

EMPLOYEE BUS PASS PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT

**Reference: F. P. No.: 40852418401, Contract # AI 258
June 1, 2000 – December 31, 2007**

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 Hospital, North Florida and South Georgia Veterans Health System, hereafter referred to as the Veterans Administration, and the Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board.

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. University of Florida employees were the first group to participate in the Employee Bus Pass Program, which has been in effect since January 24, 2000. 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 Hospital joined in February 1, 2006.

The University of Florida Employee Bus Pass Program was expanded on October 1, 2007 to include 1,705 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.

Performance Analysis

There have been a total of over 1.24 million passengers trips completed since the Employee Pass Program began in 2000. Since January 2000, employees at the University of Florida have used the transit system for approximately 857,104 passenger trips. Since April 2000, approximately 183,262 passenger trips were completed by employees of the City, County, or Veterans Administration. Since the beginning of the program employee monthly participation at the University of Florida has increased from 2,151 trips in January 2000 to 14,560 trips in October 2007. Program participation by City of Gainesville, Alachua County, and Veterans Administration employees has increased from 854 trips in August 2000 to over 5,500 trips in October 2007. Together the Shands Hospital and Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board programs have transported an estimated total of 48,678 passengers in 2007. Although participation dropped inexplicably by twelve percent in 2007, it remained 39 percent higher than the participation level in 2005. Table 1 provides monthly passenger trip counts by employer program:

Table 1. Passengers per Month

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City/County 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
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, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Workforce Board / Shands Hospital (Shands began February 1, 2006)
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	4,556
November 2003	8,984	973	3,460
December 2003	8,353	1,075	4,183
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
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	Workforce Board / Shands Hospital (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
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*	10,621	4,475	5,374
Total 2007*	135,914	54,951	48,678
Program Totals (2000 – 2007)	857,104	183,262	203,891

Note:

*Estimates based on actual available data through December 27, 2007 and past performance figures.

^ Effective October 1, 2007, the University of Florida agreed to fund prepaid unlimited access for 1,705 spouses and partners of students, faculty and staff.

Cost Analysis

Table 2 shows the cost for the eighth consecutive year of the program. The cost of this service is based on \$4.50 per employee for 28,899 employees totaling \$124,291.13 for year 2007. The University of Florida expanded its pass program on October 1, 2007 to include spouses and partners of UF students, faculty and staff. As a result of this change, the cost per UF spouse/partner has been prorated for the remainder of the 2007 calendar year.

Table 2. Total Cost – Eighth Year (2007)

Employee Group	Number of Employees	Cost/Employee	Total Cost
University of Florida	13,000	\$4.50	\$58,500.00
University of Florida (spouses and partners)	1,705	\$4.50	\$ 1,918.13 (Oct 1 – Dec 31 only)
Shands Hospital	7,949	\$4.50	\$35,770.50
Veterans Administration	2,000	\$4.50	\$ 9,000.00
City of Gainesville	1,397	\$4.50	\$ 6,286.50
Workforce Board	1,000	\$4.50	\$ 4,500.00
Alachua County	1,000	\$4.50	\$ 4,500.00
GRU	848	\$4.50	\$ 3,816.00
Total	28,899	\$4.50	\$124,291.13

The estimated cost per trip for all employees was \$0.52. For UF employees, including spouses and partners from October 1, to December 31, the cost per trip was \$0.44, for City of Gainesville, Alachua County and Veterans Administration employees the cost per trip was \$0.43, and \$0.82 for Shands Hospital and the Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board.

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 \$1.00. Overall, this goal continues to be met annually.