



### ***Are your employees experiencing transportation problems?***

If the answer is yes, call on the UNTI to help solve those problems. The UNTI in conjunction with Bay Area Commuter Services can produce Zip Code Analysis maps to show if vanpools are a viable option for your employees. The UNTI can also explain the tax benefits of subsidizing vanpools and other transportation alternatives that can improve your company's bottom line.

### ***UNTI Staff Assist with Fletcher Avenue CMS Study***

John Hendrickson of Parson Transportation Group has been meeting with UNTI staff to discuss the Congestion Mitigation Study being done on Fletcher Avenue. In particular, discussions have focused on the impact of the USF Pilot Circulator Shuttle System and bicycle/pedestrian facilities improvements needed to help students safely reach the university.

### ***UNTI's Next Board Meeting***

The next UNTI Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3 at 8am at the Center for Urban Transportation Research. As always, UNTI Board Meetings are open to the public. Call 974-9799 for details.

## **What is the UNTI?**

The University North Transportation Initiative (UNTI) is a public-private partnership that provides a forum to address the transportation needs of the University North area.

The University North is the name given to a major destination area in Hillsborough County. It contains a high concentration of employment and commercial activity where traffic congestion occurs. University North is the area generally bounded by Busch Blvd. to the south, I-75 to the east, 22nd Street to the west and Bruce B. Downs Blvd. to the north.

The UNTI's main goals are to:

- Reduce traffic congestion,
- Reduce the need for parking, and
- Promote public transit and the use of alternative modes of transportation.

If you are interested in joining the UNTI, attending one of our meetings, or learning about the services we offer, please contact the UNTI at (813) 974-9799.

You can visit our website at:

***[www.commuterservices.com](http://www.commuterservices.com)***



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University North Transportation Initiative  
*A Public-Private Partnership*

## **Transportation Information Service**

*This newsletter was created to inform, update, and educate members of the University North Transportation Initiative and the public on local mobility issues, projects, and developments.*

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**[www.commuterservices.com](http://www.commuterservices.com)**

## **HART extends Route 33 to serve Fletcher Avenue**

Beginning on April 30th, HART will be extending Route 33 east along Fletcher Avenue at the request of businesses located near the I-75 and Fletcher Avenue intersection. Currently Route 33 runs between Mission Bell and the University Area Transit Center. This route extension will serve the business, hotels and apartment complexes located in or around the Hidden River, Telecom, and Tampa Oaks corporate parks with transit service during the AM and PM peak hours.

The extended service will occur three times in the morning (6:30; 7:30 and 8:30) and three times in the evening (3:30; 4:30 and 5:30) to meet the demands of commuting employees. During the rest of the day, the buses will go as far as the 11 housing/apartment complexes that are located near 127th Avenue and 56th Street at hour intervals. The businesses around the I-75 and Fletcher Avenue intersection put up \$10,000 to help HART fund this extension.

Since the route extension runs along Fletcher Avenue, it will also provide a new way for USF students, faculty and staff to get to the University Area Transit Center and connect to the entire HARTline transit system.

The UNTI will be working closely with HART to make sure that employers and employees know of this new service and take advantage of it. UNTI and HART will be holding a series of Transportation Days at the corporate parks to provide employers and employees with information and free bus passes in order to try out the new route. Look for mail-outs for further information on these events.

## **USF's Off-Campus Circulator Update**

The Tampa City Council is poised to sign the interlocal agreement that will finalize the planning phase of the USF Pilot Circulator system and begin the process of implementation. At this point, the USF Pilot Circulator is scheduled to begin operation in August of this year. Although the procurement of shuttle buses could possibly delay the August start-up date.

The USF Pilot Circulator is an off-campus shuttle system that will provide students, faculty and staff with an alternative to driving to campus in an automobile. The off-campus shuttle system will also serve to reduce traffic congestion around the university and the parking problems on campus frequently experienced by students. The shuttle is funded through fees the university pays for its impact on traffic congestion.

In a study funded by the UNTI, three routes were designed to serve areas to the north, east and west of the Tampa campus. It was recommended that the route to the north of campus be selected as the pilot route to test the system because the northern route has the highest concentration of students.

The northern route will serve the apartment complexes on 42nd Street, Skipper Road and 46th Street before returning to the campus. If the pilot circulator project is successful, the other two routes will be implemented in the future. Look for more information in future TIS Updates.

## **Welfare to Work Transportation Update**

In order to provide the much needed transportation for welfare to work, or WAGES, clients, HART is proposing three new routes to carry people to the Oldsmar business area. Oldsmar is one of the areas in the region that needs to recruit employees for entry level positions that have higher than average pay scales; positions that are well suited for WAGES clients. However, it is well documented that transportation is often a major obstacle for WAGES clients to attain and maintain a job because of their lack of access to a reliable automobile.

As a result, Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties have joined forces to provide new service to the Oldsmar business district. This level of coordination by these three counties transit agencies is unprecedented. However, it was this innovative response and cooperative effort that enable the agencies to secure the welfare to work funds set aside for transportation.

On the Hillsborough side of the proposal, three new routes will be offered connecting the county with Oldsmar. The Northwest Express route will run from Net Park, through the University Area and across Waters and Linebaugh Avenues before reaching Oldsmar. The Southwest Express route will also start at Net Park but will pass through Ybor City and Downtown before taking Hillsborough Avenue into Oldsmar. The last route proposal is an extension of Route 11 so that it will begin at the Northern Terminal in downtown Tampa, stop at the Tampa Bay Center and then pass through Town and County before heading to Oldsmar.