

Hernando County FY 2025-34 Transit Development Plan (TDP) BOCC Meeting May 14, 2024



Hernando County FY 2025-2035 TDP Meeting Agenda

1. Introduction of CUTR TDP team
2. What is a TDP?
3. Previous TDP's and supportive plans
4. Current Conditions
5. Public Involvement Plan (PIP)
6. Community discussion – opportunities and challenges
7. Project schedule
8. Next steps

Hernando County 2025-34 TDP – CUTR Team Members/Introductions



Martin Catala,
Program Director,
Transit Management
and Innovation
CUTR



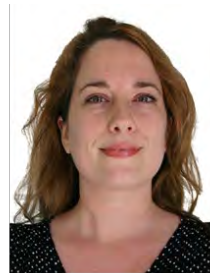
Jonathan Roberson, AICP,
Research Associate,
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Vicky Perk
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Chris Cochran
Senior Transportation Planner
Madrid CPWG



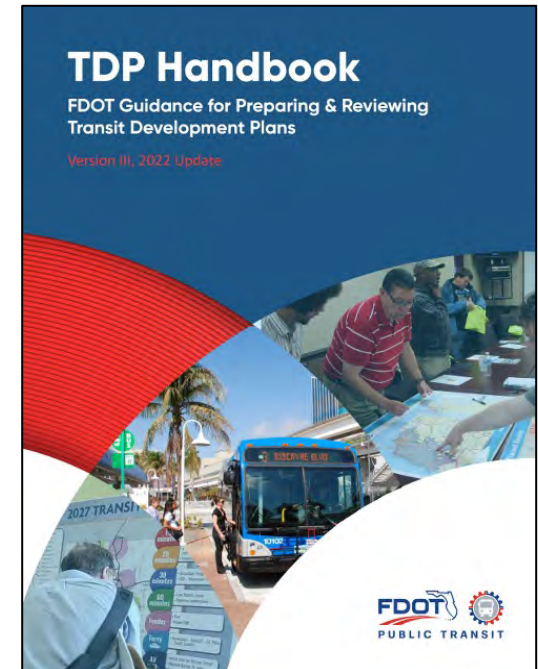
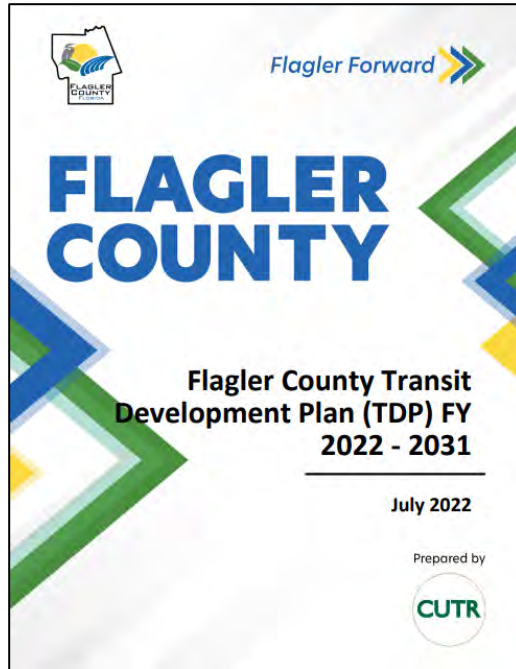
Jennifer Flynn
Senior Research Associate
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Melissa De Leon,
Program Planner
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Recent CUTR TDP's & Resources



Source:

