fi devices for public transit stations, according to Curbed Miami. WayPoints will be interactive and include free, high-speed Wi-Fi. Additionally, they will provide transit schedules, alerts and information on local businesses, GCN reports.

"These new devices and services are much more than a new way to access the internet," Alice N. Bravo, director of transportation and public works at Miami-Dade County, said in the news release. "Greater connectivity in the transit system means increased efficiency, less downtime, and overall better experiences for our passengers."

CIVIQ Smartscapes previously developed the LinkNYC network in New York, which converted the city's payphone into kiosks that allowed access to free high-speed Wi-Fi, USB charging, phone calls, direct access to 311 and 911 and maps, GCN reports.

CIVIQ Smartscapes is financing the project with

$20 million in upfront costs, Miami TV station NBC 6 reports. It will then use digital ads on the WayPoints to generate revenue. Miami-Dade will receive a revenue share of 3 percent in the first six years, which will increase over time, Miami Today reports. Altogether, the project will entail a zero-net cost for taxpayers, Curbed Miami reports.

"This is one of the single largest tech upgrades, providing real-time benefits to residents of Miami-Dade I've seen in my years here," Miami-Dade CIO Angel Petisco said in the news release. "I look forward to working closely with CIVIQ to bring the best in urban technology to the county, the benefits of which I have no doubt will be widespread and multifarious."

Source: *American City & County, February 2, 2017*

JTA Demonstrates Driverless Vehicle in Jacksonville

Jacksonville residents and officials recently boarded a driverless vehicle to experience what likely will be the future of transit here. The rounded red-and-black vehicle navigated its way seamlessly through the parking lot across from Intuition Ale Works on East Bay Street. It slipped past a concrete pole without bumping the obstacle – and when a reporter accidently stepped In front of the vehicle, it stopped. All without a driver, without rails and without a guide.

Jacksonville Transportation Authority executives are turning to driverless vehicles to replace the aging and limited Skyway rail system, and working with a vendor to offer a demonstration for those interested. The Easy Mile EZ10 allowed approximately 100 potential customers to see, touch and ride a vehicle that utilizes the next generation of autonomous technology.

Future plans for the Skyway will include removing the guide beam from current infrastructure and creating access points along existing routes. These points will allow the driverless vehicles to leave the elevated pathway and merge into roadways on dedicated lanes. This way, JTA can expand into areas such as Riverside, Brooklyn and San Marco without constructing additional structures within the communities.

According to Brad Thoburn, JTA Vice President of Planning, Development and Innovation, the authority plans to decrease the wait times for customers at each stop from every six to eight minutes to every two to three minutes. As a result, JTA will have to invest in more driverless vehicles,

but they come with a much smaller price tag than the approximately $5 million it costs to replace an existing Skyway vehicle.

The transportation authority has not announced a time line, cost or specifics for moving forward with the expanded system. It also has not decided which vendor or autonomous vehicle to use, but executives believe it is well –situated to take advantage of the rapidly developing technology.

In February the board approved moving into the development phase of the project, which JTA has named the Ultimate Urban Circulator.

"The Ultimate Urban Circulator Program will help drive economic growth through enhancing mobility, connectivity, sustained economic growth and vibrancy for Jacksonville," said Nathaniel Ford Sr. CEO of JTA.

Source: *The Florida Times Union, March 8, 2017*

Accessing Transit – Bus Facility Design Handbook Updates

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Public Transit Office is sponsoring a training opportunity for state and local agency staff who approve, permit, design, and/or place transit facilities within roadway rights-of-way. This course will inform the audience of recent changes to the Accessing Transit: Design Handbook for Florida Bus Passenger Facilities, Version III, 2013.

Two sessions were previously scheduled, the following session is currently open for registration.

OCOEE
Friday, May 19, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Milepost 263, Building 5315
Ocoee, FL 34761

https://2017accessingtransitocoee.eventbrite.com/

For questions contact Chris Wiglesworth at chris.wiglesworth@dot.state.fl.us.

