

From the Transit Director's Desk

Jesus Gomez, RTS Director

RTS Goes Hybrid

The newest members of the RTS fleet are two new 40-foot Gillig Hybrid low-floor buses. A little more than a year after the implementation and success of RTS' biodiesel program, which was launched with the help of UF and its students, the new hybrid buses were purchased with funds from the UF Campus Development Agreement. Each bus cost approximately \$600,000.

The hybrids are electric/diesel hybrids and will run on a B20 petro/diesel blend fuel. The electric charge will come from regenerative braking, like passenger vehicle hybrids. The buses are scheduled to run on Route 46 - Downtown Circulator.



Project Updates

NEW FACILITY After receiving our last FTA grant of \$15 million and State of Good Repair program, our new Maintenance, Administration and Operations Facility is underway! The design for the facility is 60 percent complete and will be presented for approval on September 20 at the City Commission meeting. Construction will begin in January 2013 and will (hopefully) take 19 months. The facility is projected to be complete in July 2014.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT The video surveillance equipment project has been completed. The RTS buses are now equipped with security cameras to watch over the insides of the buses.

BUS RAPID TRANSIT The contract for the Bus Rapid Transit alternative analysis has been signed and is ready to start. The project will take approximately 18 months to be completed and is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2013.

OTHER PROJECTS RTS received an \$878,500 grant to purchase and install new fareboxes. RTS is also working on bids for new fleet management software.

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"Like" Regional Transit System (RTS) - City of Gainesville for all the latest updates on service changes, last minute information, RTS news and more.

Operations' Opinion

Eustache Miné, Operations Manager

This summer was very busy and we were able to complete some very good training. Transit Director Jesus Gomez, Operations Supervisor David Smith and I had the opportunity to meet with all of the Operations employees and get to hear first-hand of their comments. We received comments that were both negative and positive and truly appreciate your input. We are working on addressing as many of your concerns as possible. As you know, some of the concerns can be addressed right away while others may take a bit longer, but we will do our best to address them.

Training

Everyone went through the 40 hour in-service training where customer service was a major topic. This area received a lot of attention because of its importance to our business and its survival. It is extremely important that we continue striving to provide top notch customer service on a daily basis. We would like to thank all of you for your participation and input during the classes. A lot of work went into preparations for this training, so please go out there and apply what you have learned during this period. Also, thank you to the instructors for their efforts.

Safety and Security

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration recently completed a base review of our safety and security plans. Overall, the review went very well, but there are some areas where we need to make some improvements. Some of the areas that we are working on include safety and security education and drills to get employees familiar with necessary action to be taken at the appropriate time. Please remember to make sure that you are alert and make your security checks on your buses at the end of the line and be aware of your surroundings. Report all suspicious packages so that they can be properly investigated.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and commend you for the service you provide daily to the citizens of this community.

2012 RTS Employee BBQ

The RTS Employee BBQ was a huge success! Big thank you to everyone who participated in making this event lots of fun.

Employee BBQ Committee

Clean-Up Crew

Geraldine Mack
Felicia Barton
Ricky Davis
Janice Davis
Willie Owens
Rafael Vazquez
Michael Iemolo

Food Servers

Anita Welch
Janice Davis
Alice Foreman
Kutanya Sanders
Andrea Wright
Valerie Jenkins
Martine Davis
Tracy Alexander

Delivery Crew

Bertram Lyde
Janet Blakney

Thanks to Steve Brown, Alex Booker and Felicia Barton for working the grill and providing us with tasty food! Also, a special thanks to Eugene Thurman for keeping us entertained with some good-time music. We "Wobbled", "Cupid Shuffled" and fell in love with Rock and Roll, all while enjoying the festivities and some mouthwatering food. Thank you to Pat Batie and Terry Ivery for gathering everything together for us.

Everyone had a great time! Congratulations to the winners of the prizes. We hope you all enjoy them.

Until next time!

- Martine Davis



Gator Aider: Thank you to everyone who will be working with Gator Aider in the upcoming football season. We hope you enjoy your new shirts, and we look forward to having a delicious Gator Dining dinner before the games, courtesy of RTS.

