

Regional Transit Study



March 2010

Transit Study Completed

The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) has completed a Regional Transit Study (RTS) for the CRTPA region (Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties).

The CRTPA and its planning partners undertook the RTS to help guide the future of public transportation in the region. As the region continues to grow, there is an increasing need to develop a long term transit vision within Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties and to coordinate urban and rural transit services.

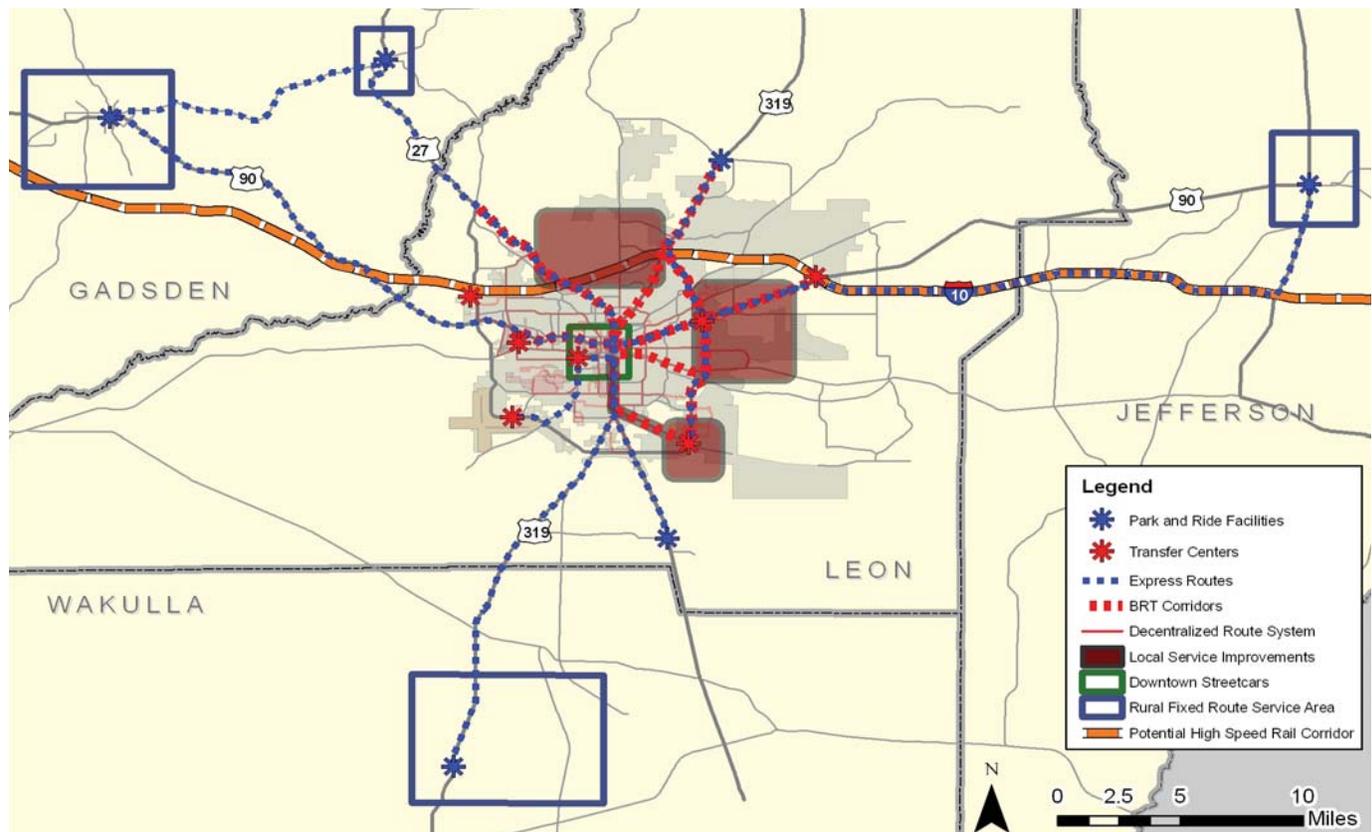
Recommendations from the study were compiled into a Transit Service Plan, a summary of which is presented in this newsletter. The full study report and background data are available on the study website (www.crtpa.org).

