



City of Gainesville
Regional Transit System Advisory Board Meeting
MINUTES

September 23, 2026, 5:45 p.m.
RTS Administration Building
34 S.E 13th Road, Gainesville, FL 32601

Members Present: Sarah Erikson, Mike Loizzo, Oscar Santiago
Perez, Harrison Scoville, Erica Townes, Casey
Werner

Members Absent: Christy Haven, Michael Lim

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Chairperson Oscar Santiago Perez.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Harrison Scoville

Seconded by Sarah Erikson

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

Approved

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of July 22, 2026

Moved by Harrison Scoville

Seconded by Mike Loizzo

Motion: The Regional Transit System Advisory Board approve the minutes from the July 22, 2026, meeting.

Approved

D. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS

Staff Updates

ADA: Millie Crawford – ADA Service is very busy. New people are calling every day to become certified for transport. The average number of daily trips is up to 250 conservatively.

Customer Service: Charles Moore – “Left behind at stop” and “Failure to stop to pick up” top the list of fixed route complaints, although further investigation revealed the majority to be invalid. ADA complaints centered mostly around services not provided by RTS such as carrying groceries.

A discussion ensued concerning bus stop shelters and visibility of riders waiting inside the shelters. Some shelters are known to have more shadows and new transit operators are coached to slow down and look more carefully when approaching these specific shelters.

Grants: Francis Donahue – brief status update provided

Jesus Gomez – East Side Station construction activity beginning in November; Bus Stop Improvement Phases 2/3 beginning in October; environmental studies and other pre-construction activity occurring in advance of Solar Canopy project; getting ready for Farebox Upgrade on buses

Planning: Krys Ochia – ridership report update

Marketing: Tom Idoyaga – East Side Station Groundbreaking Event – Friday, October 23 at 10:00a, just south of UF Health Urgent Care Center on the East Side, in the vicinity of SE 20th Street and SE 6th Avenue. In addition to the ceremony for the new station, there will be numerous displays. News releases are going out soon. Everyone is welcome.

- RTS Maintenance Dept ASE Blue Seal of Excellence Award
- RTS Plus Shuttle and table event
- Bus Shelter and ADA Compliance examples
- Solar Canopy Sample

Operations: Roy Darnold – ADA Operations going smoothly; several smaller vans coming in soon – more fuel efficient, easier to get around in rural areas than current RTS Shuttle vans; 24 operator vacancies trying to fill

Bus Fare Increase Follow-Up Presentation: Jesus Gomez

Director Gomez provided a follow-up presentation to the board members on the proposed bus fare increase topic. He shared the results of meetings with City Commission, public outreach meetings and community surveys (see presentation).

RTS is recommending modest fare increases to City Commission. The alternative is that the city will have to fund any shortfall, if it can.

Member Harrison Scoville commented that communicating clearly to the general public will be important. Chairperson Oscar Santiago Perez followed up by stating that it's important to frame the fare increase so that the public understands RTS isn't trying to make transit more difficult, but simply preserve the routes and frequency that exist currently. Member Erica Townes suggested the modest increases may not be a hard sell to experienced riders.

Charles Moore wants to craft a strong educational campaign for the public so that they will understand why millions of dollars may arrive in grant funding for capital projects, but routes are still in danger of being cut.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which time board members and staff discussed a variety of topics and their potential impact on the RTS budget.

Moved by Sarah Erekson

Seconded by Mike Loizzo

Motion: Approve the staff recommendation of moving forward with the proposed fare increase structure.

Approved

Member Sarah Erekson had to leave at 6:49 pm.

Member Harrison Scoville suggested reaching out to the following people and organizations to see about distributing the RTS survey further into the community.

- Commissioner Eastman
- Commissioner Willits
- Senior Center
- Center for Independent Living
- Gainesville Citizens for Active Transportation (GCAT)
- Veterans Administration (VA)
- Alachua County School Board
- Pride Festival on October 3

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Aaron Dozier expressed concern about an incident with a belligerent rider which took place while he and his daughter were riding the #5 bus from East Gainesville. Mr. Dozier continued on, commenting about jurisdiction and the safety of the bus operators as well as riders.

F. MEMBER COMMENT

Member Erica Townes commented that recent initiatives and programs which resulted in more riders carrying various bus passes or other rider documentation have reduced incidents of civil disobedience tremendously. She has confidence in the bus operators' abilities to handle situations or call for assistance if necessary. Her middle school age son rides the buses successfully.

G. NEXT MEETING DATE November 18, 2026

at 5:45 pm

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm by Chairperson Oscar Santiago Perez.

