



Florida Public Transportation Association



Terry Jordan

New Chair of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA)

County Transit Director Jordan To Lead State-Wide Transit Association

Terry A. Jordan, Director of Space Coast Area Transit, was recently elected Chairman of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) during their 2025 Annual Conference. FPTA stands as one of the nation's most active transit associations, with members including major public transit agencies, businesses, and citizens from across Florida. The association represents 40 urban and rural transit systems, including commuter railroads, a heavy-rail commuter system, and people mover systems. Collectively, these systems carry 182 million passengers annually, with a fixed-route operating budget of \$1.73 billion. Many members also provide paratransit services to meet ADA and state requirements.

"We are excited to welcome Terry Jordan as the new Chairman of the Florida Public Transportation Association," said Lisa Bacot, Executive Director of FPTA. "His stellar reputation among his peers, combined with his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing public transit in Florida, makes him the perfect fit to lead us forward. I have full confidence in his ability to lead with integrity, creativity, and collaboration, driving our mission to strengthen communities and enhance mobility."

In his new role, Jordan expressed his vision for the future of public transportation in Florida. "It's an honor to lead FPTA as we advocate for

The 2025 Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) Annual Conference was held at the TradeWinds Island Grande Resort in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida on September 2-4, 2025. This area had been devastated by several storms over the past few years and it was nice to hold our event there and see that most of area is recovering.

Our conference registered 550 people this year and we kicked off on a slightly different schedule than normal, we began on a Tuesday. Even though the weather was a bit toasty, we had a great turnout for the volleyball tournament right on the beach! We also opened the conference with a wonderful outdoor opening reception at the hotel. Wednesday morning brought a wealth of information from the FDOT Secretary, Jared W. Perdue, P.E. Secretary Perdue

gave an update on the Department and the future of transportation in Florida. Other industry leaders, such as Paul Skoutelas, APTA CEO, and Loreal Lance, CTAA Membership Director, gave national updates.

Our Hall of Fame was given out on Thursday night to Timothy Garling, who retired from Broward County Transit. Karen Deigl, FPTA Past Chair, and Coree Cuff Longergan, General Manager and Director of Transportation of Broward County Transit, presented the award to Mr. Garling. He had a 42-year career in public transit serving in 6 different agencies. 17 of those years were in Florida with two different agencies. For more information on the 2025 Hall of Fame inductee, please turn to page XX.

As always, the Awards Banquet was a highlight for many of our participants. We



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Annual Conference

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awarded numerous awards to deserving transit systems and individuals around our state. For a summary of all of the awards winners, please turn to page 5.

Our Vendor Hall featured over 80 Business Member representatives, including 39 different sponsorships! Thank you to all who attended and helped to make this year a huge success.

Please mark your calendar for next year's exciting event:

**FPTA Annual Conference
October 25-27, 2026
Rosen Centre, Orlando
Host Property: CFRTA/LYNX**

See you next year!!



A Lifetime Behind the Wheel: Bernard Huggins' Heartfelt Thank-You After 50 Years of Safe Service



On behalf of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and the 2025 Operator of the Year Awards Committee, we are pleased to introduce Bernard Huggins, a Fixed Route Operator for Volusia County's Votran transit system. Mr. Huggins has dedicated 50 years to his role, starting in August 1975. Over his remarkable career, he has safely driven more than 3 million miles.

Recently, he was honored as Votran's Operator of the Year. He has also earned awards for Perfect Attendance, Outstanding Customer Service, and the National Safety Council's Safe Driver Award.

At the 2025 FPTA Awards Celebration—held during the 2025 FPTA Annual Conference in St. Petersburg—all banquet attendees enjoyed a special thank-you speech from Mr. Huggins. We are excited to share it with you below (edited only for clarity and spelling).

"Good evening, officers of Votran, officials from other transportation companies, my fellow bus drivers and guests. I am a bus driver.

I have been a bus driver for more than 50 years and having that title and wearing the uniform that symbolized that service has been one of my greatest blessings. The dictionary defines a bus driver as a person whose job it is to drive a bus. But from the very first day I put on my uniform, the job meant much more to me. A bus driver is a navigator of the streets and highways of the community he serves. He is a projector for the customers who board his bus trusting his skills to get them safely from one destination to the other. He is a timekeeper for his timeliness on his route affecting medical, employment and yes, sometimes romantic appointments.

