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Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report

Fiscal Year 2020-21

July 11, 2022



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

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Fiscal Year 2020-21

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
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July 11, 2022

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Introduction

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Introduction

Public transportation is provided in the City of Gainesville, and adjacent unincorporated areas of Alachua County, by the City of Gainesville Regional Transit System. The Regional Transit System operates a fleet of 131 diesel and hybrid buses on its fixed-route system within a service area of approximately 74 square miles and over 149,000 in population. In Fiscal Year 2020-21, there were 55 routes operating in the system, including ten routes that serve the University of Florida campus.

From 1991 through 1994, the Regional Transit System experienced declining ridership. However, in 1997, a partnership between the University of Florida and the City of Gainesville enabled the Regional Transit System to realign some of its existing fixed routes and to increase frequencies to provide better connections between routes and better service to the University of Florida campus. This partnership included pre-paid unlimited transit access for all University of Florida students, staff and faculty. In 2011, a partnership between Santa Fe College and the City of Gainesville enabled the Regional Transit System to enhance service to the Santa Fe College campus. This partnership included pre-paid unlimited transit access for all Santa Fe College students, staff and faculty. Since 1996, ridership on the system has increased from about two million annual riders to more than ten million annual riders. However in the past few years, ridership has fallen below ten million. Infill development and travel options such as scooters, Lyft and Uber may have contributed to this recent trend. In addition, higher density development has been constructed near the University of Florida and the University of Florida Health complex.

Covid-19 Global Pandemic Influence

In the spring of 2020, a global pandemic of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) caused severe health and economic problems. Over half of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 ridership was affected by the Covid-19 impacts. The University of Florida closed its campus for on-site academic and athletic activities. State and local government buildings were closed to the public and/or had limited access. In addition, private sector activities had no and/or limited access. Much of government and private enterprise was conducted virtually via communications media technologies.

Due to the significant drop in demand for physical mobility, ridership significantly dropped.

In the spring of 2021, inoculations that would lessen the lethality of the Covid-19 virus (Coronavirus) became available. However, the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 ridership was still affected by the Covid-19 impacts. The University of Florida remained closed for on-site academic and athletic activities or had very limited access until Spring Semester 2021, which had limited access. The University of Florida did not fully open its campus for on-site academic and athletic activities until Fall Semester 2021, which is outside this reporting period. State and local government buildings remained closed to the public and/or had limited access. In addition, private sector activities had no and/or limited access. For this reporting period, much of government and private enterprise continued to be conducted virtually via communications media technologies.

The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization has been receiving periodic reports in order to monitor Covid-19 Pandemic ridership recovery.

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Chapter I

Annual Ridership Trends Systemwide, 1991-2021

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Chapter I: Annual Ridership Trends System-wide, 1991-2021

This chapter provides an overview of the system-wide transit ridership trends from 1991 to 2021 (see Illustration 1.1). Significant increases in ridership started in 1998, the year after the City of Gainesville and the University of Florida partnership was established. The Covid-19 Pandemic significantly impacted ridership in 2020 and 2021.

Illustration 1.2 shows the number of motorcycle and scooter permits issued by the University of Florida from 2007 through 2018. The significant usage of scooters has contributed to some of the decline in transit ridership, particularly among the University of Florida faculty, staff student population.