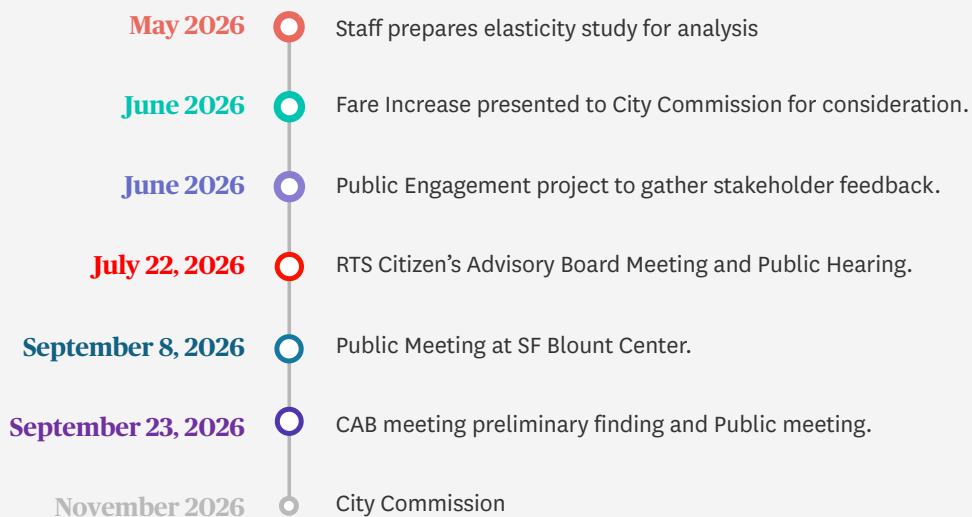
City of Gainesville

Transportation Department

Jesus Gomez | Transportation Director

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Projected timeline - Fare Increase Project



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Proposed Fare Structure

Customer & Fare Type	Rate since Oct. 1, 2008	Proposed Rate for Oct. 1, 2026
One Way Fare	\$1.50	\$2.00
All Day Pass	\$3.00	\$5.00
Monthly Pass	\$35.00	\$50.00
Student Semester Pass (Current) 3-Month Pass (New)	\$60.00	\$100.00
Discount One Way	\$0.75	\$1.00
Discount Monthly Pass	\$17.50	\$25.00

Note: Discounted passes are available for Seniors, Medicare/Medicaid, or Students with ID.

Propose replacing a student only pass limited to specific semester dates with a 3-month (90 Day) Pass for everyone

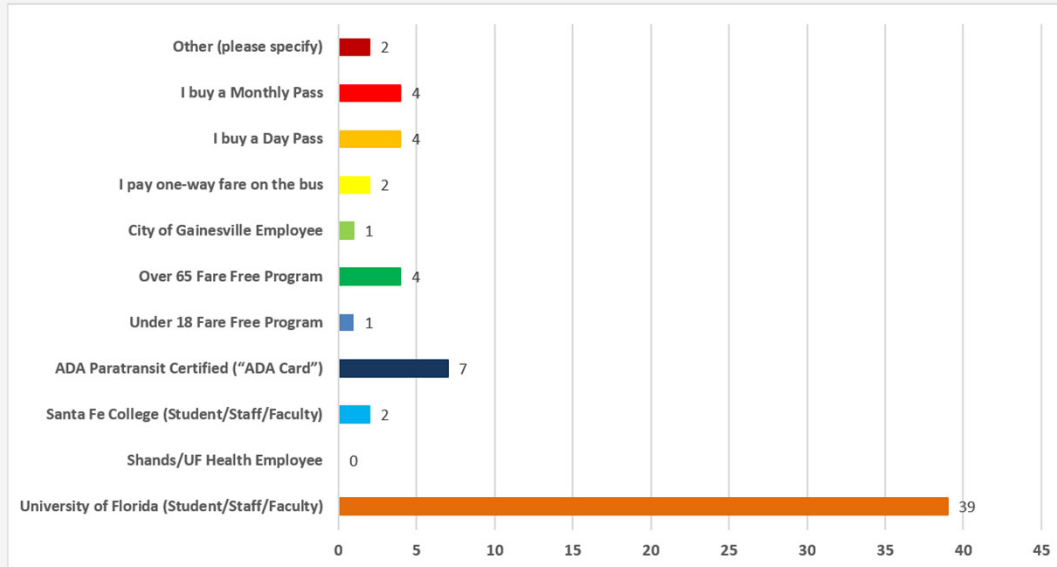
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Fare Increase Comments

- No Fare Increases since FY2009 (18 years)
- **Public Hearing:**
 - 1 person showed to public meeting at SF. No concerns with the proposed changes
- **Survey:**
 - 7 Questions
 - 66 Responses
 - 39 Were UF Students (59%)
 - 48 Do not buy passes (73%)
 - 52 Would like a tap to pay option (79%)
 - 43 Use transit more than 6 times per week (65%)
 - Riders preferred increases rather than eliminate or reduce service
 - Riders will continue to ride if price increase