<https://planfortransit.com/tdp-resource-center/>

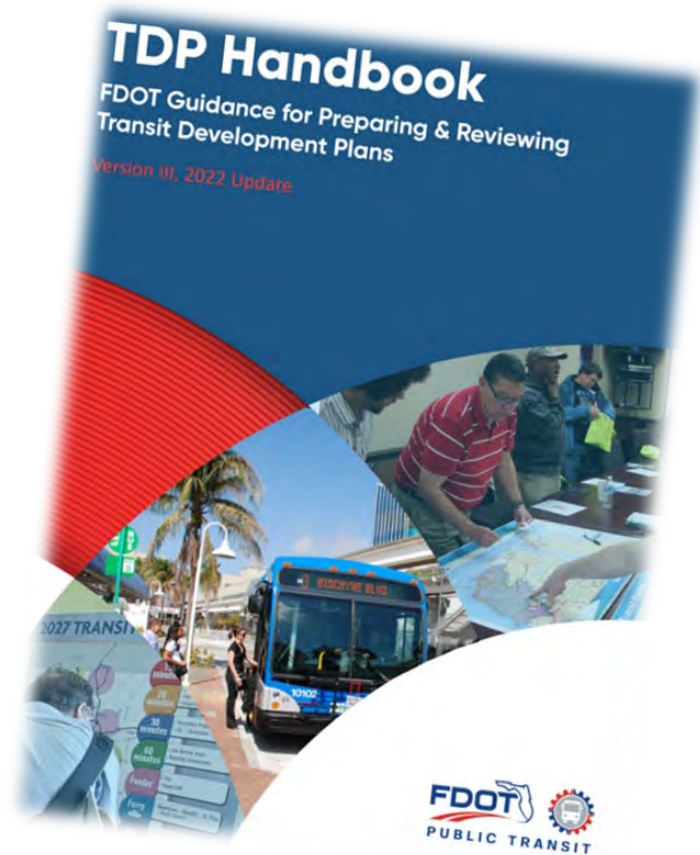


What is a Transit Development Plan (TDP)?

- Ten-year plan that supports the development of an effective multimodal public transportation system.
- Required every five years by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), guaranteeing the County access to annual State Public Transit Block Grant operating funds.
- Basis for defining current and future public transportation needs in Hernando County.
- Transit provider's planning, development, and operational guidance document: a "strategic blueprint."
- Marketing tool for providing continual community outreach and awareness of public transportation.
- Detailed financial plan outlining paths to implementing new service and capital projects.
- **The TDP is "yours"**
 - It will reflect the interests of your community and the help plan to continue success of TheBus system

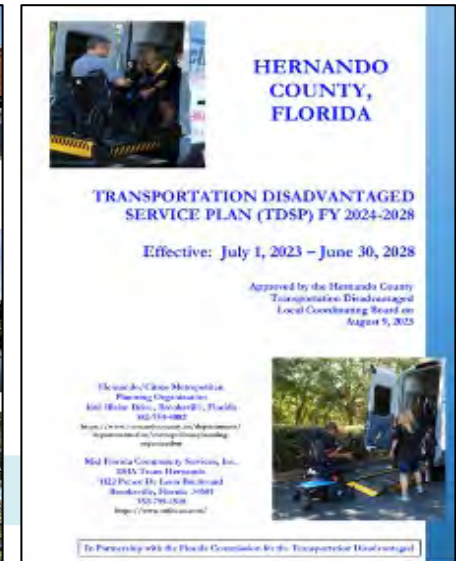
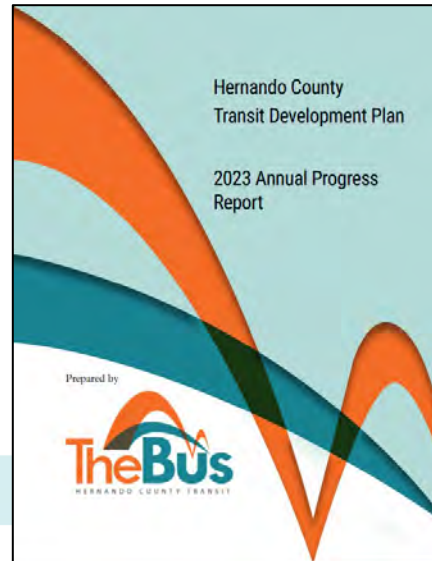
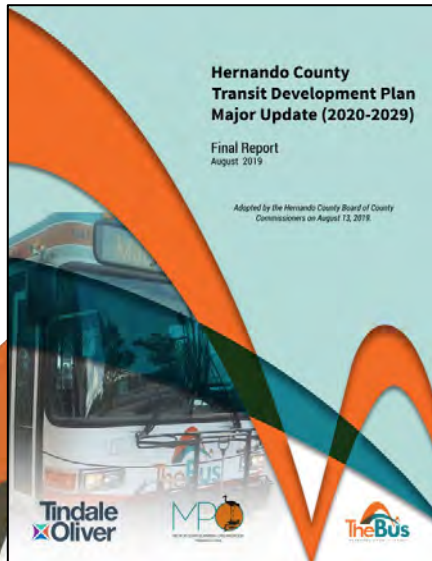
Required Components of a Major TDP

