

## MEETING NOTES

**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2014

**Project Name:** RTS Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) Study

**Submitted by:** Tim Crobons, COA Project Manager (Connetics Transportation Group, Inc.)

**Attendees:** **Transit Steering Committee (TSC) Members:**

Robert Miller, University of Florida

Scott Fox, University of Florida

Marlie Sanderson, NCFRPC

Jeff Hays, Alachua County

Debbie Leistner, City of Gainesville

Brian Singleton, Alachua County

Naima Brown, Santa Fe College

Dave Price, Santa Fe College

Kim Tesch-Vaught, FloridaWorks Online

**RTS Staff:**

Jesus Gomez, RTS Director

Eustache Mine', Transit Operations Manager

Matthew Muller, Transit Planner

**Other Consultants:**

Ryan Suarez, TOA (Transit Development Plan (TDP) Update Project Manager)

Joel Rey, TOA

**Purpose:** The TSC Meeting #2 was held to discuss interaction between the COA Study and the TDP Update, the Steering Committee's transition from the COA Study to the TDP Update, a review of COA Technical Analysis, Preliminary COA Recommendations, coordination of upcoming public involvement activities, and an introduction to the TDP Update. PowerPoint Presentation Provided at the meeting.

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### I. Introduction

- Matthew Muller (RTS) opened the meeting by introducing the combined / phased transit planning efforts of the COA and the TDP update.
- Tim Crobons (CTG) provided an update on the COA Study progress and discussed the meeting agenda.

- Definitions of, and differences and commonalities between COA study and TDP update were reviewed with the TSC, and a discussion ensued regarding the transitioning role of the TSC from supporting and guiding the COA Study to continuing to participate in the same manner with the continuation of the TDP update.
- Ryan Suarez (TOA) TDP Project Manager – provided a brief description of the TDP update scope, schedule and coordination efforts with the COA Study.

## II. COA Study Data Collection & Analysis

- A brief review of the various data collection and analysis activities was provided, citing activities since the previous TSC Meeting, including: review of previous planning studies, field observations, rider and bus operator interviews, ridership and performance review, route profiles, on-board passenger survey and a latent demand analysis.
- Graphical depictions of portions of the Route Profiles were presented as part of the PowerPoint presentation, reflecting route level analysis, ridership activity, on-board passenger survey results, and route level origin and destination analysis.
- A map based representation of the on-board passenger survey results was provided depicting passenger volumes from various locations throughout the Gainesville region to select major destinations (e.g., University of Florida, Santa Fe College, downtown Gainesville)

## III. Latent Demand Analysis

- A brief description of what a latent demand analysis was provided focusing on the two distinct markets analyzed: 1) Areas underserved by transit which exhibit a strong propensity for transit use, and 2) Areas with strong transit use but where additional service may generate further ridership.
- Three GIS based maps were presented: 1) Demographic Index – reflecting populations with higher propensity for transit use, 2) Ridership Index – reflecting areas reflecting degree or level of transit use given the levels of transit service provided, and 3) the Latent Demand Analysis results addressing on the two markets identified in the first bullet above.

## IV. Findings and Preliminary Recommendations

- A brief description of the preliminary findings of the data analysis was reviewed, identifying the need for improved systemwide connectivity, increasing capacity to areas experiencing ridership overloads, incorporation of planned transit center locations as well as identification of potential transit center locations.
- A series of maps were presented which depicted the preliminary Service Plan route structure. These maps were later distributed to the TSC members for further review and comment.

- It was noted that the preliminary Service Plan was reviewed in a workshop setting with RTS staff about a week in advance of the TSC meeting and is still under review by RTS staff.
- The preliminary Service Plan will be refined based on comments received from RTS Staff, TSC members and the general public at the next Joint COA/TDP Public Meeting in late April / Early May (date TBD).

#### V. Public Outreach

- Ryan Suarez (TOA) provided a brief overview of the TDP Public Involvement Plan (PIP) including inputs from the On-Board Survey (conducted under the COA Study), Key Person / Stakeholder Group interviews, Discussion Groups, and Public Workshops

#### VI. TDP Schedule

- Ryan Suarez (TOA) presented the schedule for development of the TDP update indicating that the final report was due to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on September 1, 2014.

#### VII. Next Steps

- Tim Crobons (CTG) concluded by reiterating the need for TSC member review and comment on the Preliminary Service Plan (maps to be e-mailed)
- A refined Service Plan would be developed after RTS Staff, TSC and Public meeting comments are received on the plan.
- The next TSC meeting will involve Setting Priorities for the TDP
- The next TSC meeting would be scheduled in late April / Early May