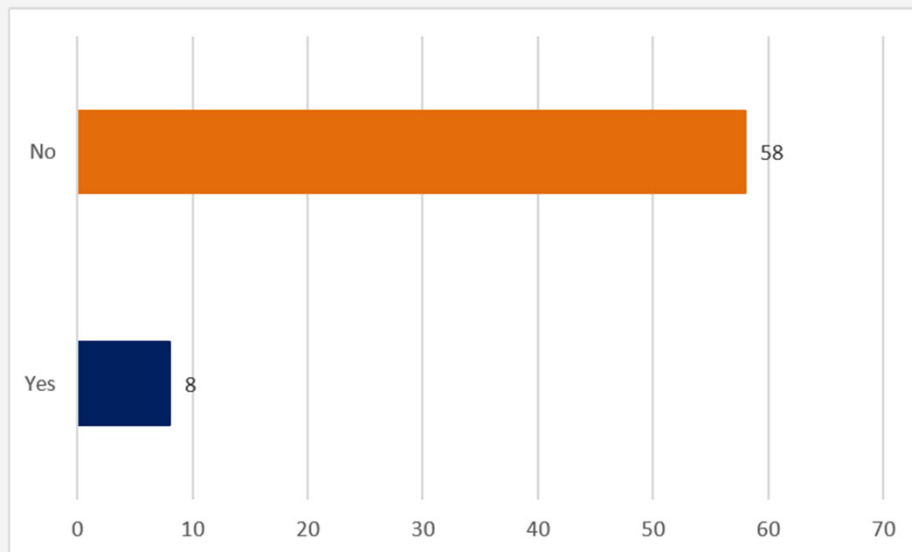
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Q1: Do you pay for your fares directly or do you participate in any of the following programs? Please choose the option which applies to the majority of the trips you take on RTS:



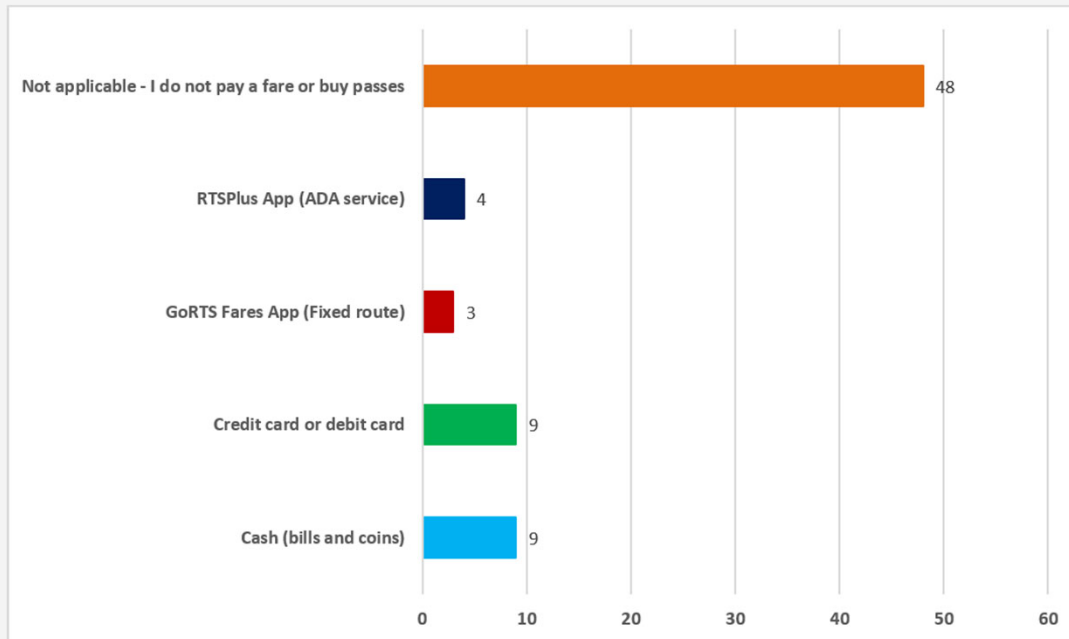
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Q2: During the last month, did you pay for a fare or pass?