Planning Corner

Doug Robinson, Chief Transit Planner

New Planning Interns

RTS hired two new planning interns in June. **Caitlin White** and **Josette Severyn** are both graduate students at the University of Florida studying urban and regional planning. Caitlin and Josette are both busy working on the Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update due to the Florida Department of Transportation in September.



Special Thanks

The planning department and the rest of administration would like to thank **Andrea Wright** and **Michael Iemolo** for their contributions these past few months as summer planning interns in the office.

Ridership

Through July, fixed route ridership is up 8.7 percent for the year. RTS provided 8.58 million passenger trips so far this fiscal year – an increase of 684,497 passenger trips over fiscal year 2011. Even without the fall service changes, our fixed route ridership is positioned to pass over 10 million riders in fiscal year 2012.

Fall Service Changes

Like past fall semesters, RTS is increasing service on several University of Florida routes. Santa Fe College improvements, however, did not occur as planned due to enrollment being lower than expected. Here is a summary of the fall service changes:

- Routes with no service changes with respect to spring 2012: 2, 5, 7, 24, and 75
- Saturday Service added on routes: 1, 6/10, 9/35, 11, 25, and 27
- Sunday Service added on routes: 1, 9/35, 11, 15, 20 and 27 (with service to Airport)
- Routes with increasing hours: 8, 13, 25, 29 and 38
- Routes with increasing frequency: 13, 38, 46 and 121
- Routes resuming service: 22, 27, 28, 29, 46, 62 and 76
- Modified routes: 36, 39, 121 and 1 on weekends
- Routes with decreasing hours: 10, 27, 39, 43, 62 and 76 (ending earlier in evening)
- Route with decreasing frequency: 22, 39 and 122
- Canceled routes: 303 on weekdays and canceled all remaining 400 number routes on Saturday and Sunday

City Approves Service Enhancements

The City of Gainesville Commission adopted its FY2012-13 budget with some funds for RTS service enhancements. The City Commission voted to reinstate service on the Friday after Thanksgiving and on Christmas Eve. The City is also funding an eastside route enhancement as requested by RTS. RTS has selected route 11 to receive 30-minute headways as identified in our adopted Transit Development Plan (TDP).

Alachua County Service Cut Proposal

Alachua County funds portions of several routes that operate outside the City of Gainesville. Gas tax revenues are the source for operating expenses and, while it amounts to \$11 million annually for the County, there is still a shortage of funds to maintain the existing infrastructure. To close the funding gap, Alachua County proposes an approximate 20 percent reduction (\$294,113) to its RTS contribution for transit services. The County's proposed service reductions are as follows:

- Reduce County's share of Santa Fe College routes
- Eliminate County's share of routes 2 & 24
- Reduce County's share of routes 7, 11 & 13
- Reduce headways on route 75
- Eliminate Saturday service

The fate of these proposed reductions is not decided. Citizen turnout at the upcoming County Commission meetings and Community Conversations scheduled for August 23 and 25 at various locations (visit www.alachuacounty.us for meeting times and locations) could have a significant impact on the final decision. RTS will do its best to post updates and announcements on the RTS website, Facebook page and the Gator Locator site to keep you informed.

Death of a Sales Tax Referendum

Alachua County's first transit sales tax proposal suffered a painfully slow death in June 2012. Could it be back in two years? No one knows for sure. What we do know is that throughout the process of creating a list of projects, RTS learned that there is considerable support for new and improved transit in Gainesville and Alachua County. We heard many citizens say that they would support the ballot measure either with or without funding for the bus rapid transit project.

Maintenance News

Paul Starling, Maintenance Manager

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the maintenance employees for their efforts during summer service. This was an extremely challenging time due to the ongoing facility renovations. These activities greatly impacted access to work bays in the garage, making it difficult to support the demands of existing service as well as delaying our efforts in returning the 2001 low-floors we acquired from PalmTran earlier this year to revenue service.

