

RTAP

BULLETIN

FLORIDA RURAL TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FALL—VOL. 13, No. 3

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BUS

Americans with Disabilities Act Celebrates 25th Anniversary

July 26th marked the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This milestone provides a time to reflect and celebrate public transportation's role in providing freedom, independence and access to the things that life has to offer for millions of Americans and particularly those with disabilities.

For the 57 million Americans with disabilities, access means being able to use, enjoy, and participate in the many aspects of society, including work, commerce, and leisure activities. Transportation is a vital link that allows full participation.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity and access for persons with disabilities. The ADA guarantees individuals with disabilities equal access to transportation. As a result, barriers to accessibility for transportation for persons with disabilities must be removed if it is reasonable to do so.

Public transportation offers mobility options for Americans with disabilities that need and deserve affordable, accessible transportation. Since the passage of the ADA, accessibility of public transit vehicles has improved markedly in the decades since the passage of ADA. According to the 2014 APTA Fact Book, from 1993 to 2013 (the most recent year for which data are available), the percentage of buses that are accessible increased from 51 percent to 99.8 percent.



Under FTA's guidelines, passengers with disabilities that are unable to access a public transit's fixed routes must be provided demand response service.

As a result of FTA's complementary para-transit service requirement, passenger trips on demand-response services increased from 68 million in 1990 to 225 million in 2014.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of ADA and the mobility achievements realized to date, many Americans with disabilities who live in small urban and rural areas are burdened with the lack of transportation options.

Let's work together to continue to make progress in the goal of providing affordable, accessible transportation options for all of Florida residents.

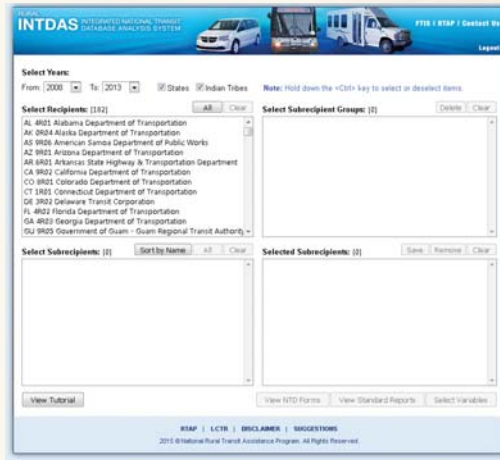


National RTAP Spotlight...

National RTAP has worked with the Florida International University (FIU) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to develop a rural National Transit Database (NTD) module for the Integrated National Transit Database Analysis System (INTDAS).

The INTDAS is a major component of the Florida Transit Information System (FTIS) that was developed by FIU for FDOT. This system integrates multiple years of urban NTD data and includes performance measures at different aggregate levels allowing quick and easy data retrieval and analysis.

The National RTAP worked with FIU to develop a rural NTD module similar to the urban module. This project integrates rural NTD data since 2007, with new rural NTD data uploaded annually into the rural module.



The system was developed to assist rural transit providers and state DOTs to quickly select NTD data and variables for Section 5311 recipients and sub recipients. Performance measures relevant to rural systems are available in the module. Users of the rural NTD INTDAS module can access standard reports, view NTD forms, or select their own variables to review and analyze.

Getting started is easy. To access the rural module, select the Rural INTDAS and enter your password

on the INTDAS Login page (www.ftis.org/INTDAS/NTD-Login.aspx). If you are not registered in INTDAS, click on the Access Request Form to request a password on the login page. Two video tutorials within the module will show you how to use the system to access rural NTD data, view trends, and compare peer states and transit providers.

For more information on INTDAS visit www.ftis.org/intdas.html.

Combined FPTA-CTD Annual Training Workshop and EXPO

Make your plans to attend the Inaugural Joint 2015 FPTA/CTD Annual Training Workshop and EXPO on October 25-28, 2015 with the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) in Daytona Beach, Florida! Over 500 transportation professionals are expected to join the host transit property, Votran, in beautiful Volusia County, Florida!

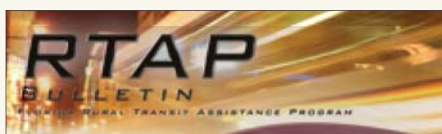


sessions on planning, operations, maintenance, marketing, financial management and professional development.

This is also an EXPO year – with a wide variety of transit products, services and vehicle featured in a joint trade show.

Don't miss this great event where you can learn the latest in the Florida public transit industry, get a first-hand look at the newest transit vehicles, meet the industry vendors, and network with your peers.

For information on the event and to register, go to www.regonline.com/fpta-ctd2015.



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OUR MISSION

The Florida RTAP provides training, continuing education, and technical assistance to those who provide or assist in the provision of public transportation services in rural and small urban communities in order to promote the coordinated delivery of safe, efficient, and effective transit services.

Editor: Jay Goodwill Designer: Stephanie Lewis

SPOTLIGHT—Tommy Griffis, JTRANS

Each SPOTLIGHT edition highlights one of our many energetic Florida RTAP transit professionals and allows these individuals to introduce themselves in their own words. In this issue, the SPOTLIGHT is on Tommy Griffis, a driver with JTrans in Marianna, Florida. Tommy is the Florida's top roadeo van driver for both 2014 and 2015 and finished in second place at the 2015 Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) national roadeo in Tampa, Florida on May 31st.