For more than half a century now I have been a bus driver. My work ethic was instilled in me by my late mother, Mrs. Annie Belle Huggins. Because of her I was blessed to have received awards and recognition that have come from simply doing my job. I am grateful to God for the blessings of the health he has given me to be physically and mentally able to do my job. I am grateful to the passengers that have boarded my buses on the hot days, the chilly days, the wet days, and the days in between. I am grateful for their smiles and greetings. Many of them have shared their lives with me, news of marriages, births, jobs, homes and sometimes the pain of the loss of a loved one. I am grateful to my co-workers, fellow drivers, mechanics, and have changed but the spirit and the commitment to serve our passengers has been constant. Their support and cooperation were invaluable. In challenging times, we pulled together to continue doing our jobs with discipline, compassion, and humor. I am grateful to a company that recognized my dedication and loyalty. An organization that helped my access to changing driving rules and requirements, safety regulations and technology to keep me a safe and compliant driver. Fifty years is a long time. Doing any job for that length of time is quite an accomplishment. An accomplishment I am glad to have achieved with a company I am proud to have had such an enduring affiliation. In closing, my name is Bernard Huggins, and I am a bus driver. Thank you very much!"

Jordan (cont. from page 1)

innovative and sustainable public transit solutions," said Jordan. "Together, we will create stronger connections between communities, boost economic growth, and ensure every Floridian has access to the opportunities they deserve."

"I also look forward to focusing on FPTA's legislative priorities as collectively, our members continue moving Florida into the future." The priorities include:

- Reversing language that passed in HB 7031 last session that made Capital Funding for the New Starts Transit program an ineligible expense previously funded by the doc stamp dollars that are transferred to the State

Transportation Trust Fund, and restoring the changes made to the Transportation Regional Incentive Program and the Florida Rail Enterprise.

- A permanent increase to the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.
- The creation of a Rural Transit Operating Trust Fund within the Florida Department of Transportation.
- A study that reviews the Medicaid Managed Care non-emergency transportation program to ensure the Medicaid brokers are operating a quality service and ensure the dollars are being spent appropriately.

Jordan has been with Space Coast Area Transit since 2017 and was appointed Transit Director by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners in 2021.

In his role as Director, he leads a team of over 100 employees and manages an annual budget surpassing \$45 million, which includes local, state, and federal funds as well as grants subject to rigorous compliance regulations. Jordan is also instrumental in shaping policy, driving strategic planning, and expanding services to better serve the evolving needs of the community.

Tri-Rail Sets A New Annual Ridership Record

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) announced that Tri-Rail has achieved a new all-time fiscal year ridership record, logging 4,578,680 rides from July 2024 through June 2025. This milestone surpasses the system's previous high of 4,465,750 rides set in Fiscal Year 2019.

"We are exceptionally proud of this ridership milestone," said David Dech, SFRTA Executive Director. "It speaks to the essential role Tri-Rail plays in meeting

the transportation needs of our growing region."

Tri-Rail is also leading the nation in ridership recovery among commuter rail systems. According to a recent U.S. Government Accountability Office report, which analyzed 31 commuter rail systems nationwide, Tri-Rail ranks #4 overall and is one of the few to fully recover pre-pandemic ridership. Tri-Rail returned to its benchmark of 15,000 weekday and 7,000 weekend rides in February 2024, and has continued its growth since, ultimately surpassing its previous record to set a new all-time high.

Often described by transportation officials as the equivalent of a lane on I-95, Tri-Rail has become a cornerstone of mobility in South Florida, helping alleviate congestion,

connect communities, and fuel regional economic growth. The system serves as the multimodal backbone of the region, linking passengers to a network of transportation systems across three counties and dozens of municipalities, helping anchor South Florida's transit infrastructure.

Despite its recent ridership success, Tri-Rail faces future funding challenges as the recent Florida state budget included reductions to the system's funding. SFRTA's Governing Board and executive team is actively collaborating with the Florida Legislature, Florida Department of Transportation, and leadership from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, to secure a sustainable, long-term funding solution. Current financial projections indicate that without additional support, Tri-Rail will only have sufficient funds to operate through July 2027.



