



City of Gainesville
Regional Transit System Advisory Board Meeting
MINUTES

March 26, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
RTS Administration Building
34 S.E 13th Road, Gainesville, FL 32601

Members Present:	Marley Concha, Sarah Erekson, Logan Ladnyk, Michael Lim, Oscar Santiago Perez, Harrison Scoville, Casey Werner
Members Absent:	Christy Haven
Others Present:	Adriel Genao, County Appointee, in at 5:34 pm, out at 6:10 pm

A. CALL TO ORDER

at 5:34 pm

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Harrison Scoville

Seconded by Michael Lim

Motion: The Regional Transit System Advisory Board adopt the agenda.

Approved as Recommended

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: 20 NOV 2024

Moved by Harrison Scoville

Seconded by Michael Lim

Recommendation: The Regional Transit System Advisory Board approve the minutes from the November 20, 2024, meeting.

D. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2025-05 - Staff Updates (B)

Ms. Millie Crawford, ADA Paratransit Coordinator, shared that the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) delivered the final report on the Demand Response Service Management and Delivery Analysis. This study is being evaluated for the purpose of determining whether it is more cost effective to operate the paratransit service in-house or continue to outsource. (Send Final Report to board members)

Mr. Krys Ochia, Transit Planning Manager, distributed copies of RTS's Proposed Service Changes for Summer A and Summer B. Because Summer B's schedule represents a major change – defined as greater than a 5% change to revenue hours – public hearings will be held, and an equity study must be conducted in accordance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) standards if that level of change holds. (Provide copies of Summer A & B proposed services changes)

Ms. Arielle Hernandez, Transit Planning Assistant, gave a brief presentation on Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and explained that the FTA requires recipients of federal funds to establish a “DBE Participation Goal” every three (3) years. Ms. Hernandez explained the methodology, calculation and timelines involved and how they relate to RTS. (Refer to slides in meeting handout) Oscar Santiago Perez asked a follow-up question concerning this program and any effect the current, federal administration has on it. Francis Donahue, Transit Grants Program Specialist, replied that in addition to being a program passed by Congress and not subject to being overturned by Executive Order, the language being targeted by the current administration does not intersect with this program, at least for now.

Mr. Donahue continued, providing a brief presentation on RTS's Program of Projects (POP). RTS is required by FTA to have public hearings on its proposed use of federal funds. This year's appropriation is only estimated and could be more or less than what was received last year. (Refer to POP in meeting handout) Harrison Scoville voiced concern about the current, federal administration not distributing transportation funds. Director Gomez replied that, although discretionary funding might become competitive, he didn't think operating funds would be effected.

Mr. Tom Idoyaga, Transit Marketing & Communications Specialist, shared that he's working on several priority projects currently: the Summer Schedules, the Over65/Under18 Program, the Santa Fe Arts Festival April 12 & 13, schedules tailored for various community flyers and modifying the RTS web site and apps for 2026 ADA Compliance.

Ms. Helen Harris, Assistant Operations Manager, informed the board members that there are 132 drivers currently on staff, representing a slow, continued decline in the number of employees. The Operations Staff continue to recruit and interview weekly, but hiring drivers is still a struggle. The candidates are either no-shows for scheduled interviews or fail their background/drug test(s). Director Gomez interjected that transit turnover is generally 20-25% and recruiting/hiring is a usual, continuous process at the best of economic times.

Director Gomez informed the board members that RTS is moving forward with the design phase of the Eastside Transfer Station, which could be under construction by the end of the year. Also, about 70 bus stops out of 100 are completed and, although construction funds are running out, the designs should be complete and ADA-compliant. Director Gomez mentioned that the city is beginning FY2026 budget discussions and departments will be hearing more from the city manager in the coming weeks.

Recommendation: Board Members receive updates from staff and ask questions.

Heard

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the visually impaired community asked Tom Idoyaga for clarification on how RTS's web site would be ADA-compliant and what that would mean for sight-impaired people. Tom explained briefly about web site compliance with ADA standards for font type, size, color and contrast. Mr. Idoyaga also stated he's researching the Recite widget for the web site and mobile app, which allows text-to-speech conversion options for sight impaired people. A side discussion occurred separately from the main meeting.

F. MEMBER COMMENT

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATE: 28 MAY 2025 (proposed)

Date confirmed for next meeting - Wednesday, May 28

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.