City of Gainesville
Regional Transit System Advisory
Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 5:45 PM
RTS Administration Building
34 SE 13th Road
Gainesville, FL 32601

Members
Chairperson Oscar Santiago Perez
Member Sarah Erekson
Member Christy Haven
Member Mike Loizzo
Member Harrison Scoville
Member Erica Townes
Member Casey Werner

If you have a disability and need accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at (352) 334-5051 at least two business days in advance. TTY (Text Telephone Telecommunication Device) users please call 711 (Florida Relay Service). For Speech to Speech (STS) relay, please call 1-877-955-5334. For STS Spanish relay, please call 1-877-955-8773. For STS French Creole relay, please call 1-877-955-8707.

A. Call to Order

B. Adoption of the Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

D. Business Discussion Items

1. **39-2026 RTS Staff Updates**

Description: RTS Staff will provide the latest news and information affecting Operations, Customer Service, Planning, Marketing, Finance and Budget

Recommendation: RTS Citizens' Advisory Board Members receive information from RTS Staff, ask questions and provide feedback.

2. **38-2026 Election of Officers for 2027**

Description: Board Members nominate and vote for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to serve during calendar year 2027.

Recommendation: The board members nominate and elect a new chairperson and vice chairperson to serve during the calendar year 2027.

3. **764-2026 5310 Capital Grant Application Public Hearing Notice**

Description: 5310 Capital Grant Application Public Hearing Notice

E. Member Comment

F. Public Comment

G. Next Meeting Date

Wednesdays: Jan 27, Mar 24, May 26, Jul 28, Sep 22, and Nov 17

H. Adjournment

** DRAFT **

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 Erekson, 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 Erekson

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; in addition to the ceremony for the new station, there will be numerous displays

- 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 – Operations going smoothly; several smaller vans coming in – 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 proposed fare increase structure.

Approved

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

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

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.