As we start fall service, a project is under way in cooperation with Michelin Tire to replace upward of 700 tires in our fleet that are impacted by a safety recall. The recall specifically cites failures in casings of retreaded tires that we don't utilize at RTS. The tires currently on the buses are in safe operating condition. Unfortunately, the timing of the tire production was not as such to allow this to be completed during summer service. We ask for your patience as we move forward with this project and will make every effort to reduce any impacts related to bus availability.

2013 Bus Orders

On February 22, 2012, RTS issued a PO to Gillig using funding from a Clean Fuels Grant award to purchase three Hybrid Electric 40' buses with the Bus Rapid Transit styling package. These buses will utilize the Allison EP40 drive system powered by a Cummins ISB diesel engine. I recently participated in a pre-production meeting to finalize the order. These buses are due to be delivered in March of 2013.

Safety Eyewear

Hello maintenance!

There have been a few questions pertaining to the safety eyewear, so hopefully this information will help you:

- Employees must have the Prescription Safety Eyewear Request form signed and approved by the appropriate manager or director along with a valid prescription (dated within 6 months of their request for prescription safety wear).
- Any options ordered by the employee not covered by the City will be the responsibility of the employee and payment will be due at time of the order.
- Please contact Jan Tipton at 800-342-9339 ext. 237 or Penny Staples at 800-342-9339 ext. 227 to schedule a visit for any of the prescription safety eyewear, or you can email them at jtipton@safe-lite.com and penny@safe-lite.com.

If there are any issues with your new eyewear after you receive it, please contact Jan Tipton.

- Ronda Carney, RTS Account Clerk

The following positions in maintenance are currently vacant: Fleet Mechanic II, Vehicle Service Attendant and Public Transit Maintenance & Safety Training Specialist.

Upcoming Bus Project: Retro-fit bus fleet with mini hybrid thermal systems

Through the Years



Personnel

▶ On July 2, **Tara Bryant** and **Julie Fletcher** accepted the Clerk 1, RTS position. Congratulations to Tara and Julie!



Congratulations to **Martine Davis**, who just became a certified volunteer child advocate for the Guardian Ad Litem Program. Martine was appointed by the 8th Judicial Circuit to represent the best interest of a child who has been taken away from his or her parents due to neglect, abuse and/or abandonment. She has a beautiful daughter and knows how important it is for children to know someone cares. By standing up for the rights of children who need a beacon of hope, she feels this is a great way to give back to the community.

▶ RTS' new staff specialist in maintenance, **Jessica Mazzotti**, began working on August 20. Jessica has a degree in computer science and is working on her MBA in public administration. She is a single mom of three kids. We would like to welcome Jessica to the RTS team!



▶ **Clayton O'neal** joined the RTS team this summer as a fleet mechanic I. Welcome to the team, Clayton!

Marketing Drive

Chip Skinner, Marketing and Communications Supervisor &
Theresa "T" Harrison, Marketing and Communications Specialist

New Marketing Intern

I'm Alexandria (Ali), the new marketing and communications intern, and I'm a journalism senior at UF. Interning this summer at RTS has been a wonderful experience, and I'm looking forward to the rest of my time here!



Special Thanks

The marketing team and the rest of administration would like to thank Martine Davis and Rafael Vazquez for their work this summer in the office. They were of great help in organizing and installing interior cards, assisting with event planning and helping out whenever and wherever help was needed. We would also like to thank all of those who trained for the customer service representative position this summer at the Rosa Parks station.



Be Our Spokespeople

Marketing would like to thank you for being our spokespeople out on the road and remind you to continue the good work. Let riders know about upcoming service changes, news and other relevant information. You are a rider's first impression of RTS - make it a good one!

Employee Website Launches This Fall

In other news, the employee website will launch this fall. The site will include the city's code of conduct, RTS standard operation procedures and a link to employee self-service, all in one convenient page. Via this new employee site, you will be able to request time off and submit anonymous comments and suggestions to Jesus and Stache. Employees will receive a generic username and password that will change every six months. Keep your eyes peeled for more details as we get closer to the website's launch.

