LEGISLATIVE ID

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EMPLOYEE BUS PASS PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT

Reference: F. P. No.: 40852418401, Contract # AI 258
June 1, 2000 – December 17, 2012

Purpose

This report provides details on the performance of the City of Gainesville's Regional Transit System (RTS) Employee Bus Pass Program, which offers employees of participating local organizations unlimited prepaid access to all fixed route bus services. Participating local organizations include the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, University of Florida, Shands Healthcare, North Florida and South Georgia Veterans Health System, hereafter referred to as the Veterans Administration, the Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board (FloridaWorks), the Oaks Mall, Job Corps and Skanska Construction.

Overview

The Employee Pass Program was created to encourage employees to use transit as an alternative to automobiles and thereby alleviate traffic congestion and parking problems at the University of Florida and in downtown Gainesville. The program aims to recover revenue at a rate per employee near half of full fare for a one-way trip, which is $0.75 per employee trip.

Participation History

The program was implemented in January 24, 2000 and employees at the University of Florida were the first group to participate in the Employee Bus Pass Program. The City of Gainesville's participation began on April 3, 2000 followed by Alachua County on July 24, 2000 and the Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board on September 11, 2000. The Veterans Administration joined the program in May 2, 2005 and Shands Healthcare joined in February 1, 2006. In 2011, RTS added four new employee pass program participants: Job Corps; Santa Fe College (SFC); the Oaks Mall; and Skanska. The Job Corps began its program in February 2011 by purchasing access for 100 participants. SFC began the program in July 2011 to provide unlimited transit access to 1,020 Faculty and Staff members. The Oaks Mall began its program in August 2011 for 350 participants. Skanska, a worldwide construction firm with several projects in Gainesville, began the program in December 2011 with 100 participants.

The University of Florida (UF) Employee Bus Pass Program was expanded on October 1, 2007 to include 1,649 spouses and partners of UF students, faculty and staff unlimited prepaid use of the RTS regular fixed routes, UF campus routes, and Later Gator route service. The UF program was expanded again in 2011 to include over 2,200 UF retirees. Skanska expanded their employee program twice in 2012 by adding 100 employees in February and another 100 in October. Skanska currently has 350 employees enrolled in the program.

Performance Analysis

Over 3 million passenger trips have occurred since the Employee Pass Program began in 2000. Since January 2000, employees at the University of Florida have used the transit system for over 1.53 million passenger trips. Since April 2000 through December 2012, 555,676 passenger trips were completed by participants from the City, County, Veterans Administration, and Job Corps. Since the beginning of the program employee participation at the University of Florida has increased from 2,151 trips in January 2000 to a high of 23,690 monthly trips in April 2010. Program participation by City of Gainesville, Alachua County, Veterans Administration employees, and Job Corps has increased from 854 trips in August 2000 to as high as 12,785 trips in October 2012. In order to separately track the Shands Healthcare employee usage, RTS began tracking FloridaWorks participants differently in August 2012. All non-photo id passes are tracked together as of August 2012. The change had no effect on ridership as usage by both Shands and Floridaworks remains strong. Table 1 provides monthly passenger trip counts by employer program.

Table 1: Passengers per Month

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City/County and FloridaWorks Passengers
January (24-31) 2000	2,151	N/A
February 2000	5,553	N/A
March 2000	6,123	N/A
April 2000	5,305	488
May 2000	5,060	432
June 2000	4,863	572
July 2000	4,954	712
August 2000	6,396	854
September 2000	6,999	800
October 2000	7,597	1,079
November 2000	7,229	1,077
December 2000	5,611	1,034
Total 2000	**67,841**	**7,048**

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City/County and FloridaWorks Passengers
January 2001	7,258	1,158
February 2001	7,822	1,174
March 2001	7,939	1,361
April 2001	7,811	1,482
May 2001	6,339	1,440
June 2001	5,618	1,432
July 2001	6,122	1,570
August 2001	7,371	1,919
September 2001	7,616	1,582
October 2001	9,880	1,847
November 2001	8,641	2,318
December 2001	6,580	1,367
Total 2001	**88,997**	**18,650**
January 2002	7,514	1,268
February 2002	7,396	1,280
March 2002	8,361	1,460
April 2002	9,647	1,655
May 2002	6,918	1,288
June 2002	6,208	1,273
July 2002	7,398	1,108
August 2002	8,300	1,303
September 2002	8,557	1,076
October 2002	10,770	1,296
November 2002	8,588	992
December 2002	7,811	1,025
Total 2002	**97,468**	**15,024**

