



Connecting Florida

Transit + Florida's Economy





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Connecting Florida: Transit and Florida's Economy lays out the case for regionally integrated transit systems and explains why transit service and compact, walkable land development go hand in hand.

- The **five largest metropolitan regions** in the state of Florida drive our economy—and Florida's future depends on how well they support and provide for their populations.
- New initiatives **strengthening the transportation connections** between and within the five largest metropolitan regions in the state will help determine its future.
- **Building regionally integrated transit systems will be an important part of sustaining economic vitality** in Florida's metropolitan regions, enhancing the economy of the entire state.

PART I. Regionally Integrated Transit Systems & Florida's Future

Floridians live in neighborhoods and work, play, and shop in regions that are larger than any one neighborhood, city, or county.

The Five Elements of a Regionally Integrated Transit System:

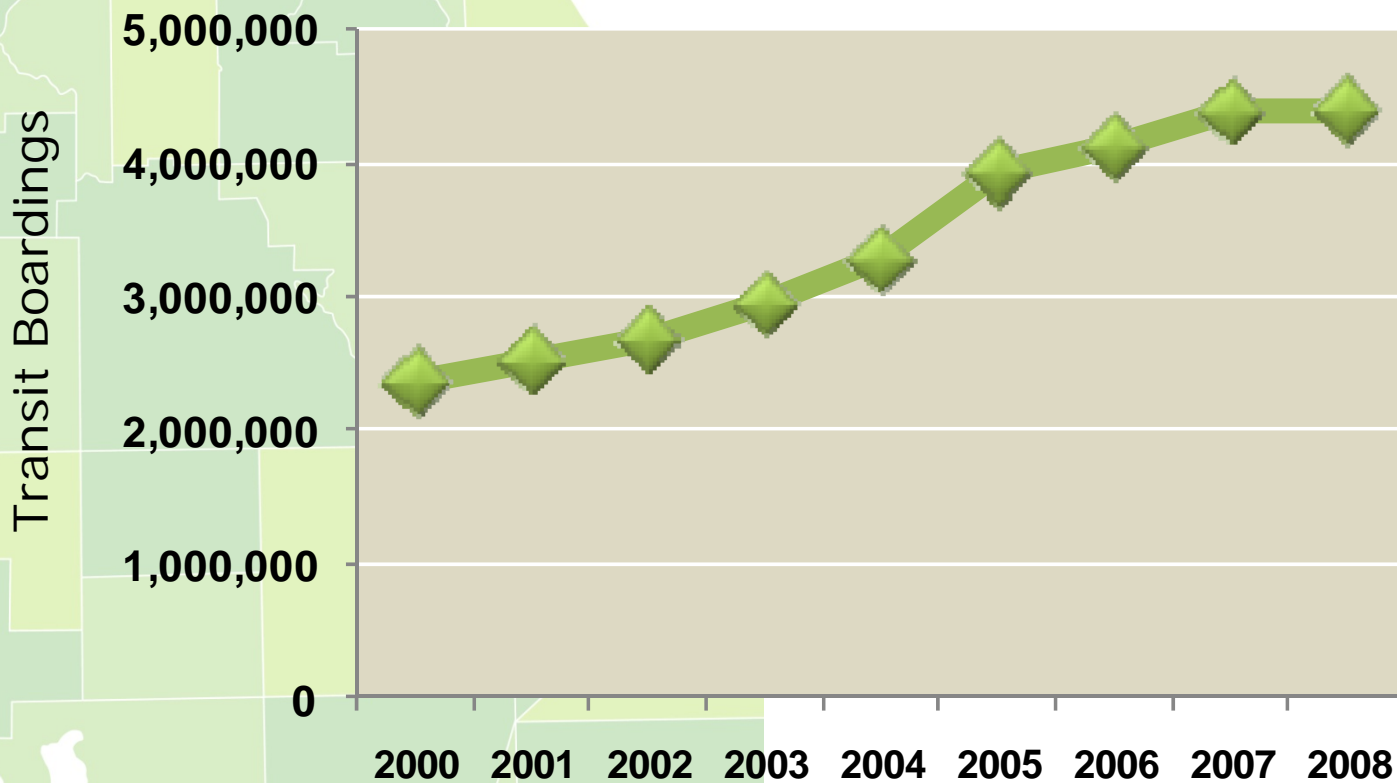
1. Commuter rail & express buses
2. Light rail & bus rapid transit
3. Local buses & streetcars
4. Intercity passenger rail and bus service
5. Walkable land use

To make the most of Florida's momentum for expanding regionally integrated transit systems, the public and private sectors need to work together, forming a partnership that will shape Florida's metropolitan regions and the state's economy for decades to come.



Transit Ridership Increased Significantly over the Last Decade

Lee & Collier Counties Transit Ridership



Regionally Integrated Transit Systems & Economic Vitality

Florida's 5 largest metropolitan regions drive Florida's economy:

- **82%** of the state's population
- Over **83%** of the state's jobs
- Expected to absorb at least **80%** of the 5 million additional people expected to live in Florida by 2030

The future of the state of Florida depend on how well these regions provide for and support their growing populations.

