__Transit News__

Local/State News

Tampa tries sidewalk solar panels as backup power for traffic lights
Hurricane Irma inspired the pilot, and Hurricane Ian provided an opportunity to monitor it in action.

Possible rail strike could disrupt some South Florida service
Once again, it appears that long-distance rail travelers who ride Amtrak could be the most likely consumers directly affected in South Florida if a national walkout by unionized workers hits the U.S. freight system early next month.

South Florida Roundup Transit Breakdown From Miami-Dade To West Palm Beach
Downtown Miami will soon have access to a Tri-Rail station that will allow people to travel from Riviera Beach in Palm Beach County back to downtown with no transfers. That has been made possible by an agreement between Brightline and Florida East Coast Railway with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority to begin training and testing to bring Tri-Rail services to MiamiCentral Station.

HART board seeks independent investigation into alleged management issues at Hillsborough's transit agency
CEO Adelee Le Grand said the investigation should be handled by the HART Board, as opposed to independently.

Plans for funds from Broward's penny surtax
In November 2018, Broward County voters approved a 30-year one-cent sales tax to increase mobility and address challenges in the county's transportation system.

FTA awards over $13 million for transit-oriented development projects
The City of Homestead, Florida, will receive $533,000 to plan for TOD around three new bus rapid transit (BRT) stations, which are part of the new South Dade TransitWay Corridor, currently under construction.

Safety

[FTA Issues Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Standards Development](#)
The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is seeking proposals to develop voluntary standards and standards-related best practices, guidance, and tools in safety and other areas that improve public transportation under the Technical Assistance and Workforce Development Program.

[Enhance security at mass transit hubs with radio frequency technology](#)
Over the years, mass transit hubs such as airports, train stations and ports have been a recurring setting for shootings, bombings and other violent attacks around the world. While the statistics on terrorist attacks and mass shootings suggest these events are rare, transit officials cannot afford to take these risks lightly.

Technology

[First hydrogen-powered transit bus in LA County hits streets in December, starting new trend](#)
The first hydrogen-powered public bus in Los Angeles County will go into service early next month, a historic milestone that will unleash an army of similar, zero-emission buses that don't connect to the power grid and run longer without refueling.

[DART launches Rider Assistance Program with Spare](#)
The DART Rider Assistance Program is a service for riders who may not qualify for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit but who have a qualifying disability.

[Best Practices: Motorsport pioneering connectivity innovation for trains and buses](#)
Active Antenna hardware and Fleet Connect software offer a range of benefits not previously available on the commercial market.

Funding

[As transit fares plummet, federal money increases 95%](#)
From 2021 to 2020, federal funding for transit operating expenses rose dramatically. In 2020, federal funding made up 25.8% of the funding, while in 2021 that percentage rose to 36.2%.

[FTA Announces $13.1 Million in Grant Awards to Help Communities Plan for Transit-Oriented Development](#)
These grants, funded by FTA's Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning, support local strategies to increase transit access and encourage ridership through mixed-use and mixed-income development near public transportation projects.

Mobility

[Cruise has expanded its driverless robotaxi service to daytime hours](#)	[These Cities Have the Best Public Transit Systems](#)
Cruise is expanding its driverless ride-hailing service in San Francisco to daytime hours, Cruise CEO Kyle Vogt tweeted Wednesday. The robotaxi service is now available to employees 24 hours a day. Eventually, these expanded operating hours will be available to the public.	*A new report ranks post-pandemic transportation — and who's best prepared for getting residents around town in the future.*

Misc.

[Safe Mobility for Life's Resources on Transportation Options](#)	[Employee Initiative Drives Growth and Success at C-TRAN](#)
Safe Mobility for Life has many resources including Find a Ride Florida, which is a way for you to learn the transportation options near you that best fit your individual mobility needs! Click here to see this available to you at FindaRideFlorida.org!	Establishing a work environment that celebrates communication and authenticity empowers employees to spark change and forge new paths for continued growth and success.

Resources

[FTA Standards Development Program: Transit Bus Operator Temporary Barrier to Reduce COVID-19 Exposure](#)	[APTA Meets with Treasury on Transit Tax Credits](#)
The purposes of this project were to (1) demonstrate the production of a durable physical temporary barrier between the front and rear passenger compartment of a transit bus to reduce the exposure risk to COVID-19 for the operator and passengers, (2) perform an air flow test of the temporary barrier, and (3) share the results to maximize the positive impact to the public transportation system throughout the U.S	*APTA staff met with U.S. Department of the Treasury senior staff this week to discuss implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, and specifically tax credits that benefit public transportation.*

[FTA Public Transit Events](#)