Illustration 1.1

Annual Regional Transit System Ridership
Systemwide, 1991-2021

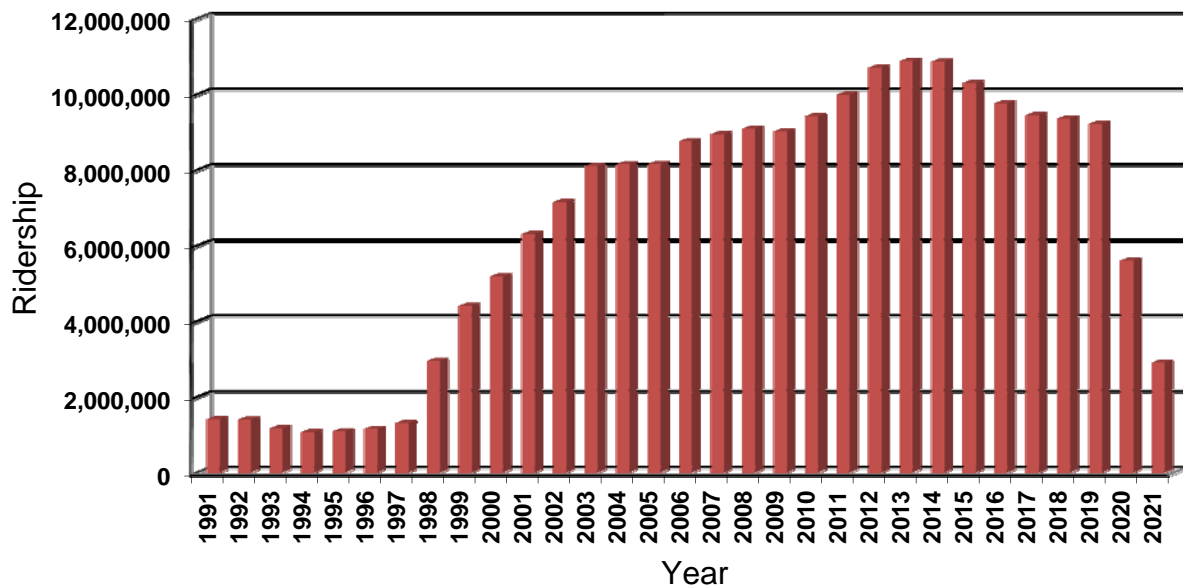
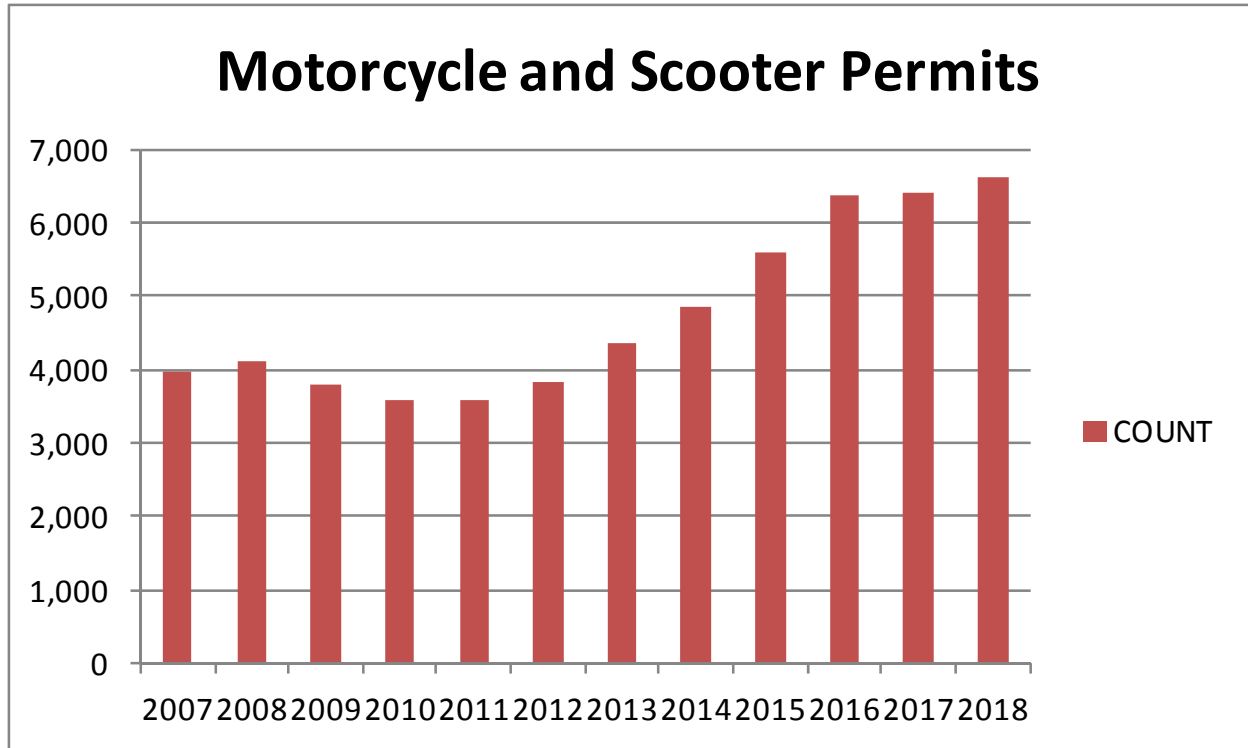