The Recommended Transit Service Plan was based on input received from the public and other stakeholders, data derived from existing conditions, and a transit potential analysis. A series of transit service improvements were developed and analyzed for ridership potential, capital cost, and operational cost. These improvements were categorized into three timeframes: near-term (2010–2014), mid-term (2015–2024), and long-term (2025–2050). Two types of improvements were proposed:

Service Improvements – include enhancements and additions to local fixed-route services such as those currently provided by StarMetro, as well as rural fixed-route circulator routes.

Capital Projects – will require significant capital investment to implement. These include fixed-route and fixed-guideway projects such as express bus, bus rapid transit (BRT), streetcar, transfer centers and park/ride lots.

TRANSIT SERVICE PLAN





**RECOMMENDED
TRANSIT SERVICE
IMPROVEMENTS BY
TIMEFRAME**

**Top: Near-term,
StarMetro service**

**Middle: Mid-Term,
fixed guideway service**

**Bottom: Long-term,
increased BRT service**



Recommended Transit Service Plan

NEAR-TERM (2010-2014)

The Near-Term Plan focuses on enhancing local service within the City of Tallahassee, Gadsden and Wakulla counties. The StarMetro NOVA 2010 plan forms the local transit framework in the Near-Term, with added service in the rapidly-developing southeast quadrant of Tallahassee. Two express routes are planned in the Near-Term between Quincy and Tallahassee, and Crawfordville and Tallahassee. Both of these routes will be served by new park and ride lots at the end-of-lines in the outer counties. Finally, three transfer centers are proposed to provide better connections between the decentralized StarMetro routes, planned express routes, and future BRT routes proposed in the later phases.

MID-TERM (2015-2024)

The Mid-Term Plan builds upon the Near-Term plan by adding two additional areas of local service, five new regional express routes (including service from Havana and Monticello to Tallahassee), and three BRT routes. Fixed-guideway transit is introduced in this phase, as two streetcar routes are planned as circulators connecting key employment and education centers in downtown Tallahassee. Four transfer centers and two park and ride lots are planned to serve the new transit routes.

LONG-TERM (2025-2050)

The Long-Term Plan is the third and final phase of proposed transit improvements. Included in this phase are several capital projects including three BRT corridors and an express bus route. Local service improvements include a fixed route circulator in Crawfordville.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO IMPLEMENT THE IMPROVEMENTS?

The recommended transit improvements will require funding for the costs of additional studies, engineering and construction to implement, as well as operation of transit service on an annual basis.

Timeframe	Capital Costs	Annual Operating Costs
Near-Term Improvements (2010-2014)	\$12 Million	\$5 Million
Mid-Term Improvements (2015-2024)	\$271 Million	\$26 Million
Long-Term Improvements (2025-2050)	\$79 Million	\$37 Million
TOTAL	\$362 Million	\$37 Million

How Will These Improvements Be Funded?

In order to build, operate and maintain the proposed transit service improvements, dedicated funding sources will need to be identified to help finance these improvements. Funding at the local level will need to be identified to cover a significant share of the costs. Two funding sources that could be available to

fund these improvements in the Capital Region are local option gasoline taxes and dedicated sales taxes. Additionally, federal and state funding is likely to be available and can be combined with local contributions to support transit service and new improvements.

How Can Land Use Initiatives Support Transit?

Incorporating supportive land use policies are essential in promoting transit, bicycle and pedestrian usage and encouraging more walkable communities. There are current land use policies, including comprehensive plans, land development codes, and review guidelines in the Capital Region that can be enhanced to create transit-supportive design standards at the local level. The following key design components can be modified to support transit and encouraged for new developments:



DOWNTOWN TALLAHASSEE



PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION TREATMENT



TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

What Are The Next Steps?

The Regional Transit Study was completed in March 2010 and provides a foundation from which future, more detailed studies can be launched. Such studies include expanding existing transit services throughout the region, as well as evaluating new types of transit investments. All projects will be considered and evaluated for potential inclusion in CRTPA's long range transportation plan.

Additionally, the study examined a set of possible institutional structures for transit operations within the Capital Region for further evaluation.

All detailed materials and reports are available on the project's website (www.crtpa.org).



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RTS PLEASE CONTACT:

Greg T. Burke, AICP
Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency
408 N. Adams Street, 4th Floor
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: 850.891.6802 | Fax: 850.891.6832
Email: greg.burke@talgov.com

Si necesita asistencia en español, por favor pongase en contacto con nosotros.

**Visit the project website at:
www.crtpa.org**



Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency
408 N. Adams Street, 4th Floor
Tallahassee, FL 32301