Regionally Integrated Transit Systems & Economic Vitality

Roads will not be enough.

- A robust transportation system is key to any vibrant economy.
- Both population growth and travel outstripped the system between 2000 & 2007.

TABLE 1. Vehicle Travel Outpaced Florida's Population & Roads between 2000 & 2007

Increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT)	35%
Increase in population	17%
Increase in lane-miles of all roads	6%

- Population growth that is coming to Florida's metropolitan regions provides an opportunity to build a modern, balanced transportation system.



Regionally Integrated Transit Systems & Economic Vitality

World-class regions have world-class transit systems.

- Florida ranks at or near the bottom in *Forbes* Magazine's analysis of the best and worst commutes in the nation's 60 largest metropolitan areas.

With transit, families can choose to save.

- With regionally integrated transit systems, families will have more choices about how much they spend on transportation.

Regionally Integrated Transit Systems & Economic Vitality

High-quality transit lowers consumer spending on transportation

- Like Florida's roads, regionally integrated transit systems will require significant public investment to both build and operate.

Investing in transit creates jobs.

- Every billion dollars of annual spending on transit in the U.S. generates 36,000 jobs (2009 study by the American Public Transportation Association).



Transit & the Importance of Land Use

Walking is a critical element of regionally integrated transit systems.

- Clustering development improves efficiency
- Compact development provides the ingredients for walkable and transit-supportive land use patterns

Pedestrian safety is a transit issue.

- All of Florida's five largest metropolitan areas are counted among the most dangerous places in the country for walking.
- Pedestrian safety must be addressed in developing regionally integrated transit systems.





Transit & the Importance of Land Use

Build development that meets future needs.

Transit tied to land use also provides environmental benefits.

○ Compact development patterns with transit service can reduce carbon emissions from 20% to 40% in comparison to auto-only development patterns.

Start now with transit-ready development.

PART II. Transit in Florida's Five Largest Metropolitan Regions

Each of Florida's five largest metro regions has a story to tell.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

- Cape Coral/Fort Myers
- Naples/Marco Island
- Punta Gorda
- Lee, Collier, & Charlotte Counties

Population of Southwest Florida in 2008: 1,058,000.

Transit System Today: County bus & dial-a-ride services.

Annual Transit Boardings in 2008: 4,540,315.

PART II. Transit in Florida's Five Largest Metropolitan Regions

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

- With some of the fastest growth rates in the state during the boom, southwest Florida went from a collection of small cities to a metropolitan region of **over 1 million inhabitants**.
- Phenomenal success of **Collier Area Transit (CAT)**. Launching fixed-route bus service in 2001, today CAT runs weekday and weekend service on 9 routes, providing 1.2 million trips in 2008.
- Ridership on **Lee County Transit** grew an **impressive 37%** between 2000 and 2008, and introducing fixed-route bus service in Charlotte County is under consideration.





PART II. Transit in Florida's Five Largest Metropolitan Regions

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Transit service that strengthens regional ties within and across counties is a high priority.

- Seminole Gulf Rail corridor
- Expansion of I-75 from four to six lanes along a 30-mile stretch of Lee and Collier counties
- Long-term multi-modal plans for I-75

New types of development need to be integrated into older patterns.

- Transit-Oriented Development Design Competition
- Collier County Master Mobility Plan



I have been riding Tri-Rail from Boca Raton to Miami for the past four years. My train commute is 'quiet time'—free from office interruptions and traffic congestion. I work on documents, research, think about issues, and prepare for my practice as a real estate and construction law attorney. When I arrive at the office, my day is already planned so I can hit the ground running.

-Leonard O. Townsend, Esq.



Tampa Bay faces a historic opportunity to take the next step in implementing a diverse transportation system: a step that tells our young people they do not need to relocate to more progressive communities to find work and build a future; a step that tells businesses that we are building infrastructure to connect people and places and that we are going to fight to keep and multiply jobs in our community; and a step that tells the rest of the state and the world that we aim to lead our way out of these economic doldrums.

*-Ronnie E. Duncan, Chairman, TBARTA;
President & CEO, Vertical Integration*



Using 95 Express, Brickell Key Shuttle buses, and Tri-Rail, I save money on gas, make better use of my time, and eliminate stress. I can plan menus or balance my checkbook on the way to work, the drivers are punctual and friendly, and I have met fellow commuters. My overall experience has been excellent.

-Michelle Oropesa



We use Collier Area Transit to get to medical appointments, libraries, shopping centers, and volunteer work with the Naples Smart Growth Coalition. We really appreciate this service and encourage our friends to use it. Because we walk a little more, it decreases our carbon footprint so we're living a healthier, environmentally friendly life. At the same time, the service improves traffic, especially during the winter months.

-Mr. & Mrs. Morton Rosenberg



We can leave the car behind and walk or ride our bikes to a SunRail station. Then we will head out for appointments, shopping, dining, or sightseeing. It's the kind of healthy, energy-efficient lifestyle we want.

-Stephen & Kristin Pategas



Faces of transit.



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