FY 2012 Advertising on Track

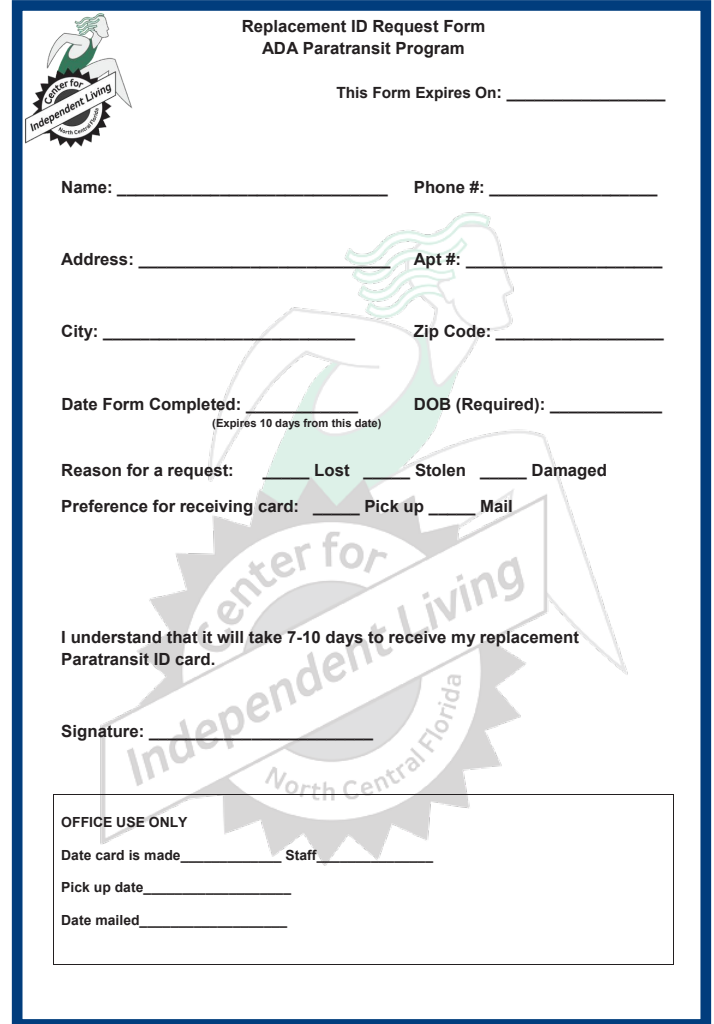
Last, but certainly not least, we are on pace to go over \$200,000 in advertisement sales for this fiscal year. We currently have Steven A. Bagen and Avera & Smith lawfirms onboard and expect to see more of those bus wraps in the near future.

New Paratransit Replacement Card Request Form

After suggestions for a new Paratransit Replacement Card request form at various Disability Awareness Training sessions, the Center for Independent Living at North Central Florida has revised its replacement card form (pictured to the right).

With this form, Paratransit passengers may ride as if they had had their card for a maximum of 10 days – the longest it will take for them to receive their replacement card.

Because the old form was easily copied and manipulated, the new form clearly identifies when the form expires and that it was definitely issued by the Center for Independent Living.



Replacement ID Request Form
ADA Paratransit Program

This Form Expires On: _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Apt #: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date Form Completed: _____ DOB (Required): _____
(Expires 10 days from this date)

Reason for a request: Lost Stolen Damaged

Preference for receiving card: Pick up Mail

I understand that it will take 7-10 days to receive my replacement Paratransit ID card.

Signature: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date card is made _____ Staff _____

Pick up date _____

Date mailed _____

ADA Tips: Handling Wheelchairs

- Drivers must always aid passengers in manual wheelchairs.
- ADA will not dictate the proper way to strap a wheelchair because there are so many different types. If the driver has a problem securing a wheelchair, he or she must contact a supervisor.
- If asked to, a driver must always help ADA passengers.
- When passengers request to kneel the bus, drivers must always oblige. If the driver does not want the passenger to bring aboard a specific object, he or she must contact a supervisor.