Suntran In Ocala Starts New Service – The O Line



The soft launch began Thursday, Sept. 18, with a SunTran bus temporarily running the route to help riders get familiar with the service. The official O-Line Trolley vehicle is scheduled to debut in early 2026.

Headed to lunch or an evening out with family and friends? Be sure to catch the O-Line from City Hall, Garage 1, or one of the free public parking lots in the Downtown area. Plan your trip by visiting ocalafl.gov/trolley

The service operates four days a week, Wednesday through Saturday, from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m. and again from 5 to 9 p.m.

"This is a convenient way to experience everything our historic downtown has to offer," said Tom Duncan, City of Ocala

Transit Administrator. "We're excited to provide a fare free service that supports local businesses and enhances the visitor experience."



Security Enhancing Programs

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Security Enhancing Programs show how a simple early morning assessment can help your drivers become much more attentive and engaged all day.

Since the very beginning of DHS's inception following September 11, 2001, one of the goals was to help better equip transportation entities in preparation for a potential terrorist attack. Several assessments were created and deployed throughout the nation via the team of Transportation Security Inspectors (TSI). Assisting Transportation Security Professionals in the field with simple assessments like the Security Enhancement Through Assessment (SETA), that assesses the driver's ability to properly conduct the required Pre-Trip Inspection, is an immediate and effective tool to engage the driver. This non-punitive method of security enhancing awareness teaches the driver on the spot the importance of properly conducting the Pre-Trip Inspection and allows them to understand firsthand the severity and consequences if they don't. The SETA

Assessment is one of several programs your local TSIs can provide at no cost.

The SETA is conducted in 3 phases.

Phase 1) TSIs come out and place up to 20 bags on 20 buses prior to the drivers arriving for work. The buses are stopped before exiting the secured lot to identify the buses where the bags were placed, and if the bag was properly located during the Pre-Trip Inspection.

Phase 2) The TSIs provide on the spot training and follow up email training on the importance of conducting a Pre-Trip Inspection, and the potential consequences for failing to do so.

Phase 3) The TSIs come back approximately 3 months later to conduct the same assessment all over again.

The nationwide average for the Phase 1 assessment 80% fail rate. (20% pass)

The nationwide average for the Phase 3 assessment 20% fail rate. (80% pass)

The only cost to you, is 1 person showing up at 3-4 am on the mornings of the SETA Phase 1 & 2.

If you have not done a SETA, please reach out to your local TSI to schedule a meeting to discuss.

If you have already done a SETA, is it time to conduct another, to ensure your drivers are still following proper protocol?

Feel free to reach out to Transportation Security Inspector Hans Phifer, and he can put you in touch with your local TSI to get you started.

Hans.Phifer@tsa.dhs.gov - (813) 380-4688

Other no-cost programs include BASE Assessment, EXIS Security Tabletop Exercises, Cyber Security Assessments and Security Enhancing Trainings that include Active Assailant, First Observer Plus, De-Escalation, Insider Threat and Social Engineering.



We are pleased to announce that Hogan Mfg., Inc. has acquired Byk-Rak LLC, expanding our transit products portfolio to innovate and deliver even greater value to our customers.
<https://bringatrailer.com/listing/1997-lexus-lx450-159/>

The Byk-Rak product line will be marketed alongside our LIFT-U Wheelchair Ramp Division. Allowing us to expand our strengths of offering quality products and support in the transit marketplace.

For more information on either LIFT-U or Byk-Rak products please visit:

www.lift-u.com or www.bykrak.com

[\(209\) 838-2400](tel:2098382400)

2025 FPTA Annual Conference Awards

Name of Award	Name of Winner
2025 FPTA Hall of Fame	Timothy Garling
2025 Operator of the Year (Tier 1) - 1st Place	Kenneth Kirkland Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)
2025 Operator of the Year (Tier 2) - 1st Place	Bernard Huggins (Votran)
2025 Operator of the Year (Tier 3 & 4) - 1st Place	Rosemary Millar Senior Resource Association
2025 Transit Superhero Award	Hector Davila Palm Tran (Palm Beach County)
2025 Bus Technician of the Year- 1st Place	Michael Paskanik Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)
2025 Bus Technician of the Year- 2nd Place	Neftali Albino Collier Area Transit (CAT)
2025 Bus Technician of the Year- 3rd Place	Trevor Morea StarMetro (City of Tallahassee)
2025 Bus Safety Excellence Gold Safety Award (Tier 1)	Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
2025 Bus Safety Excellence Gold Safety Award (Tier 2)	Votran (Volusia County)
2025 Best of the Best in Marketing- Class 1	SunRail Commuter Rail System for "SunRail's Get A Clue"
2025 Best of the Best in Marketing- Class 2	Citrus Connection (Polk County) for "New Ridecitrus.com"