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City and County Passengers	FloridaWorks
January 2003	8,526	1,056	270
February 2003	8,809	821	703
March 2003	8,852	893	121
April 2003	9,615	1,106	597
May 2003	7,955	969	526
June 2003	8,990	875	1,367
July 2003	10,145	1,094	2,496
August 2003	9,201	1,006	4,105
September 2003	12,233	1,230	3,506
October 2003	12,942	1,111	4,350
November 2003	8,984	973	3,452
December 2003	8,353	1,075	4,171
Total 2003	**114,605**	**12,209**	**25,664**
January 2004	8,864	935	3,510
February 2004	9,799	977	3,741
March 2004	10,910	1,125	4,565
April 2004	11,093	1,506	3,235
May 2004	7,902	828	398
June 2004	8,764	871	1,201
July 2004	8,547	921	2,739
August 2004	9,904	1,101	3,749
September 2004	11,455	1,128	3,553
October 2004	12,170	1,157	4,286
November 2004	10,927	1,118	3,959
December 2004	8,061	988	3,885
Total 2004	**118,396**	**12,655**	**38,821**

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	FloridaWorks
January 2005	10,118	1,061	3,158
February 2005	9,380	893	3,194
March 2005	11,142	1,115	3,352
April 2005	11,108	985	2,925
May 2005	7,283	1,442	4,027
June 2005	7,542	1,621	2,285
July 2005	7,672	1,598	2,216
August 2005	9,369	1,972	2,852
September 2005	9,941	2,391	2,511
October 2005	10,312	2,504	2,878
November 2005	9,699	2,558	2,510
December 2005	7,797	2,281	3,190
Total 2005	**111,363**	**20,421**	**35,098**

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Shands Healthcare / FloridaWorks (Shands began February 1, 2006)
January 2006	8,796	2,740	3,224
February 2006	9,673	3,068	4,707
March 2006	12,007	3,618	5,958
April 2006	9,981	3,047	4,993
May 2006	9,325	3,361	5,830
June 2006	9,344	3,104	2,665
July 2006	8,543	3,180	3,200
August 2006	10,860	4,343	4,436
September 2006	11,342	4,248	4,621
October 2006	12,932	4,290	5,197
November 2006	11,375	3,738	4,264
December 2006	8,342	3,567	6,535
Total 2006	**122,520**	**42,304**	**55,630**
Month	**University of Florida Passengers**	**City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers**	**Shands Healthcare / FloridaWorks**
January 2007	10,463	3,785	5,127
February 2007	10,784	4,131	3,822
March 2007	11,057	4,751	3,896
April 2007	11,051	4,429	3,768
May 2007	9,456	4,527	4,101
June 2007	9,650	4,620	3,174
July 2007	10,646	4,632	3,355
August 2007	12,606	5,405	4,010
September 2007	12,461	4,581	3,390
October 2007^ (UF Change)	14,560	5,529	4,406
November 2007	12,559	4,086	4,255
December 2007	9,848	4,392	5,015
Total 2007	**135,141**	**54,868**	**48,319**

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Shands Healthcare / FloridaWorks
January 2008	14,485	4,447	7,624
February 2008	13,731	3,962	6,817
March 2008	12,507	4,450	6,862
April 2008	14,281	4,629	6,068
May 2008	11,506	4,273	5,740
June 2008	11,749	4,627	4,614
July 2008	14,160	5,481	3,715
August 2008	10,617	5,977	4,260
September 2008	12,342	6,529	6,093
October 2008	13,725	6,852	8,434
November 2008	10,673	5,439	5,202
December 2008	10,033	5,734	6,245
Total 2008	**149,809**	**62,400**	**71,674**
Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Shands Healthcare / FloridaWorks
January 2009	10,801	5,060	6,520
February 2009	11,421	5,285	6,831
March 2009	12,274	5,830	7,656
April 2009	11,997	5,970	9,398
May 2009	8,719	5,697	9,120
June 2009	9,948	6,231	7,975
July 2009	11,369	6,068	6,484
August 2009	11,167	5,612	10,466
September 2009	14,661	6,370	12,029
October 2009	15,126	6,590	16,473
November 2009	12,609	5,681	17,166
December 2009	11,189	5,972	20,344
Total 2009	**141,281**	**70,366**	**130,462**