ITS Data Management Seminar

The National Transit Institute (NT) is hosting an ITS Data Management Seminar. Participants will discuss and discover best practices in data management for transit ridership and for open source data for internal agency consumption and external partner usage. They will network with other professionals and learn ITS data management best practices from peer agencies and from academic research. They will hear case studies that illustrate successes as well as lessons learned relating to data management. Participants also will have the opportunity to experience the history and future of transit by riding authentic streetcars on the TECO Streetcar System and the first-in-the-nation HyperLINK that provides a doorstep connection to the city's transit system.

After completing the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify data management techniques and software suitable for public transportation
- Investigate the use of various data management practices from across the country
- Discuss best practices for successful data management procurements
- Review timely industry topics, such as ridership forecasting and open source/open data.

Audience: This seminar is geared for transit professionals, which include planners, engineers, operators, and individuals employed by MPOs, DOTs, and transportation agencies that will be involved in the planning, implementation, and ongoing management of transit data.

This 2-day training will be held in Tampa at the Embassy Suites – USF Campus on May 24-25, 2017.

Register Today: *https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78az5WlXNLNHP4F*

Webinar: Current Trends in Multi-Agency Transit Electronic Fare Systems

As new electronic fare payment systems continue to expand and evolve, join researchers from the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) to learn about their research into the growing complexity of e-fare systems at a webinar, 2 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 11, 2017. Electronic fare payment systems have transformed transit in the United States, enabling better data collection, integrated fare solutions, customer conveniences, and other advantages over the transit token or ticket that they replaced.

New electronic fare payment systems, adopted by groups of transit operators supporting multiple modes, provide customers with common payment instruments such as smart cards that can be used across a region and on services offered by different providers. Fare payment technologies using mobile devices and third-party contactless media are gaining in popularity. Yet, although the fare systems make travel easier and more convenient, they are complex and can be challenging to implement.

Speakers:

- Polly Okunieff, GO Systems and Solutions, LLC, author of TCRP Synthesis 125: Multiagency Electronic Fare Payment Systems
- Michael Dinning, Volpe, The National Transportation Systems Center, U.S. Department of Transportation, author of TCRP Report 177: Preliminary Strategic Analysis of Next Generation Fare Payment Systems for Public Transportation

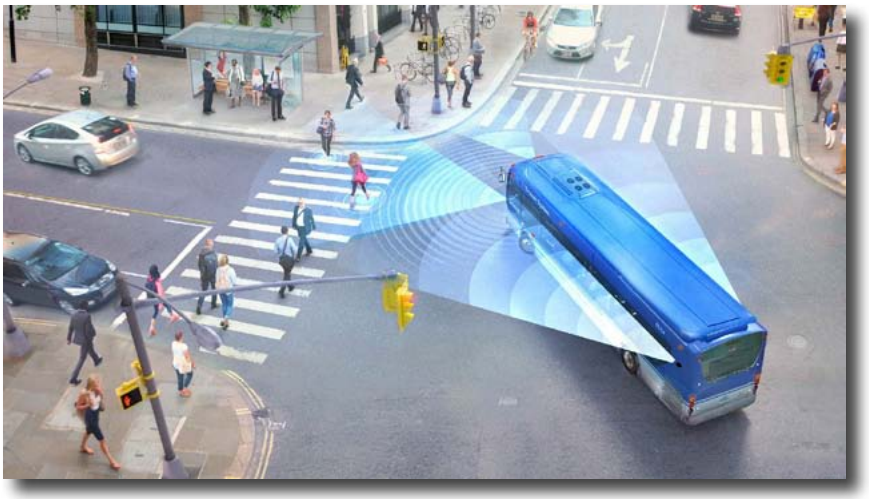
Date and Time:

Thursday, May 11, 2017
2-3:30 pm (EDT)

Register

https://ce-catalog.rutgers.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=65065

Testing of Vision Based Pedestrian Collision Warning System on Transit Vehicles



The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) recognizes that Automated Vehicles (AV) technologies hold significant potential for improving mobility and safety in the State of Florida. AV technologies (autonomous vehicle and connected vehicle technologies) are expected to improve mobility, capacity and safety, energy consumption, pollutant emissions and the driving experience.