Name of Award	Name of Winner
2025 Best of the Best in Marketing- Class 3	Bayway for "Bayway Egg Campaign"
2025 Innovation and Creativity Award	VOTRAN (Volusia County)
2025 Outstanding System of the Year	Indian River County (GoLine)
Best Workforce Development Marketing (Class 1)	Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) "Hiring Media Day"
Best Workforce Development Marketing (Class 2)	Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT) "New Career"
Best Workforce Development Marketing (Class 3)	Bayway "Better Bayway Award"
Best Ridership or Sales Marketing (Class 1)	Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) "JTA Skyway Social"
Best Ridership or Sales Marketing (Class 2)	Sarasota County Transit - The Breeze "Breeze Transit"
Best Ridership or Sales Marketing (Class 3)	Bayway "Bayway Egg Campaign"
Best Educational Initiative Marketing (Class 1)	SunRail Commuter Rail System "SunRail's Get A Clue"
Best Educational Initiative Marketing (Class 2)	Citrus Connection (Polk County) "New Ridecitrus.com"
Best Educational Initiative Marketing (Class 3)	Bayway "Annual Bayway Day"



Advertising Rates and Information

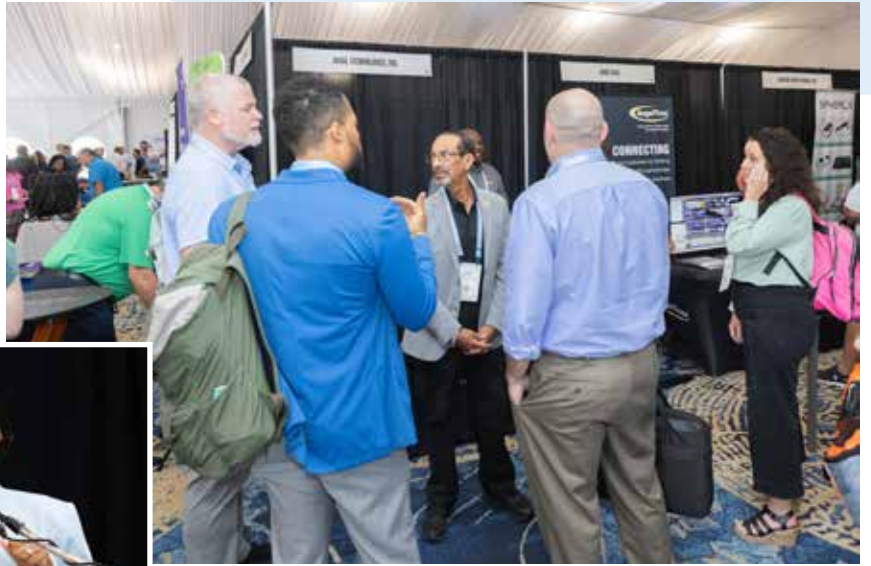
Please visit the Newsletter section of our website at <https://floridatransit.org/newsletter> for information on our next edition and deadline dates. The newsletter is printed in full color, and past copies may be seen in the Newsletter section as well.

Rates are as follows:

Business Card	- \$ 75	½ Page - (8" x 5.5")	- \$275	Full Page - (8" x 10.25")	- \$400
¼ Page - (4" x 5.5")	- \$150	½ Page (Back Fold)	- \$325		

Ads can be purchased online with a credit card here - <https://floridatransit.org/newsletter>. Upon receipt, you will be provided with instructions on how to upload your ads. Please do not email ads to FPTA staff.

2025 FPTA Annual Conference





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Celebrating 28 Years of ADA Excellence: The Evolution of LeeTran's Passport Service

By: Stacey Perkins- Lee County Transit

1997 was an exciting year for LeeTran as it marked the dawn of a new beginning, related to the evolution of LeeTran services. In 1997, LeeTran launched its ADA paratransit service, a lifeline for individuals who, due to a disability or physical restriction, cannot use the traditional fixed-route bus system. What began as a small but vital operation has since grown into a robust and highly used service over the years.

