

## The Transit Planning Corner by Kryz Ochia, Transit Planning Manager

### Summer Changes: Phase 2 of RTS Summer Service



#### RTS Summer A Service started on May 5 will run until June 29

#### New Summer B service to start on June 30

Users of RTS bus services will observe significant changes when Summer B starts. The proposed changes were presented at two public meetings held on April 4 and May 8, and a third meeting held on May 28 to the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), a City Commission-appointed Board that advises the Regional Transit System.

The proposed changes include

- the combination of Routes 12, 34 and 35 to form a new Route 12

- routes 16 and 17 to merge into a new route 17
- routes 20 and 21 to merge into a new route 20
- routes 122 and 127 will become part of the UF Connector service system, while several routes (1, 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 17, 20, 33 and 75) will be realigned
- route 23 will be extended to the Oaks Mall (from Butler Plaza)

These proposals were presented to the City Commission on June 5, 2025.

#### FTA requirements for changes

RTS has a Service Change Policy that requires that if any change exceeds 5% of revenue miles or hours (compared to previous similar service period), the City

must submit a Title VI equity analysis study to the FTA (Federal Transit Authority) for approval. The proposed changes constitute a 25.4% reduction in service levels when compared to Summer 2024. As a result, RTS will prepare a study that addresses how the agency intends to address the impact of these changes on low-income and minority customers and submit a report for FTA approval.

The FTA also wants to ensure that RTS is not discriminating against customers based on their race or national origin. Simply put, the agency must not allow low-income and minority customers to bear a disproportionate amount of the burden created by the service reduction.

RTS will submit its report by September 30, 2025 as part of RTS' 2025-2028 Title VI Plan.

### Changes Around Town



#### University of Florida Bus Tech Upgrade

ID Card validators will be installed on RTS buses for UF Students and Staff.

#### Santa Fe College Kiosk Update

New information kiosks are coming to Santa Fe.

#### City Bus Stop Sign Updates

Bus stop sign route numbers will be removed from discontinued stops.

If you have questions, contact customer service at [\(352\) 334-2600](tel:352-334-2600) for more information.

#### Want to subscribe to the DOT newsletter?

To be added to our mailing list, you can join via the RTS apps or email us at [RTSNews@gainesvillefl.gov](mailto:RTSNews@gainesvillefl.gov).

## Parking and Planning

by Debbie Leistner, Transportation Planning & Parking Manager,  
Jessica Krauszer Planning Administrative Service Manager for Facilities

### Neighborhood Parking Permits on Sale July 15th



Applications for neighborhood zone parking permits for the Aug 1, 2025-July 31, 2026 program year will open July 15. Please visit

[gainesvillefl.gov/parkingpermits](https://gainesvillefl.gov/parkingpermits) for more information and to apply.

The permit grace period also begins July 15 and runs through the end of August.

Neighborhood zone permits are not required during this period but parking enforcement remains in effect for all other city parking rules and regulations.

If you have any questions prior to purchase, please contact Parking Operations at [parking@gainesvillefl.gov](mailto:parking@gainesvillefl.gov) or [352-334-2569](tel:352-334-2569).

## RTS Rundown

### 3rd Quarter Transportation FY25 Highlights

The City Transportation Department oversees and manages operations of the Regional Transit System (RTS), Fleet Management and Transportation Planning and Parking Operations.

The following are highlights of the projects accomplished or started during the 2025 Fiscal year:

#### Transportation Planning and Parking Operations:

- Working of federal grant to implement the reconfiguration of E University Ave

as a complete street, and to advance studies related to city-wide speed management and safety of vulnerable road users.

- Completed Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study along East/West University Ave and NW/SW 13th St.
- Advanced implementation of bike/ped projects in coordination with Public Works:
  - NW 8th Ave/NW 6th St
  - W 10th St./W 12th St one-way pair
  - 8th Ave resurfacing plus crossing Cofrin Park

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# Vision Zero Highlights

by Karla Rodrigues-Silva, Capital Projects Manager & Vision Zero Coord.  
Debbie Leistner, Transportation Planning and Parking Manager

## NE 15th Street Sidewalk



**CITY COMMISSION DISTRICT IV**  
A new sidewalk was constructed along NE 15th Street between NE 12th Avenue and NE 16th Avenue, closing a gap in the multimodal network and increasing accessibility and safety for the community.