NEW OPERATORS

Harry Penley

Leonard Goldson

Mary Velez

Emanuel Crowe

Petala Davis

Ralph Dyer

Melvin Mcray

Dwayne Grant

Michael Kooi

William Javers

Richard Tooke

Melicia Malcom

Michael Dickson

Timekeeper Tips

Sharon James, Timekeeper

The Holiday Season is fast approaching, and as we know, with this comes many reasons to request time off. Here are a couple of points to ponder when submitting your Leave Request Form:

1. PTO or Vacation balance – When you submit your requests for leave, the scheduler will double check your balance to make sure that you will have the time available. **BEWARE:** If you use any of your leave time between the time you submit your request and the time you actually take off, you may not have enough time available to cover your vacation.
2. If you do not work your last scheduled day prior to a holiday or your first scheduled day following a holiday, and you DO NOT have enough time available in your PTO bank or Vacation bank to cover your entire shift, you will go into a leave without pay status. And, if you go into a leave without pay status on your last scheduled day before a holiday, or your first scheduled day following a holiday, you will lose the **WHOLE HOLIDAY!**

So, when figuring out what days you want off for the holidays, try to leave some PTO or Vacation time available, in the off chance that you will need it.

Projected Payroll

August 20, 2012 – September 2, 2012

Pay Date – September 6, 2012

The September 6 check will be a projected paycheck. This check will include overtime earned on the first week only. The September 20 check will be a regular paycheck but will include the adjustments from the September 6 check.

October 29, 2012 – November 11, 2012

Pay Date – November 15, 2012

The November 15 check will be a projected paycheck. This check will include overtime earned on the first week only. The November 29 check will be a regular paycheck but will include the adjustments from the November 15 check.

December 10, 2012 – December 23, 2012

Pay Date – December 27, 2012

The December 27 check will be a projected paycheck. This check will include overtime earned on the first week only. The January 10 check will be a regular paycheck but will include the adjustments for the December 27 check.

January 7, 2013 – January 20, 2013

Pay Date – January 24, 2013

The January 24 check will be a projected paycheck. This check will include overtime earned on the first week only. The February 7 check will be a regular paycheck but will include the adjustments for the January 24 check.

Gator Aider Games 2012 - When will I be paid for these?

Date	Opponent	Normal Pay Day	Projected PR?	When Gator Aider hours will be paid
1-Sep	Bowling Green	9/6/2012	YES	9/20/2012
22-Sep	Kentucky	10/4/2012	NO	10/4/2012
6-Oct	LSU	10/18/2012	NO	10/18/2012
20-Oct	South Carolina	11/1/2012	NO	11/1/2012
3-Nov	Missouri	11/15/2012	YES	11/15/2012
10-Nov	UL-Lafayette	11/15/2012	YES	11/29/2012
17-Nov	Jacksonville State	11/29/2012	NO	11/29/2012

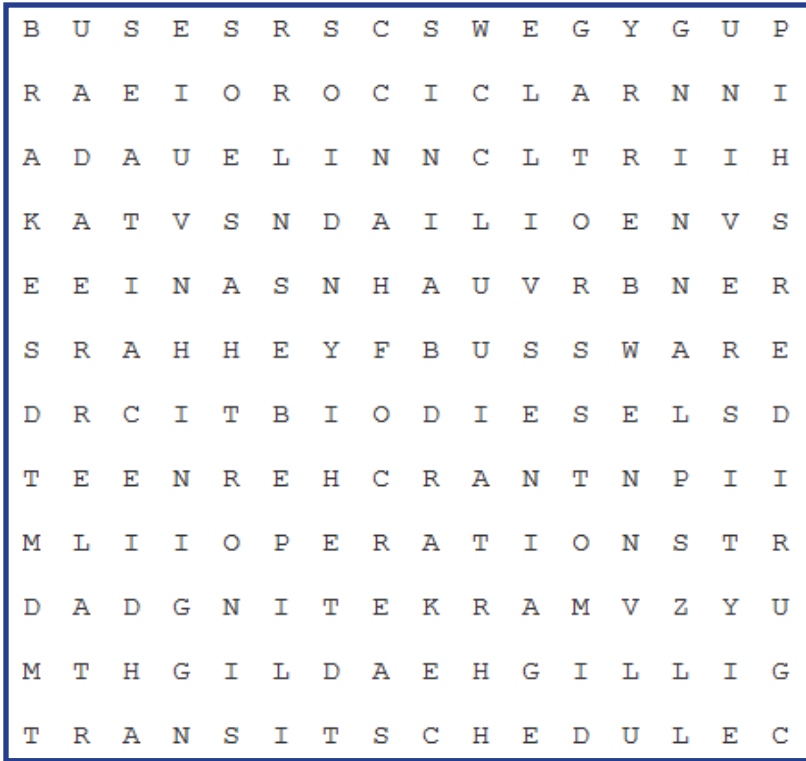
We still want to hear from you!