In the introductory year of LeeTran's ADA paratransit service, also known as "Passport", LeeTran provided just over 52,000 ADA-compliant trips, averaging around 1,000 trips per week. This was



a strong start for the service, but it was only the beginning. Fast forward 28 years, and LeeTran's commitment to accessibility has led to tremendous growth. Today, LeeTran operates a fleet of more than 50 paratransit vehicles and completes over 151,000 ADA trips annually, equating to nearly 3,000 trips each week. Why celebrate 28 years and not a more rounded landmark year? We believe that by celebrating milestones, and not just in the traditional sense, as our system evolves, we inspire continued innovation and growth, fueled by the excitement of our progress.

The Journey of LeeTran's ADA progress is strong proof of our evolution in transit as a whole. LeeTran continues to innovate and expand in the world of public transit, guided by the belief that transportation should be accessible to

everyone, regardless of one's personal, physical, or mental restrictions. One local organization that specializes in the care for those who are blind, said the following about our paratransit service, "None of us are able to drive, therefore the service is so helpful to us to allow us to carry activities of normal daily living. We use it for doctor and dentist appointments, to go to church, to go to hairdressers, and to go to volunteer programs that we participate in. Without the Passport service, we would not be able to take part in these activities."

LeeTran understands that ADA service isn't just a requirement, it's a reflection of our values. We understand that accessible transit empowers individuals with disabilities to live fuller, more independent lives, while remaining connected to their communities. One citizen had this to say about LeeTran's ADA service that her mother has been using, "The Passport bus service has truly been a Godsend for our family. It has not only provided my mother with the mobility she needs but has also given her a sense of independence and joy that we never thought possible again."

ADA, paratransit service is about more than just vehicles and schedules, it's about dignity, inclusion, and ensuring no one is left behind simply because they move differently or face physical or mental challenges. When our ADA service first launched in 1997, only 61% of LeeTran's fixed-route fleet were wheelchair accessible. This meant that for many riders with disabilities using the regular fixed route bus system, was not a viable option. Today, that landscape has changed dramatically. As of 2025, we celebrate the fact that 100% of LeeTran's fixed-route buses are fully wheelchair-accessible, making the system more inclusive and flexible for anyone



who wants to ride. This shift also means that ADA-eligible riders who prefer to use traditional fixed-route services, whether for convenience, independence, or routine, now have that choice and they can do so at no charge. One local organization provided a statement about one of their employees who utilizes LeeTran's ADA services, saying "the Passport transit bus service is a blessing for so many, offering vital mobility and fostering a profound sense of belonging. It is through services like these that a significant difference is made in the lives of individuals with disabilities, enabling them to thrive and contribute meaningfully to society."

As LeeTran celebrates 28 years of ADA service, we are not only honoring our past and progression but also looking toward the future. With ongoing focus on innovation, technology, vehicle improvements, and customer service, LeeTran continues to push the boundaries of what accessible transit can be. After nearly three decades, the message remains clear, everyone deserves equal access to mobility, opportunity, and community.



50 Years of Transit & New Beginnings Ahead

Volusia County Transit, commonly known as VoTran, is celebrating 50 years of service, and to mark this golden anniversary, a special celebration was held September 19 at its headquarters in South Daytona. The event highlighted VoTran's milestones over the past five decades and introduced its new brand identity, unveiling updated logos for VoTran (fixed-route service) and VoRide (microtransit service), as well as the rebranding of its paratransit service, VoTran Gold Service, under its new name, VoAccess. Riders will begin to see the new identity for these services begin to take shape with new buses on order, facility and bus stop signage, and print materials being updated.

Adding to the celebration, VoTran honored Bernard Huggins, a bus operator who has served riders for all 50 years. Huggins, recently named Bus Operator of the Year, Tier 2, by the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), is now



featured on the newest VoTran bus wrap alongside the new logo. The agency also won the 2025 FPTA Innovation Award for its onboard Cart and Stroller Storage Area (CASSA), allowing riders to transport shopping carts or (empty) strollers on the bus without needing to fold them and won the 2025 FPTA Gold Safety Award for an ongoing project with FDOT to increase safety at bus stops that have adjacent on-street bike lanes.