Florida has passed autonomous vehicle legislation that allows AV research, development, and testing on public roads in Florida. In the spring of 2014, FDOT formed three working groups to address opportunities and challenges associated with implementing AV technology in Florida. One of the significant issues facing transit agencies is the need to reduce transit vehicle crashes and the associated fatality, injury and property damage costs associated with these crashes.

Collision Avoidance Systems (CAS) have great potential for improving transportation system safety including the safety of transit vehicles and pedestrians. Among these technologies, pedestrian collision avoidance systems on transit vehicles have the promise of reducing transit–pedestrian collisions. One CAS vendor is Mobileye which has developed a CAS that utilize a combination of systems that incorporate single cameras located on the front windshield which provide warnings on a display and control unit, Bluetooth connectivity for audio-visual warnings utilizing a smartphone application, and side detection of pedestrians and bicycles by utilizing multiple cameras. Additional features of the Mobileye systems include:

- Forward Collision Warning
- Pedestrian and Cyclist Danger Zone Detection
- Pedestrian and Cyclist Collision Warning
- Headway Monitoring Warnings
- Lane Departure Warnings
- Intelligent High-beam Control
- Speed Limit Indicators
- Traffic Signal Recognition

The Florida Department of Transportation has selected Florida International University to conduct a pilot project of the Mobileye system on ten Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) buses. The pilot will consist of an analysis of current DTPW safety statistics, national safety statistics (National Transit Database, Buses Involved in Fatal Accidents Database etc.). The data sets will be used to create an evaluation plan, followed by system installation and driver training, and 24 weeks of technology testing. Based on the results of these tasks, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted to measure initial and recurrent technology costs as compared to the estimated reduction in pedestrian crashes using the tested technology. A final project report is anticipated in the fall of 2017.

TBEST Software Update

FDOT recently released an update to TBEST 4.4 including an updated statewide socio-economic data packaged which incorporates 2011 – 2015 American Community Survey Census Bureau estimates. Additional information about the new TBEST features can be found at *TBEST 4.4 Release Notes* on the TBEST website *http://tbest.org/*.

To access FDOT sponsored on – call technical support and guidance please contact Rodney Bunner at *rbunner@myservice edge.com* or (727) 455-4059.

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Visit our Website

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Please send your planning related articles to:

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mistretta@cutr.usf.edu

Ann Joslin
joslin@cutr.usf.edu

Training & Professional Development

Registration is Open: 2017 FPTA/FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop & Transit Safety and Operations Summit
June 5-7, 2017
Embasy Suites–USF • Tampa, FL
www.regonline.com/2017PDWandSafetyOperationsSummit

Topics of interest to planners include:

Roundtable on Transit Development Plans (June 6, 2017, 3:15–5:00pm)
It has been a decade since Florida Administrative Code was amended to reflect the current rule pertaining to Transit Development Plan (TDP) requirements. In this session, you will learn from transit planning professionals; strategies utilized to address the current rule that not only satisfy required elements but also bring a creative approach to successful agency planning efforts. The presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion with FDOT staff and the panel where participants will share their experiences with TDP development and feedback pertaining to challenges encountered and effective outcomes to be used in future Department guidance.

Implementing Mobility Fees for Transit (June 7, 2017 10:00–11:45am)
Florida has long been recognized as a national leader in growth management efforts to mitigate the transportation impacts occurring from development activities. Simply put, a mobility fee is a transportation system charge on development that allows local governments to assess the proportionate cost of transportation improvements needed to serve the demand generated by development projects. In this session, you will learn about a variety of mobility fee applications pertaining to transit throughout the state of Florida and the hands on experience of a representative from one local government agency that implemented a mobility fee program.

FDOT is interested in your ideas about resources it can provide in support of your transit planning initiatives and professional development. Please contact Diane Quigley with your suggestions for future training topics or guidance and technical assistance needs.