We are always looking for employee news for our next newsletter. We want RTS employees to have a voice in every issue.

Let us know about any recent marriages, births, retirements or any other exciting news, or even if you are interested in writing a guest article.

Contact Ali Ugarte, marketing and communications intern, at ugarteac@cityofgainesville.org so your news can be featured in the next newsletter.

Games



RTS Word Search

- ADA
- ARCHER
- BIODIESEL
- BRAKES
- BUSES
- DRIVERS
- FALL
- GAINESVILLE
- GATORS
- GILLIG
- HEADLIGHT
- HYBRID
- MAINTENANCE
- MARKETING
- MECHANICS
- NEWBERRY
- OPERATIONS
- PLANNING
- RIDERSHIP
- ROUTES
- RTS
- SCHEDULE
- SEAT
- TIRES
- TRANSIT
- TRANSLOC
- UNIVERSITY
- WINDSHIELD

RTS Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Giovanni L. Padron
- 04 Craig Pearson
- 08 Judy Roberts
- 11 Timothy J. Barre
- 12 William R. Bell
- 12 George Feliciano
- 13 Jarrod Dickey
- 14 Ashlei E. Swint
- 16 Lawrence Pahman Jr.
- 20 Eustache Mine
- 23 Jeffrey A. Powell
- 24 Leroy Corbett Jr.
- 25 Jason Chandler
- 25 Areatha Brown
- 26 Tammy D. McCants
- 26 Felomino Apolonio
- 27 Tracy Alexander
- 29 John McNally
- 29 Nicole Robinson
- 30 Ollie Robinson

OCTOBER

- 05 Douglas Fertig
- 06 Kathy White
- 07 Dwayne Grant
- 08 Ronald Parker
- 09 Luis Duran
- 09 Kathy Holmes
- 09 Ronda Carney
- 10 Thomas Beck
- 11 Joel Montes De Oca
- 13 Terry Hillyard
- 13 Kenneth Bieda
- 13 James Stopa
- 15 Julie Fletcher
- 17 Lee McMullen
- 19 Desiree Heyliger
- 19 Ray Bristow
- 19 Harry Penley
- 20 Columbus Watts
- 21 Henry Pete
- 25 Willie Johnson Jr.

- 25 Constance Kradolfer
- 27 Mildred Crawford
- 28 Bettchiben Meneses
- 28 Alice Foreman
- 30 John Detwiler

NOVEMBER

- 04 Jason Johnson
- 05 Johnny Boswell
- 06 Jesus Gomez
- 07 Elmore Reynolds
- 09 Mary Folz Donahue
- 12 McRobert Alphonse
- 12 Fredrickus Johnson
- 14 Dorothy Delaney
- 14 Lisa Brooks
- 14 Charles Luna
- 14 Eric Scott
- 16 Willie Scott
- 23 Kanjiram Mohana

DECEMBER

- 24 Mary Velez
- 24 Alex Booker
- 25 Sherry Desue
- 26 Angela Barron
- 27 Willie Johnson
- 03 James Thiboult
- 03 Eliza Williams
- 05 Anson Whitten
- 05 Katheryn Spencer
- 07 James Rowell
- 08 Robert Harrison
- 09 Melvin McCray Sr.
- 09 William McGee
- 12 Bobby Dobbins
- 13 Paula Kennan Horton
- 16 Aquila Alford
- 17 Janet Blakney
- 18 Harry Howell

- 19 Charles Hendrix
- 21 Tara Bryant
- 25 John Joiner
- 28 Stephen Langlois
- 28 Ronald Williams
- 30 Logan McCone
- 30 Theresa Harrison
- 31 Robert Skinner