Paratransit riders will have the benefit of new software which will be rolled out in the coming months allowing riders to book and pay for trips online. Riders should also see improved on time performance. The agency also expects to expand VoRide zones to additional areas of the county in the near future.

From its beginnings, VoTran has adapted and evolved to meet the changing needs of its riders, embracing innovation and expanding connections. Today, VoTran, VoRide, and VoAccess link communities throughout Volusia County and connect directly to SunRail commuter rail stations in DeBary and Deland. This integrated regional network supports commuters, students, families, and tourists alike—making Volusia County more connected, competitive, and ready for the future.

Congratulations!

TERRY A. JORDAN!

2025.26 CHAIRMAN, FPTA

from all of us at



SPACE COAST ADVERTISING



Pine Hills Transfer Center Opens, Connecting Community and Opportunity

The Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX) celebrated a major milestone for transit riders and the Pine Hills community with the official grand opening of the Pine Hills Transfer Center (PHTC) on Aug. 28. The \$18 million facility, which began service earlier in the month, has already transformed how thousands of customers travel across the region daily.

The state-of-the-art center offers eight bus bays, a custom canopy inspired by LYNX Central Station and seamless integration with the Pine Hills Bike Trail. With the opening, 10 fixed routes, a NeighborLink flex-service route and paratransit service ACCESS LYNX now connect here, eliminating the need for many riders to transfer downtown and providing more direct access to jobs, schools, healthcare and shopping.

LYNX CEO Tiffany Homler Hawkins opened the ceremony by reflecting on the years of planning and collaboration that made the project possible. "Almost two years ago we were standing ankle-deep in dirt," she said, recalling the groundbreaking. "Today, that vision is a reality—an investment in our riders in a space designed for convenience, safety and accessibility." Hawkins shared stories of riders already saving significant travel time thanks to the new connections, calling the center "a facility built for the future of public transportation in Central Florida."

Congressman Maxwell Frost (FL-10) also attended the celebration, "The Pine Hills Transfer Center brings accessible transit right to people's neighborhood making it easier for folks to get where they need to go, when they need to get there and

it's how communities like Pine Hills grow stronger, safer and more connected. When we invest in transfer stations like this one, we invest in our community's future and in the opportunity and wellbeing of our neighbors and working families in Central Florida."

Orange County Mayor and LYNX board member Jerry L. Demings noted Orange County's \$1.9 million investment in the project and highlighted the broader impact of reliable transit on economic development and housing access. Drawing from personal experience riding the bus with his family, Demings underscored the importance of safe, affordable transportation in supporting working families.

"The Pine Hills Transfer Center represents what happens when we invest in infrastructure that serves people first. Safe intersections, bike trail connections, and modern facilities will help us meet the needs of today's riders and tomorrow's growth. Investing in successful and affordable transportation for our residents is certainly one of our top priorities," said Demings.

Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore emphasized the facility's role in

creating safer and healthier travel choices. She pointed to the Pine Hills Trail, which links neighborhoods, parks and schools that now connects directly to the transfer center. Orange County Commissioner Mike Scott also shared a personal story of



riding LYNX routes as a teen to get to his first jobs, underscoring how reliable transit can create life-changing opportunities.

Added Orange County Commissioner Mike Scott who grew up nearby, "The most amazing gift you can give someone is time, and with the opening of this [center] this gives more time. You'll see buses come quicker, you'll see transfers come quicker, you'll see connectivity... you're talking about access, creating memories moments and opportunities for families, that what we're doing here."

The Pine Hills Transfer Center represents a significant engineering and financial effort. Construction required 5.3 million pounds of concrete, more than 32,000 pounds of steel and more than 4,100 feet of wiring to power the facility and lighting. Nearby intersection modifications improve safety for buses, cyclists and pedestrians. The project was funded through a partnership of the Federal Transit Administration, the Florida Department of Transportation and Orange County.

As Mayor Demings noted, the Pine Hills Transfer Center is a tangible example of infrastructure that "serves people first." By combining modern design, multimodal access and strong community partnerships, it offers a blueprint for how transit investments can drive equity, sustainability and economic growth through a regional network of multimodal transit options.



