

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY  
TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
2007 - 2016**

**Prepared for St. Johns County**



**by the  
Center for Urban Transportation Research at the  
University of South Florida**



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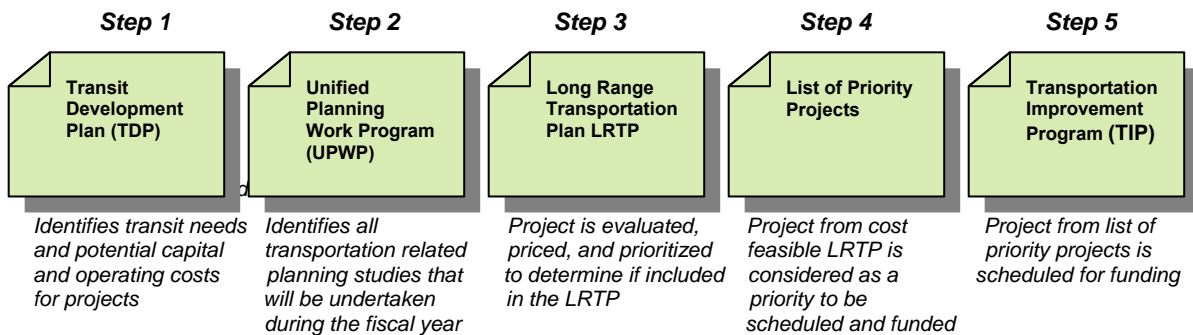
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## **INTRODUCTION**

St. Johns County Government, which supports the St. Johns County Council on Aging's delivery of public transportation services, is responsible for the production of a Transit Development Plan (TDP). A TDP is a multi-year plan required by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that calls for a description of the transit agency's vision for public transportation, along with an assessment of transit needs in the study area and a staged implementation program to set priorities for improvements. FDOT requires a TDP in order to maintain eligibility for State Block Grant funding.

The TDP is also a policy document that integrates transit goals and objectives with those of other adopted plans, including the transportation plan and the comprehensive plan. FDOT strongly encourages a strategic approach to the planning process and emphasizes the importance of public participation in the preparation of the Transit Development Plan.

The TDP is one of the key elements that links public transportation planning to the MPO's overall transportation planning process. The TDP provides direction and input to the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).



The Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida (USF) was contracted by the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization on behalf of St. Johns County to prepare the St. Johns County Transit Development Plan for the ten year period from Fiscal Year 2007 through 2016.

The specific objectives of the TDP include the following:

- Identify existing local transit services and resources;
- Evaluate existing transit resources;
- Evaluate transit policies in regard to public transportation;
- Develop transit alternatives consistent with need;

- Develop an implementation plan;
- Determine future transit needs;
- Develop a revenue projection plan;
- Develop a future cost-feasible transit plan; and,
- Define unmet transit needs.

This TDP document is organized into the following chapters:

- **Chapter One: St. Johns County and the Community**

The primary objective of the first chapter is to present a description and analysis of the current socio-demographic characteristics of St. Johns County. This effort is particularly important to the Transit Development Plan (TDP) process because it provides the foundation for all subsequent activities in the planning process. In order to prevent an analysis of the County based solely on quantitative descriptions, it is important that St. Johns County also be examined through a contextual lens to ensure the TDP is consistent with the overall vision for the community, as defined by residents, visitors and local officials.

- **Chapter Two: Existing Services**

This chapter presents a brief overview of the public and private transportation service providers in and around St. Johns County.

- **Chapter Three: Performance Evaluation**

Chapter Three summarizes the performance of the Council on Aging's fixed route (Sunshine Bus) and demand response transportation services.

- **Chapter Four: Public Involvement**

Chapter Four presents the results of several approaches undertaken during the TDP process to obtain public input. Included in this chapter is information about community transportation needs and issues identified through the following public involvement activities: an analysis of a Sunshine Bus on-board passenger survey, an analysis of a telephone survey of St. Johns County residents, an analysis of community leader interviews and summaries of two discussion groups held with system users and non-users and the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Local Coordinating Board.

- **Chapter Five: Goals and Objectives**

This chapter details goals and objectives related to public transportation in St. Johns County. These were developed during the TDP process through the evaluation of community needs, examination of plans and policies of local government agencies and identification of areas where operating enhancements and efficiencies could be achieved.

- **Chapter Six: Assessment of Transit Demand**

Chapter Six provides an assessment of the demand for transit services within St. Johns County and examines several factors that influence the existing and potential transit needs of the community.

- **Chapter Seven: Ten-Year Transit Services Plan and Capital and Operating Plan**

The final chapter of the TDP assimilates public involvement, needs, opportunities, and alternatives and creates a mechanism to translate these efforts into an action plan. The projects and services recommended for implementation are detailed along with their associated costs.

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