1. Baseline Conditions Assessment
2. Existing Service & Performance Evaluation
3. Public Involvement
4. Situation Appraisal
5. Goals & Objectives
6. Transit Demand Assessment
7. Needs Development & Evaluation
8. Ten-Year Transit Development Plan (TDP)
9. Plan Implementation and Coordination



Previous Hernando County TDPs & Other Supportive Plans

- The last TDP Major Update was completed and adopted in 2019 with Annual Progress Reports (APR's) adopted in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- Other important plans/studies that support a TDP:
 - MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – 2050 Update currently underway
 - Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP)



Hernando County: TheBus System at a Glance

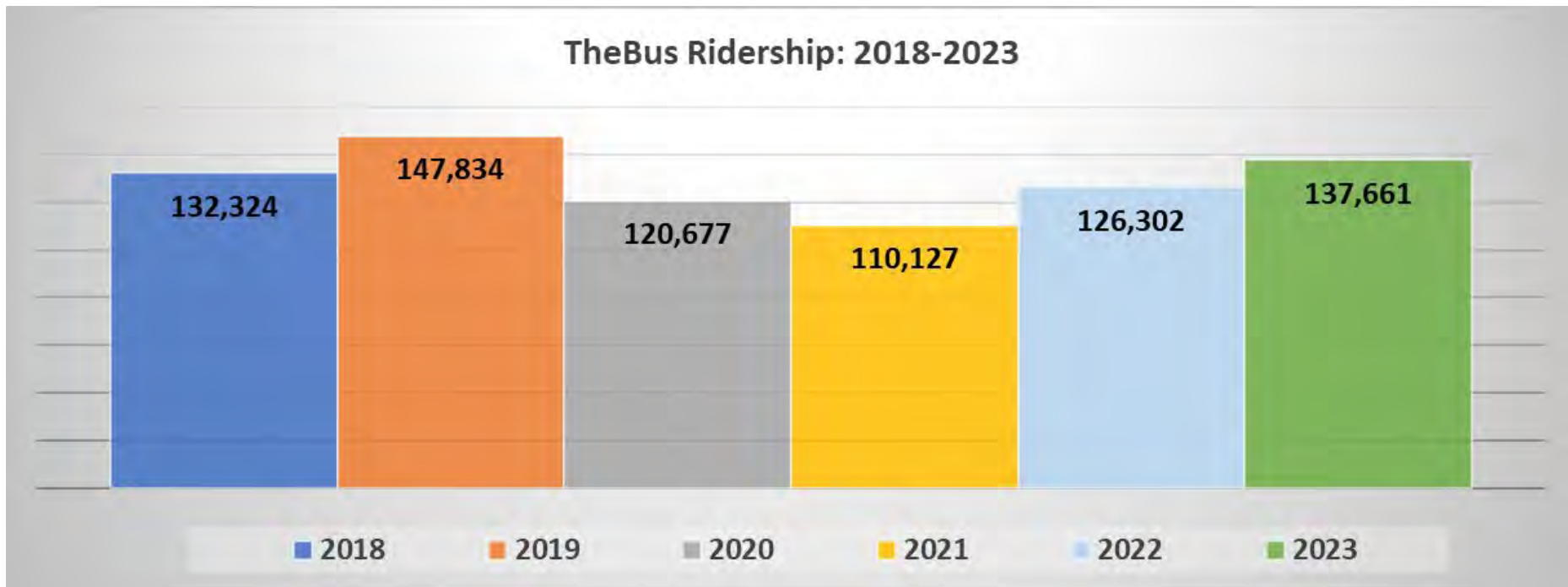


- 4 Fixed Routes: Red, Purple, Blue, Green
- Mon. – Sat. service from 5:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 250 bus stops in County
- Bus Shelters
- Connections to schools, shopping, jobs & key employers
- Regional connections to Pasco Co. transit system