-- Business Member Corner --

Bus Stuf

STER Seating, a leading manufacturer of innovative transit seating solutions, today announced a strategic partnership with Bus Stuf, a premier manufacturer's representative firm of transit industry products, to represent STER's complete product line throughout the North American transit market.

The partnership positions Bus Stuf as the exclusive sales representative for STER Seating products across the United States and Canada, covering transit buses, paratransit vehicles, and shuttle applications. This collaboration combines STER's cutting-edge seating technology with Bus Stuf's extensive network of transit agency relationships and deep industry expertise.

"This partnership represents a significant milestone for STER Seating's North American expansion," said Ray Melleady, President of STER Seating. "Bus Stuf's established relationships with transit agencies and their understanding of the unique challenges facing public transportation make them the ideal partner to bring our innovative seating solutions to market. At a time when the transit industry is exploring new approaches to passenger comfort, accessibility, and operational efficiency, this alliance ensures agencies have access to the most advanced seating technologies available."

The agreement covers STER's comprehensive range of transit seating products, including solutions for standard transit buses, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems, paratransit vehicles, and shuttle operations. Bus Stuf will provide sales representation, technical support, and aftermarket services throughout their extensive North American territory.

"We're excited to partner with STER Seating to offer our customers access

to truly innovative passenger seating solutions," said Jim Gallagher of Bus Stuf. "STER's commitment to quality, safety, and passenger comfort aligns perfectly with our mission to provide transit agencies with the products that improve safety, ergonomics, and efficiency. This partnership expands our portfolio with industry-leading seating technology that addresses the evolving needs of modern public transportation."

The collaboration addresses growing demand from North American transit agencies for advanced seating solutions that enhance passenger experience while meeting stringent safety and accessibility requirements. STER's products feature innovative design elements that improve passenger comfort, optimize vehicle capacity, and provide superior durability in demanding transit environments.

About STER Seating:

STER Seating is a leading manufacturer of innovative seating solutions for the global transit industry. The company specializes in developing advanced seating systems that combine passenger comfort, safety, and operational efficiency. STER's products serve transit agencies, OEMs, and transportation operators worldwide.

About Bus Stuf:

Bus Stuf is a premier distributor of products and services to the North American transit industry. With extensive experience serving transit agencies across the United States and Canada, Bus Stuf provides comprehensive sales support, technical expertise, and aftermarket services to help transportation operators maintain and improve their fleet operations. For more information go to <https://www.busstuf.com>

-- Business Member Corner --

RideCo

RideCo is excited for this opportunity to partner with the Access-A-Ride team to build the next generation of service for New York, building on NYCT's focus on modernizing their service to meet the growing, changing needs of riders. RideCo's selection for this historic contract underscores the company's demonstrated ability to deliver successful outcomes with large-scale fleets, and to deliver continuous service improvements.

"The commitment of New York City Transit and the Access-A-Ride team to innovation and world-class excellence is inspiring. They have already made significant strides in improving service, and we're excited to help take that progress to the next level," said Prem Gururajan, Co-Founder and CEO, RideCo. "We are thrilled to partner with New York City Transit to deliver modernized technology infrastructure, one that continuously optimizes, streamlines operations for greater efficiency, and enhances the rider experience. Together with NYCT, we look

forward to making one of the world's great cities, even better."

RideCo's patented dynamic, continuous optimization technology represents a major opportunity for New York City. By streamlining and automating elements of the eligibility, reservations, scheduling, and same day dispatching functions, RideCo is excited to help NYCT sustain and scale its growing, mission critical service, while also improving the rider experience. The modernized technology system will rollout in phases in 2026 and 2027.

RideCo is the transit technology leader serving 5 of the 10 largest cities in the U.S. Trusted by transit agencies, as well as fleet operators and technology companies, the platform powers the largest on-demand transit services in North America including Philadelphia, Houston and San Antonio. Scores of others have also adopted RideCo's transformative software, rooted in proprietary continuous optimization technology, and supported by the industry's best customer service. John McLeod, RideCo, john.mcleod@rideco.com.





Florida Public Transportation Association
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FIRST CLASS



2026 FLORIDA TRIPLE CROWN ROADEO



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Florida's Triple Crown Roadeo returns to **Orlando** in 2026 from **March 6-7**. This event will be at **The Florida Hotel & Conference Center** just steps from the Florida Mall.

Registration Opens on December 1, 2025