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Shands Healthcare / FloridaWorks
January 2010	10,946	6,296	21,715
February 2010	11,978	6,072	21,412
March 2010	13,013	7,048	23,191
April 2010	13,141	6,862	23,690
May 2010	10,579	5,862	21,933
June 2010	10,965	6,398	16,727
July 2010	12,500	6,423	8,975
August 2010	11,145	6,325	10,510
September 2010	11,679	7,145	12,810
October 2010	11,552	6,653	13,133
November 2010	11,128	5,802	12,918
December 2010	8,932	5,264	12,885
Total 2010	**137,558**	**76,150**	**199,899**
Month	University of Florida Passengers	City/GRU, County, Veterans Administration, SFC, Oaks Mall, Skanska and Job Corps Passengers	Shands Healthcare / FloridaWorks
January 2011	11,229	5,471	15,237
February 2011	10,976	5,288	13,249
March 2011	11,786	5,921	14,977
April 2011	11,142	6,149	15,050
May 2011	10,347	4,810	14,111
June 2011	10,479	4,664	13,372
July 2011	9,526	4,849	10,411
August 2011	11,110	7,049	12,965
September 2011	11,149	6,674	13,951
October 2011	11,293	7,091	14,420
November 2011	11,002	6,322	13,416
December 2011	8,643	6,307	13,178
Total 2011	**128,682**	**70,595**	**164,337**

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City/GRU, County, Veterans Administration, SFC, Oaks Mall, Skanska, Job Corps and FloridaWorks Passengers	Shands Healthcare / FloridaWorks (until 8/1/12)
January 2012	11,488	6,307	14,467
February 2012	11,210	6,385	13,964
March 2012	11,210	6,424	15,552
April 2012	10,772	6,570	14,711
May 2012	8,948	5,997	14,152
June 2012	8,299	5,544	13,606
July 2012	8,898	6,429	10,664
#August 2012	9,849	10,028	11,138
September 2012	10,214	11,065	10,197
October 2012	12,915	12,785	13,356
November 2012	10,007	10,980	10,709
*December 2012	*7,294*	*8,870*	*6,541*
*Total 2012 (*YTD*)	*121,104*	*97,384*	*149,057*
Program Totals (2000 – 2012)	**1,534,765**	**560,074**	**918,961**

Note:
Effective August 1, 2012, RTS began tracking FloridaWorks with other paper pass programs
^ Effective October 1, 2007, the University of Florida agreed to fund prepaid unlimited access for 1,649 spouses and partners of students, faculty and staff.
*December 2012 through 12/19/2012.
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Cost Analysis

Table 2 shows the cost for the eleventh consecutive year of the program. The cost of this service is based on $6.75 per employee for 31,916 employees totaling $214,983.00 for calendar year 2012.

Table 2: Total Cost – Eleventh Year (2012)

Employee Group	Number of Employees	Cost/Employee	Total Cost
University of Florida	12,570	$6.75	$84,847.50
University of Florida (spouses and partners)	1,649	$6.75	$11,130.75
University of Florida (retirees)	2,282	$6.75	$15,403.50
Shands Hospital	8,109	$6.75	$54,735.75
Veterans Administration	2,630	$6.75	$17,752.50
City of Gainesville	1,324	$6.75	$ 8,937.00
FloridaWorks (Workforce Board)	370	$6.75	$ 2,497.50
Alachua County	200	$6.75	$ 1,350.00
GRU	862	$6.75	$ 5,818.50
Santa Fe (Faculty & Staff)	1,020	$6.75	$6,885.00
Oaks Mall	350	$6.75	$2,362.50
Job Corps	200	$6.75	$1,350.00
Total	**31,916**	**$6.75**	**$214,983.00**

Note: The Employee Pass Program cost per employee increased in January 2009 from $4.50 to $6.75 per employee. This fifty percent rate increase is due to cash fare and passes rate increases implemented in October 2008.

The projected cost per trip in calendar year in 2012, for all employees, is $0.58. For UF employees, including spouses or partners and retirees, the cost per trip was $0.92, for City of Gainesville/GRU, Alachua County, Veterans Administration, SFC, Oaks Mall, Skanska, FloridaWorks (for 4 months) and Job Corps employees the cost per trip was $0.48 and approximately $0.38 for Shands Healthcare employees and FloridaWorks (for 8 months) participants.

In summary, the goal of this program is to provide all program participants with unlimited access to the transit system and diminish the cost per trip compared to the regular bus fare of $1.50. Overall, this program goal continues to be met annually.