Name: Tommy Griffis

Title: JTrans Driver

Birthplace: Alma, GA

Education: Graduated in 1973 from Lakeview High School in Winter Garden, Florida.

Professional History: In 1973, I went to work for B L Cobia's Inc. packing and shipping department for 3

years. Then I worked for the City of Winter Garden as a meter reader for the Water Dept. for 1 year. In December 1979, I started working with Buena Vista Construction Company driving various vehicles transporting employees to job sites or materials to project sites. During this period I was able to see Epcot, Typhoon Lagoon, MGM Studios and Animal Kingdom being built from the ground up. I worked at Buena Vista Construction for 27 years. In March 2010, I began working with JTrans.

Years Working with Current Agency: 5 years

Years Working in Transit Industry: 32 years

Biggest Surprise in Paratransit: Not realizing how many people depend on public transportation for their medical needs.

Biggest Challenge in Paratransit: With so many people rely on our services, our schedules must be tight to accommodate all appointment times in a timely manner. Jackson County is a rural area and we have to travel out of our area for many of our riders' appointments making us have long work schedules.

Personal Benefit of Working in Paratransit: Being able to help those in need. I also love to compete in our Annual Roadeo competitions. In the last few years I have traveled

to Ft. Meyers, Daytona Beach and St. Petersburg to participate in the Florida State Bus Roadeos. I placed 2nd in Ft Myers in 2013; 1st in Daytona Beach in 2014; and, 1st in St. Petersburg in April of this year. In May 2015, I represented Florida in the National Competition in Tampa, where I placed 2nd. I enjoy the challenge of the competitions and I really enjoy all the new relationships made among my peers.

Personal Background: I have been married to my wife Kay for 39 years. We have 2 daughters Stephanie (spouse Kevin), Britney (spouse Tony), 3 grandkids, Lucas – 6 and twins Kristopher and Tatum – and 3 grand dogs Sammy, Hurley and Nugget. I love to go camping, occasionally fishing and gardening.

Favorite Color: Gray

Favorite Candy: Lifesaver, Peppermint

My Motto: Git 'r done

Save the Dates

2016 Florida Triple Crown
Bus Roadeo

April 1–2, 2016
Ft Myers, Florida

2016 FPTA/FDOT/CUTR
Professional Development
Workshop and Florida
Transit Safety Summit

June 6–8, 2016
Tampa, FL

2015 & 2016 UPCOMING EVENTS

The classes and conferences listed below are sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida in Tampa. If you would like to attend any of the courses, you will find a course announcement and registration form for each course at www.floridartap.org in the Training Calendar section. Click on the course name to download or view training class details. If you have an idea for a training course or would like to host a course, please contact Lisa Staes at staes@cutr.usf.edu.

October 25-28, 2015

FPTA/CTD Annual Conference and EXPO—
Daytona Beach, FL

**November 3-4, 2015 (optional 3rd Day
November 5, 2015)**

Policies, Procedures, and Work Rules – Best
Practices—Tampa, FL

November 16-20, 2015

Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation
(FT00435)—Ft Myers, FL

December 14-17, 2015

Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies
(FT00456)—Tampa, FL

January 11-15, 2016

Transit Supervisor Certification (FT00545)—
Tampa, FL

April 1-2, 2016

2016 Florida Triple Crown Bus Roadeo—
Ft Myers, FL

New “Clew-Belle” Bus

Good Wheels, Inc., the Community Transportation Coordinator for Lee, Hendry and Glades County, unveiled the new “Clew-Belle” route bus at the official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Clewiston on Tuesday, August 25th. The new bus, which accommodates 22 ambulatory passengers and two wheelchair securement positions, will be used for the Clewiston to Belle Glade community bus route that provides daily service between the communities of Clewiston and Belle Glade.

Speakers at the event included Good Wheels, Inc. CEO Alan Mandel during the ceremony were Hendry County Administrator Charles Chapman, and Hendry County Commissioner Janet Taylor. In addition, several other dignitaries from Hendry County and City of Clewiston were in attendance.

The Florida DOT District One Public Transit Office provided Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 grant funds for 80 percent of the bus cost, with the balance being provided by Hendry County Government. This new vehicle will provide safe and reliable transportation to the citizens of Hendry County.

The Clewiston to Belle Glade community bus route is one of the projects from the Florida DOT District One Heartland Rural Mobility Plan. It provides service from 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday to Friday and from 8:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.



L to R: Dr. Joseph Pete, Florida Department of Health, Interim Director for Hendry and Glades; Hendry County Administrator Charles Chapman; Sherry Carver, CFRPC, Mobility Manager; Debi Stephens, FDOT District One; Hendry County Commissioner Janet Taylor; Alan Mandel, Good Wheels, CEO; Paul Pulletti, Hendry County Superintendent of Schools; Hendry County Sheriff Steve Widden; City of Clewiston Mayor Phillip Roland; and City of Clewiston Commissioner Julio Rodriguez