



City of Gainesville
Regional Transit System Advisory Board Meeting
MINUTES

March 25, 2026, 5:45 p.m.
RTS Administration Building
34 S.E 13th Road, Gainesville, FL 32601

Members Present: Christy Haven, Mike Loizzo, Oscar
Santiago Perez, Harrison Scoville

Members Absent: Sarah Erekson, Michael Lim, Casey
Werner

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:56 pm.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Harrison Scoville
Seconded by Christy Haven

Approved

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from January 28, 2026

Moved by Harrison Scoville
Seconded by Mike Loizzo

Approved

D. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jesus Gomez – ADA service started March 1. There's been a 40% increase in trips compared to last March (MV trips).

Millie Crawford – RTS started providing service in February since MV was challenged providing trips. No MV drivers applied for jobs with RTS even though opportunities were offered. The RTS staff is working through growing pains as issues arise. Customer service hours are now 8:00 am to 4:00 pm every day, including weekends, to accommodate requests.

Roy Darnold – We need more staff and drivers as paratransit ridership is much higher than anticipated based on the data we received from MV. We are learning as we go and the service continues to improve. We've received great feedback from the passengers so far.

Krys Ochia – General updates on ridership, TDP, NTD, and upcoming service changes for the next semester provided to board members. The GAC-TPO is looking at how RTS will provide service in the future, including a study on options to become an authority, funding, etc. We will keep board members updated as they will be looking for participation from stakeholders.

Charles Moore – updated board members on customer service hour changes (as mentioned earlier by Millie) and gave report.

Helen Harris – Reported that taking on Paratransit has put an additional strain on Operations as drivers are trying to cover the fixed route service and fill in the gaps in the Paratransit service.

Jesus Gomez – RTS received a \$10.2M grant recently. The bulk of the funding will be used toward construction of a Westside transfer station. We are still working actively on securing a location for that project. The other grant monies will be used to finish all the necessary bus stop improvements to achieve 100% ADA compliance and to purchase 2 additional paratransit vans. The solar canopy project for the employee parking lot is moving along and a vendor contract is on the City Commission agenda for approval in April. We had an FDOT Triennial Review last week that went very well, with only a few minor issues that require attention. We're working on renewing the Santa Fe College agreement. The bid package for the final bus stop improvements project should be done soon and hope to circulate this summer. We are leasing buses to Broward County Transit to help with revenue shortages.

Tom Idoyaga – Working on the new ADA rollout and outreach the last few months. RTS achieved 100% compliance on the website (we use ReciteMe plug in) far in advance of the federal deadline of "April 24, 2026, for state and local governments with 50,000 or more residents." Very proud of this accomplishment.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

General questions about the NW Transfer Station project. Director Gomez went over the challenges with the project, specifically that land well situated is either unavailable or extremely expensive. The city is still in discussions with UF, regarding the possibility of buying or leasing a portion of land situated on Tower Road.

F. MEMBER COMMENT

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATE Scheduled for May 27, 2026

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm by the Chairperson.