Illustration 1.2

Motorcycle and Scooter Permits -
University of Florida, 2008-2018



Chapter II

Monthly Ridership Trends

City Routes, 2008-2021

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Chapter II: Monthly Ridership Trends City Routes, 2008-2021

The Transportation Mobility element of the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan identifies 23 areas as major trip “generators” or “attractors.” These areas are identified based on the existing and future land use map series, including neighborhood centers within the City and those identified by Alachua County in the unincorporated portions of the Gainesville Urbanized Area.

The routes with the highest annual average ridership are Routes 1, 12, 20, 35 and 38. Illustration 2.1 shows the annual total ridership for each route for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Illustration 2.2 shows the distribution of annual ridership for all the city routes for Fiscal Year 2020-21. The following paragraphs and illustrations show monthly growth trends for the routes with the highest annual average ridership.

Table 2.1

**Major Trip Generators and Attractors - City of Gainesville
Fiscal Year 2020-21**

Generator/Attractor	Bus Route
Santa Fe College	10, 23, 39, 43, 76, 800x
Oaks Mall	5, 20, 23, 75, 76
Archer Road	1, 12, 19, 34,38, 75
Butler Plaza	1, 12, 28, 33, 34, 36, 37, 75, 800x
Westgate Regency Shopping Center	5, 34, 43
Millhopper Shopping Center	10, 43
Ridgeway Village Shopping Center	8
NE WalMart Supercenter	2, 3, 11, 25, 26, 27, 711
North WalMart Supercenter, Sr. Recreation Center	6, 8
Northwood Village	8
NW 13th Street at 39th Avenue	6, 15
Gainesville Mall	6, 8, 15, 29
University of Florida, Shands and Veterans Hospital	1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17,19, 20, 21, 25, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 43, 46
Southwest 13th Street	8, 13, 16
Rosa Parks Transfer Center (Downtown) Gainesville	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 17, 24, 26, 27, 46, 711
Gainesville Shopping Center	15
Gainesville Regional Airport	25, 26, 39
Tacachale Developmental Disability Center	24, 25
Southeast Hawthorne Road at SE 27th Street	7, 711
Royal Park Plaza Cinema	5, 43