**Completion:** 2025  
**Cost:** \$188,942.00

## North Main Street and North 4th Avenue



A new signalized pedestrian crossing was installed at N. Main St and N. 4th Ave to increase safety and accessibility.

**Completion:** 2025



New Crossing and Solar Powered Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

## RTS Rundown Continued

### Completed

- ADA ramps Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) funded; multiple locations)
- NW 42nd Ave sidewalk (FDOT funded)
- NE 15th St sidewalk (**Featured at left**)
- NW 2nd St sidewalk
- N Main St at N 4th Ave crosswalk (**Featured at left**)

### Programmed for Summer 2025

- SW 5th Ave sidewalk
- SW 10th St sidewalk
- SW 8th Ave raised crosswalk
- Completed update of Vision Zero plan and Speed reduction / Slow Zones Study
- NW 45th Ave sidewalk (FDOT funded)
- Finalized the City Valet parking ordinance
- Continue to monitor the micromobility program and propose improvements.
- Implemented changes to the downtown parking area.

### Fleet:

- Elimination of NAPA contract moving part operations in-house
- Implementation of new fuel system replacing existing legacy system
- Identified service efficiency by partnering with RTS accident and body repairs on vehicles reducing costs and vehicle downtime.
- Replaced 26 vehicles so far in 2025 with nearly half being Hybrid, further reducing fleet emissions.
- Working with Santa Fe College and Marion Technical College Automotive Programs to fill Fleet Intern positions

### Transit (RTS):

- Currently at 50% plans on the design of RTS Eastside Station
- Completed RTS ADA service study
- Completed the Transit Restoration and Transit Development Plans and implement recommendations within existing budget
- Completed construction of 83 of the 100 bus stop improvements (Phase 1)
- New bus stop shelters and bike racks ordered for bus stop improvements ETA July
- Design (Phase 2) of remaining bus stop improvements in progress
- Working on RFP for design and construction of solar canopy infrastructure
- Negotiating contract for farebox software and future farebox replacement
- 21 Hybrid buses and 3 Electric buses currently on order

# 100 DEADLIEST DAYS FOR TEEN DRIVERS

## TIPS TO KEEP TEEN DRIVERS SAFE

### Limit Passengers

When a teen driver has their friends in the car, the risk of a crash increases dramatically! Two additional passengers increase the risk of a crash by 158%.



### Eliminate Distractions

It's just not worth the risk! That text, TikTok, or email can wait. Instead, focus on driving, or pull over to a safe location if you must interact with your phone.



### Pay Attention

It only takes a second of driver inattention to trigger a fatal outcome. Scanning the road ahead helps you remain alert and be prepared for hazards or traffic conditions.



### Restrict Nighttime Driving

Reduced visibility, inexperience, and driver drowsiness are all factors that make driving at night more dangerous for teens.

Graduated Driver Licensing ensures teens drive during less dangerous hours until they have gained more experience on the road.



Curfew restrictions apply during nighttime driving hours for all licensed teens aged 16 & 17.

### Buckle Up

Using a safety belt is one of the most effective ways to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes. Encourage your teens to buckle up every trip, every time.



### Obey Posted Speed Limits

Speed is a factor in more than 33% of all fatal teen crashes. By paying attention and obeying all posted speed limits, we can all greatly reduce the likelihood of being involved in a crash.



### Never Drive Impaired

Drugs and alcohol can alter your ability, perception, attention, coordination, reaction time, and other skills needed to drive alert and safe. Never ride with an impaired driver and always have a plan to get home safe!

Parents, make sure your teen knows they can count on you for a safe ride!



## REMINDERS

### Juneteenth • June 19, 2025

- City of Gainesville offices will be closed in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.
- No RTS service on Juneteenth.
- Trash pick-up is set for regular schedule.