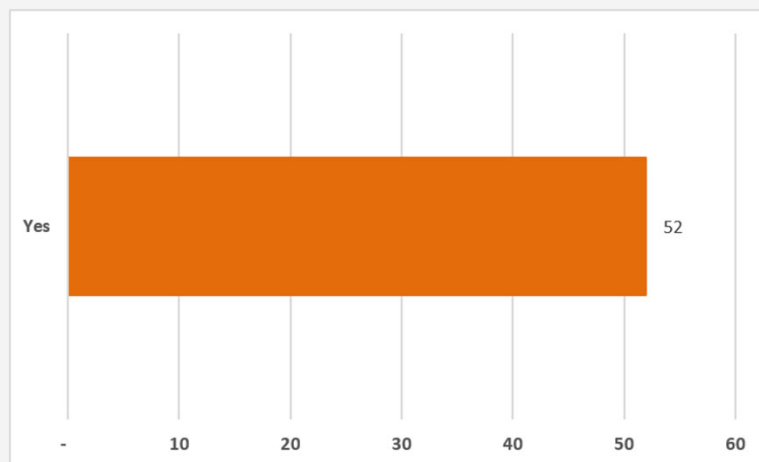
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Q3: If you pay for fares or passes, what method did you use to pay?



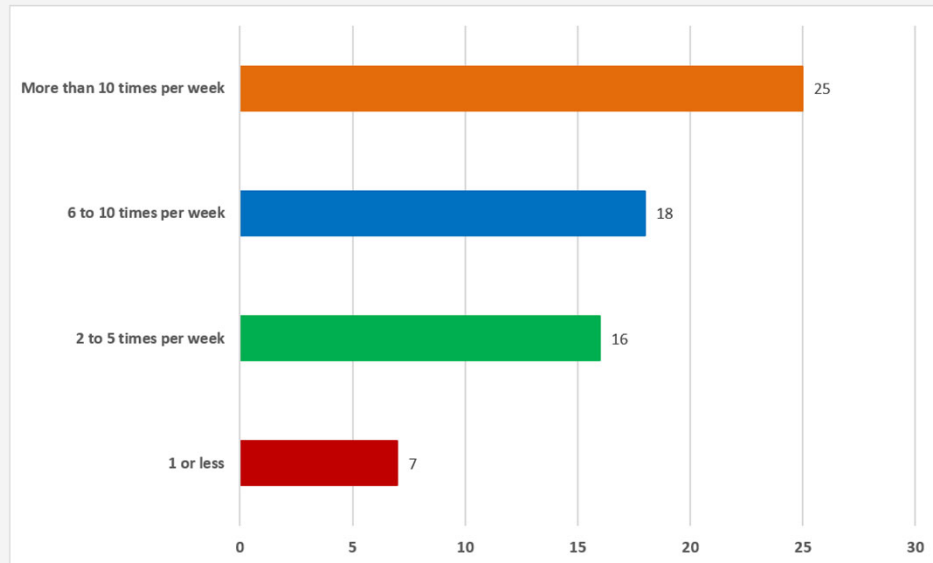
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Q4: If RTS offered Tap to Pay on the bus, such as Google Pay, Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, etc, how likely are you to use it?



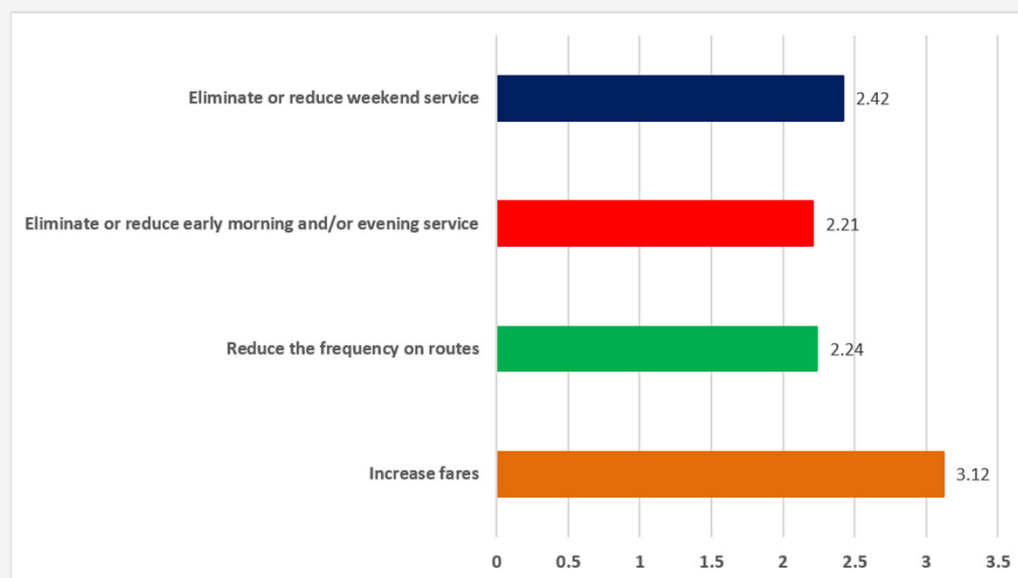
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Q5: How many times per week do you ride an RTS bus? Please count every time you board the bus.



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Q6: Please rank the following options by preference where the top is the best option and the bottom is the worst option. Use arrows to move options up and down.



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