TheBus Ridership: 2018-2023

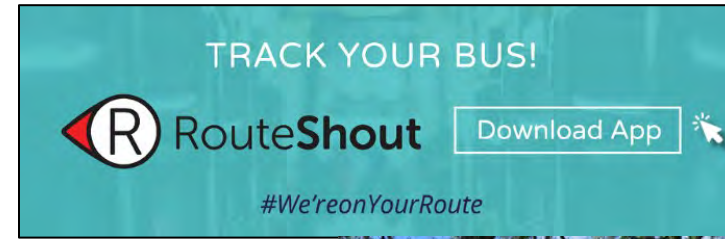
Initial Findings for Hernando County:

- Notable rebound in ridership since 2021:



TheBus: Current Conditions

1. Ridership continues to grow.
2. Installation of bus shelters and related amenities has been popular and helps riders.
3. New vehicles are being added to the fleet.
4. Real-time bus tracking app (RouteShout) allows customers to:
 - Pinpoint location of the next bus
 - Receive texts on when the next bus is arriving
 - Locate bus stops along each route (sing bus stop ID#)
5. Mobile ticketing app (Token Transit) permits customers to buy their bus tickets from an app.



Current Projects

- **Mermaid Route:** new service is under currently in development and will be incorporated in the final TDP (including the “Mermaid Route”).
- **Transit-Specific Garage/Transfer/Administrative Facility:** Transit recently applied for a federal capital grant that aims to cover most of the \$17.5 M cost of a transit-specific facility.
- **Transit Transfer Site and Route Study:** examining potential sites for a new transit-specific facility and optimal routing for serving the location of a new facility.

Future Plans
For our growing County

TheBus

North Hwy 19
FY24 Transit Study

East Hwy 50

South Hwy 41

“Mermaid” Run
Future Service

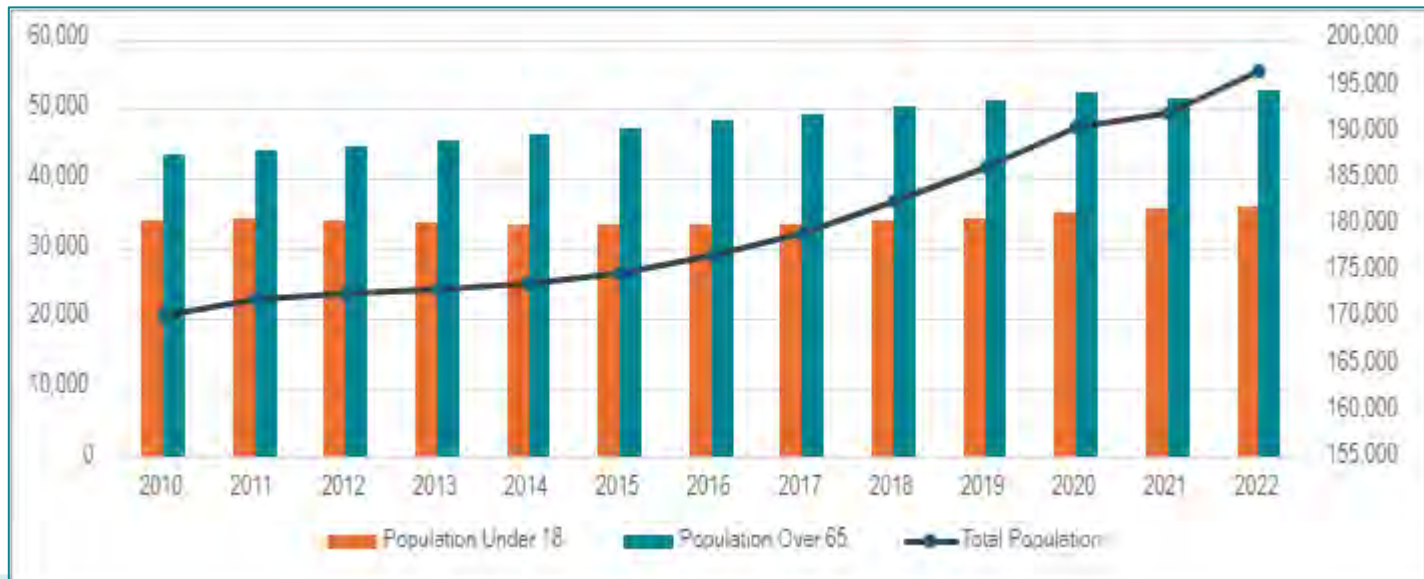
Existing and Projected Conditions in Hernando County

The TDP will look at existing and projected conditions in Hernando County for 2025-34 and examine the challenges and opportunities that may impact transit service needs. Questions to consider:

- Where/how much population growth occurring?
- How much is Hernando County over 65 population projected to grow?
- What are projected income levels and employment?
- Where are current and future employment opportunities?
- Will new residential & employment growth be accessible by public transportation?