Table 2.2
Total Ridership - City Routes
Fiscal Year 2020-21

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2021 Total
1	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	232,485
2	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Northeast Walmart Supercenter	33,351
3	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to North Main Post Office	19,523
5	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Oaks Mall	167,617
6	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Plaza Verde Shopping Center	41,761
7	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Eastwood Meadows Apartments	35,662
8	Shands Hospital to North Walmart Supercenter, Senior Recreation Center	120,175
9	University of Florida Reitz Union to Hunters Run Subdivision	104,658
10	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Santa Fe College	44,152
11	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Eastwood Meadows Apartments	62,451
12	Reitz Union to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	164,086
13	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Career Source	87,645
15	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to NW 13th Street at NW 23rd Avenue	151,640
16	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Sugar Hill Neighborhood	54,288
17	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Rosa Parks Downtown Station	52,250
19	University of Florida Reitz Union to SW 23rd Terrace at SW 35th Place	0
20	University of Florida Reitz Union to Oaks Mall	268,837
21	University of Florida Reitz Union to Cabana Beach	56,382
22	University of Florida Hub to Old Archer Road	0
23	Oaks Mall to Santa Fe College	32,875
24	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Gainesville Job Corps Center	5,619
25	University of Florida Commuter Lot to Gainesville Regional Airport	20,815
26	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Gainesville Regional Airport	52,931
27	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Northeast Walmart Supercenter	5,935
28	University of Florida Hub to Forest Park Apartments	31,873
29	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Kiwanis Park	0
33	Butler Plaza Transfer Station to Midtown	98,683
34	University of Florida Hub to Lexington Crossing Apartments	60,764
35	University of Florida Reitz Union to Southwest 35th Place	180,082
36	University of Florida Reitz Union to Southwest 34th Street Post Office	18,270
37	University of Florida Reitz Union to Butler Plaza (via Southwest 35th Place)	59,267
38	University of Florida Hub to Gainesville Place	141,696
39	Santa Fe College to Gainesville Regional Airport	3,210
40	University of Florida Hub to Hunters Crossing Apartments	5,041
41	Not In Use	
43	University of Florida Shands Hospital to Santa Fe College	63,963
46	University of Florida Reitz Union to Rosa Parks Downtown Station	25,846
62	Oaks Mall to Lexington Crossing Apartments	0
75	Oaks Mall to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	133,642
76	Santa Fe College to Haile Square Market	2,317
77	Santa Fe College to Cabana Beach Apartments	0
711	Downtown for East Meadows	19,331
800X	Santa Fe to Butler Plaza	4,164
City Totals		2,663,287

Table 2.2 Continued

Total Ridership - City Routes
Fiscal Year 2020-21

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2021 Total
117	Park-N-Ride 2 (SW 34th Street)	7,506
118	Park-N-Ride 1 (Cultural Plaza)	62,541
119	Family Housing	11,388
120	West Circulator (Fraternity Row)	11,123
121	Commuter Lot	5,437
122	UF North/South Circulator	13,718
125	Lakeside	39,510
126	University of Florida East/West Circulator	9,657
127	East Circulator (Sorority Row)	153,490
128	Reitz Union to Lake Wauburg	0
129	University of Florida West/East Circulator	0
150	Haile Plantation to Campus	11,105
Campus Totals		209,694

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2021 Total
600	Microtransit - East University Avenue	6,782
601	Microtransit - Hawthorne Road	7,469
602	-	4,931
901	Tricounty Route - Lake City	0
902	Tricounty Route - Trenton	0
Microtransit/Express Totals		19,182

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2021 Total
300	Later Gator A (Fraternity Row to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	3,031
301	Later Gator B (Southwest Gainesville to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	3,902
302	Later Gator C (Oaks Mall to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	12,326
303	Later Gator D (CareerSource to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	499
305	Later Gator F (Butler Plaza to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	1,180
Later Gator Totals		8,612

