

Public Transit



Tips on How to Use
Transportation Options
in Florida



[SafeMobilityFL.com](https://www.SafeMobilityFL.com)

Finding Your Mobility Independence

Florida has many public transit options but you may have questions about how to use them or about their safety. Whether you choose to use public transit because of natural age-related changes, economic changes, or simply because you want to, public transportation can help you achieve safe mobility for life. This guide will help you achieve independence through mobility, while staying safe on public transit.

public transportation [noun]

a system of vehicles such as buses and trains that operate at regular times on fixed routes and are used by the public

Cambridge English Dictionary



Why use transit?

Besides providing an alternative to driving, there are many other benefits to using public transit, ranging from financial and environmental, to health and wellness. Some benefits include:

- ▶ Increased cost savings from not having to own and maintain a car
- ▶ Access to important services and activities
- ▶ Increased physical activity
- ▶ Reduced congestion
- ▶ Lowered gas consumption and carbon dioxide emissions



How can transit improve my health?

Research has shown that public transit users are more physically active since they are more likely to walk or bike to and from transit stations and stops. Regular activity and exercise reduce the risk of developing a wide range of chronic health conditions and physical disabilities.

Public transit has also shown to reduce stress and improve mental health by providing safe and affordable access to social and recreational activities, allowing riders to stay actively involved in their communities.



Planning Your Trip

What does it cost?

The average transit fare in Florida is about \$1.00 per one-way trip. However, the cost can vary so you will need to research the rates of your local agency. This information can be found on the transit agency's website or mobile application or by calling their customer service number. Don't forget that many transit agencies offer a reduced fare for older adults.



How do I pay?

Before going on your trip, find out how you are expected to pay, whether by exact change, mobile payment/application, or by fare cards that need to be purchased in advance. Payment methods vary by transit agency so research the options offered and choose the one that works best for you.

How do I know where and when to go?

Plan ahead. Familiarize yourself with the routes and times, and make sure to locate the stops that are closest to your house or destination(s). Maps and schedules can be found on the transit agency's website, mobile applications, or at the bus/rail terminals.

What is a transfer?

There are times when a single route does not get you where you need to go. A transfer ticket will allow you to continue your trip on another bus or train to get to your final destination. The cost of transfers varies by agency so you will need to research the fee for your local transit agency.

What if I need help planning my trip?

Florida's transit agencies have helpful customer service personnel ready to answer your questions and get you to where you want to go. Some transit agencies have a **Travel Trainer** that will help you learn how to use the transit system at no cost. Be sure to ask about this when you contact your local transit agency.

Travel Trainers will work with you independently, or in a small group, to teach you the skills you may need to travel confidently on your own.

Florida Fixed-Route Transit Systems by County

Alachua Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS)	(352) 334-2600
Bay Town Trolley	(850) 769-0557
Baker Transit	(904) 259-9315
Brevard Space Coast Area Transit	(321) 633-1878
Broward County Transit (BCT); Tri-Rail (1-800-TRI-RAIL)	(954) 357-8400; (954) 783-6030
Charlotte County Transit	(941) 575-4000
Citrus County Transit	(352) 527-7630
Clay Community Transit; Clay Regional Express	(904) 284-5977; (904) 630-3100
Collier Area Transit (CAT)	(239) 252-7777
Desoto-Arcadia Regional Transit (DART)	(855) 418-0466
Duval Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)	(904) 630-3100
Escambia County Area Transit (ECAT)	(850) 595-3228
Gadsden Big Bend Transit	(850) 627-9958
Hendry ClewBelle Community Bus Route	(239) 768-2900
Hernando County Transit (TheBus)	(352) 754-4444
Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)	(813) 254-4278
Indian River Transit (GoLine)	(772) 569-0903
Jackson County Transportation (JTrans)	(850) 482-7433
Lake County Transit (LakeXpress)	(352) 742-1940
Lee LeeTran	(239) 533-8726
Leon Star Metro	(850) 891-5200

Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT)	(941) 749-7116
Marion SunTran	(352) 401-6999
Martin County Transit (Marty)	(772) 463-2860
Miami-Dade Transit; Tri-Rail (1-800-TRI-RAIL)	(305) 891-3131; (954) 783-6030
Monroe Key West Transit	(305) 809-3910
Nassau TRANSIT	(904) 261-0700
Okaloosa Emerald Coast Rider (ECRider)	(850) 833-9168
Orange LYNX; SunRail	(407) 841- 5969; (855) 724-5411
Osceola LYNX; SunRail	(407) 841- 5969; (855) 724-5411
Palm Beach Palm Tran; Tri-Rail (1-800-TRI-RAIL)	(561) 841-4200; (954) 783-6030
Pasco County Public Transportation (PSPT)	(727) 834-3322
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)	(727) 540-1900
Polk Citrus Connection	(855) 765-5287
Putnam Ride Solution	(386) 325-9999
St. Johns The Sunshine Bus Company	(904) 209-3716
St. Lucie Treasure Coast Connector	(772) 464-8878
Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)	(941) 861-5000
Seminole LYNX; SunRail	(407) 841- 5969; (855) 724-5411
Sumter County Transit	(352) 568-6683
Suwannee Live Oak-Lake City Express	(800) 258-7267
Volusia Votran; SunRail	(386) 756-7496; (855) 724-5411



Getting Ready to Ride

How do I get on?

Make sure you stand in designated areas near the bus stop signage, or behind yellow lines at train platforms. Confirm that the vehicle approaching is the one you want. Don't approach the vehicle until it has come to a full stop. Before you enter, allow people to exit first. Once on board, pay your transit fare or provide proof of purchase. Ask for a transfer if needed and find a seat.

Always wait for the bus to pull away before crossing the street. Use caution and look both ways!

How do I get off?

Stops will be announced by the bus operator or through an automatic system. Be sure to signal the bus operator to stop about one block before your destination. If you're unfamiliar with the area, let the bus driver know and they will assist you. Announcements are made when the train approaches a station and most stations have signs posted with the name of the station.



Will I have trouble stepping up or down the stairs of the bus?

Most buses are equipped with lowering features and/or a ramp that allow riders to step easily on or off the bus.

Watch your step when you get on and off the vehicle and be mindful of any gaps.

Do they provide service to individuals with special needs?

All transit agencies offer services for people with special needs. ADA Complimentary Paratransit Service provides door-to-door transportation to eligible riders on an appointment basis. Call your local transit agency or visit their website to find out more about special needs services in your area.



Is using transit safe?

Public transit is a safe and secure option for getting around because of its low crash and crime risk. Safety is a priority to transit agencies as well as an important part of a positive transit experience. To ensure the safety and security of passengers and drivers, many agencies provide extensive driver training and use security cameras to allow monitoring of the inside and outside of their vehicles.

How do I find my local public transit?

Page 6-7 of this guide lists the contact information for Florida fixed-route systems. If your county does not have a fixed-route system, visit **FindaRideFlorida.org** to find your County's Community Transportation Coordinator or to see the options that best fit your mobility needs.



Where can I find out more?

If you need more information or have specific questions, contact your local transit agency (page 6-7). Here are some questions you might want to ask:

- ▶ How can I get a schedule?
- ▶ How much does it cost? Is there a special senior discount?
- ▶ Where do I get a ticket and how do I pay?
- ▶ What are the hours of operation? Does the service run on weekends?

Did you know?

Taking public transit, and living with one less car, can save you more than \$9,000 annually.

The Florida Public Transportation Association

Transit users get over three times the amount of physical activity per day of those who don't.

Victoria Transport Policy Institute

Like millennials, older adults are steering away from driving.

The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

The average U.S. motorist spends about 38 hours a year stuck in traffic jams.

Texas Transportation Institute

Transit ridership has grown by more than 20% in the last decade.

National Transportation Database

51% of a typical household's carbon dioxide (CO²) emissions comes from vehicles.

United States Department of Energy

Additional Online Resources

aarp.org/livable-communities
my211florida.org or call 2-1-1
fdot.gov/ctd
ctd.fdot.gov/ctcsbycounty.htm
floridatransit.org
oli.org/about-us/passenger-rail-safety



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