Hernando County Population

- County has grown by over 15% from 2010 (170,337) to 2022 (196,621).
- The Over 65 population is growing and represents nearly 27% of total population.
- The Under 18 population is growing and represents over 18% of total population.
- Typically, the Over 65 and Under 18 age groups depend on public transportation for day-to-day needs.



Planned TDP Public Outreach

1. Public Involvement activities scheduled include:
 - On-Board Survey of all TheBus routes
 - Online Surveys
 - Public Meetings/Workshops
 - Interviews with Community Stakeholders
 - Presentations to the MPO
2. Are there other recommended community groups/meetings that we can present to?
3. Are there any other County or BOCC events we can present to?

Table 3-4: TDP Rule Requirement Vs. Best Practice

Public Involvement	Required	Preferred
Approved TDP Public Involvement Plan (PIP)*	●	
Establish Project Review Committee		●
TDP visioning with elected officials/boards		●
Minimum 14-day notification for events open to the public		●
Opportunities for public involvement outlined in PIP	●	
Solicit comments from Regional Workforce Board (RWB)	●	
Advise FDOT, RWB, MPO of public meetings**	●	
Provide review opportunities to FDOT, RWB, MPO***	●	
Pre-TDP outreach and post-adoption public outreach		●

**TDP PIP approved by FDOT, or the local MPO Public Participation Plan approved by both the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration.*

***Advise FDOT, RWB, and MPO of all public meetings where the TDP is to be presented or discussed.*

****Provide opportunities to FDOT, RWB, and MPO to review and comment on the TDP during development of the mission, goals, objectives, alternatives, and 10-year implementation program.*



What are the Opportunities & Challenges for Public Transportation in Hernando County?

1. What aspects of TheBus service are working best in the community?
2. What are the top opportunities for new or expanded public transportation service in Hernando County and the region?
3. What are the top challenges you see for public transportation to be successful in Hernando County?
4. What are the top three improvements you would like to see made to TheBus system?
5. What can TheBus do better?
6. Please be on the look out (by email) for the first Hernando TDP online/social media survey once it is active in mid-May.

Next Steps

1. Begin public outreach and surveys:

- On-Board surveys
- Online/Social Media surveys
- Stakeholder/Community interviews
- Presentations with the MPO Board & Committees
- Other public outreach/meetings

2. Develop TDP that provides a detailed look at:

- Existing and projected conditions
- Evaluation of existing service & performance
- Analysis of other plans and partners (such as the MPO, FDOT, municipalities, employers) that can help in the success TheBus
- Updating of agency goals & objectives
- Detailed service and capital project cost and revenue estimates
- Strategies to implementing all identified service and capital needs

3. Provide a TDP project update to the BOCC in July or August.

Project Schedule

Tasks	2024											2025	
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan	Feb.
1 Project Management	Kickoff Mtg.	WRG Mtg. #1	WRG Mtg. #2	WRG Mtg. #3	WRG Mtg. #4		WRG Mtg. #5	WRG Mtg. #6					
2 Public Involvement Program		★ Submit PIP to FDOT Tech Memo #1	On-Board Survey Stakeholder Meetings Operator Mtgs./Surveys										
3 Assessment of Existing Conditions													
4 Performance Evaluation				Tech Memo #2									
5 Situation Appraisal													
6 Update of Policy Framework and Goals & Objectives						Tech Memo #3							
7 Definition & Evaluation of Alternatives													
8 Ten-Year Action Plan								Tech Memo #4					
9 Review & Adoption by BOCC, Submittal to FDOT										BOCC Approval	★ Submit to FDOT for Review & Approval	Complete Final TDP Document	

➤ Planned BOCC TDP Approval Date: 11/19/24



We are here to listen and help you build on your success!

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Thank You!