Other Services Totals	0
Systemwide Totals	2,900,475

Indicates route not in operation

Illustration 2.1

Total Ridership - City Routes Fiscal Year 2020-21

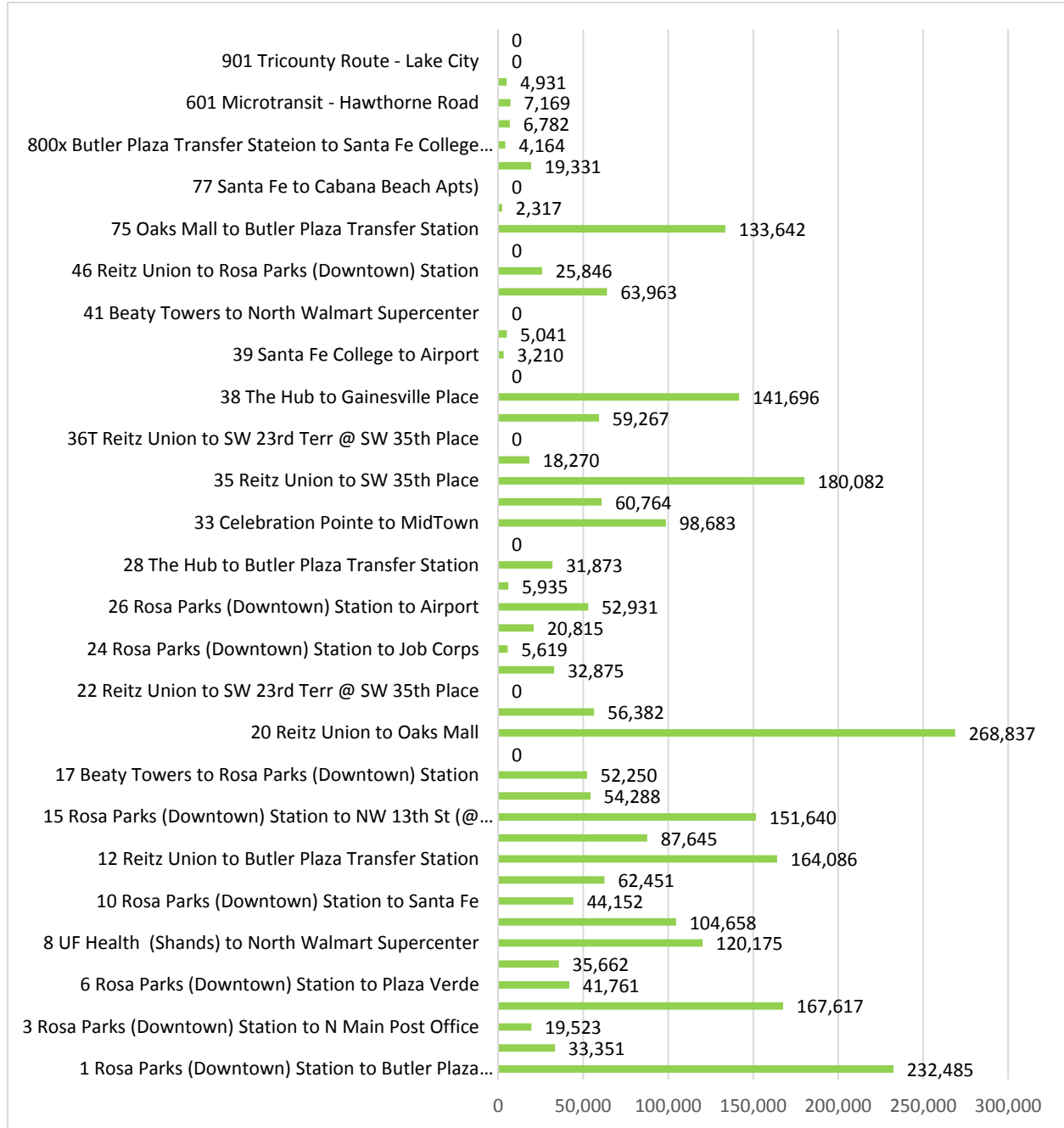


Illustration 2.2

Ridership Distribution - City Routes Fiscal Year 2020-21

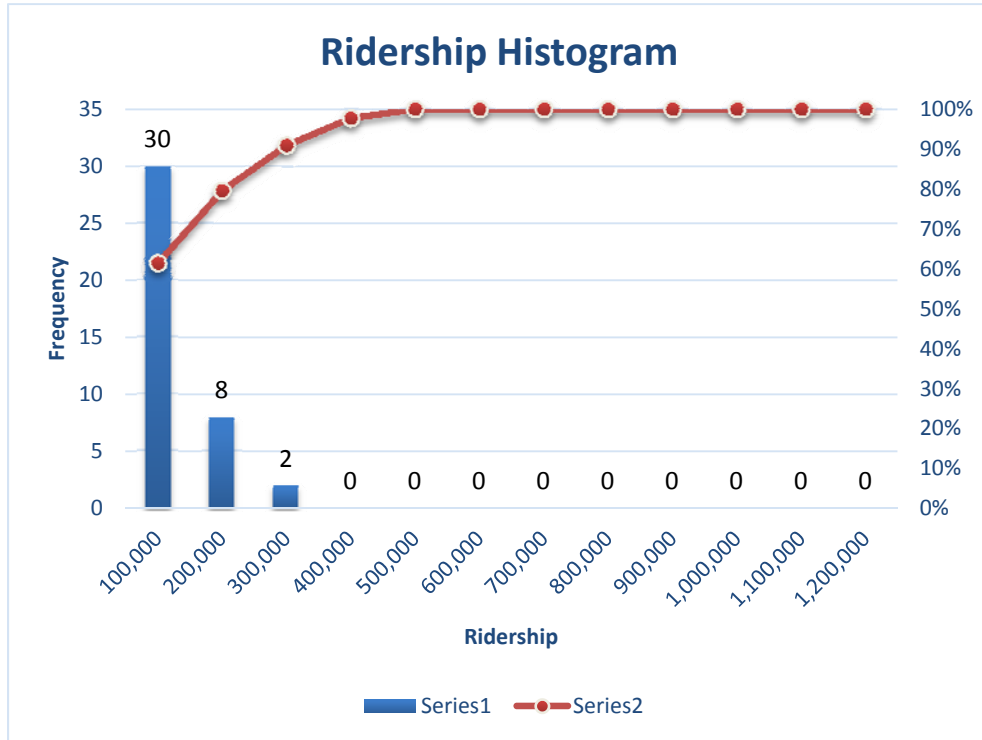
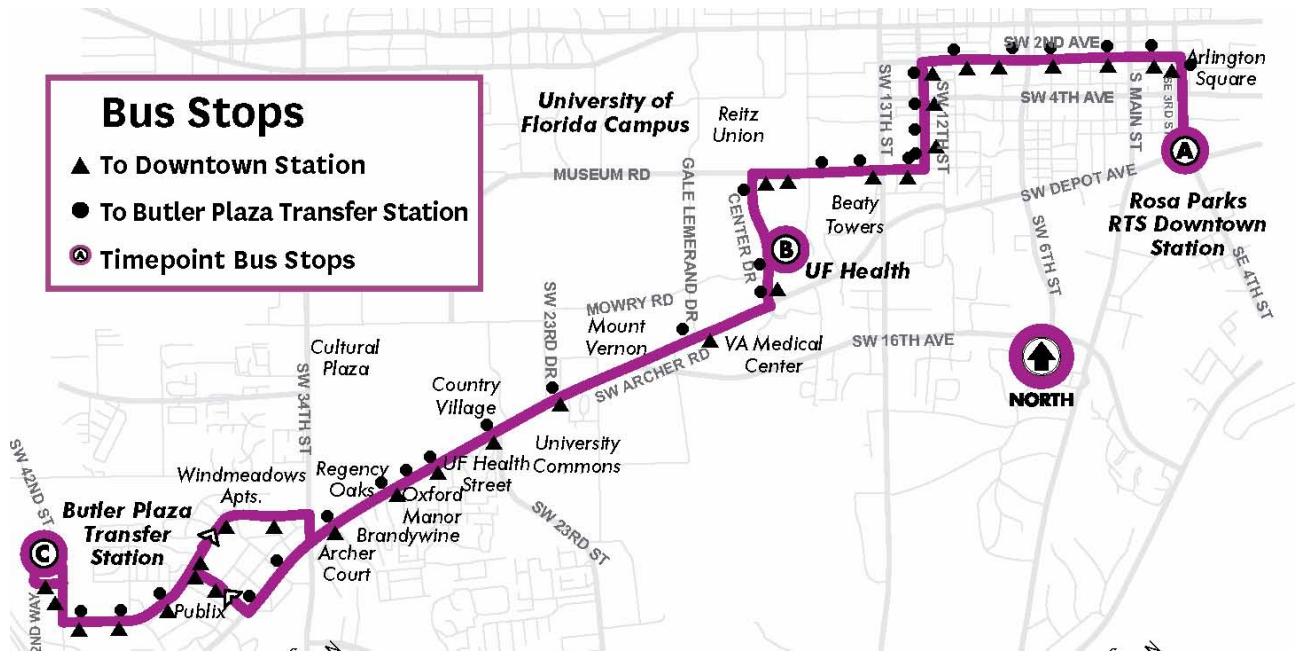


Illustration 2.3

Route 1 Map - Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Butler Plaza



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 2.4 shows monthly ridership on Route 1 from Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Butler Plaza.

Illustration 2.4

Monthly Trend for Route 1
City of Gainesville, 2008-2021

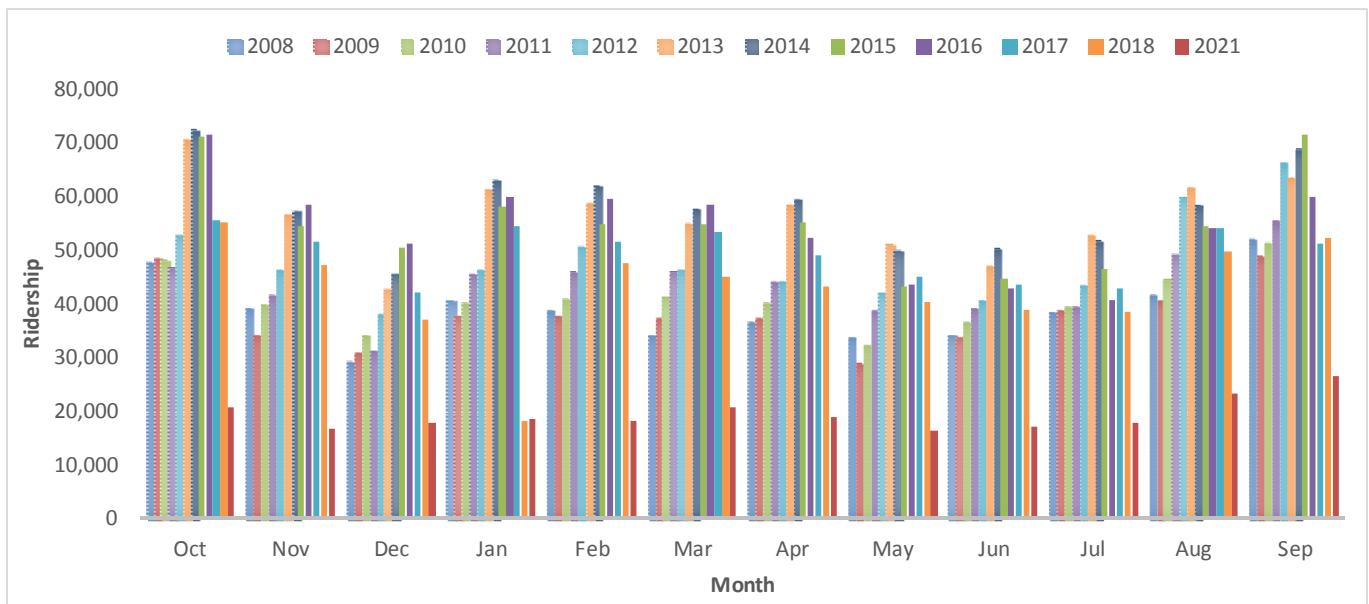


Illustration 2.5

Route 9 Map - Reitz Union to Hunters Run Subdivision



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 2.6 shows monthly ridership trends for Route 9 from Reitz Union to Hunters Run Subdivision.

Illustration 2.6

Monthly Trend for Route 9
City of Gainesville, 2008-2021

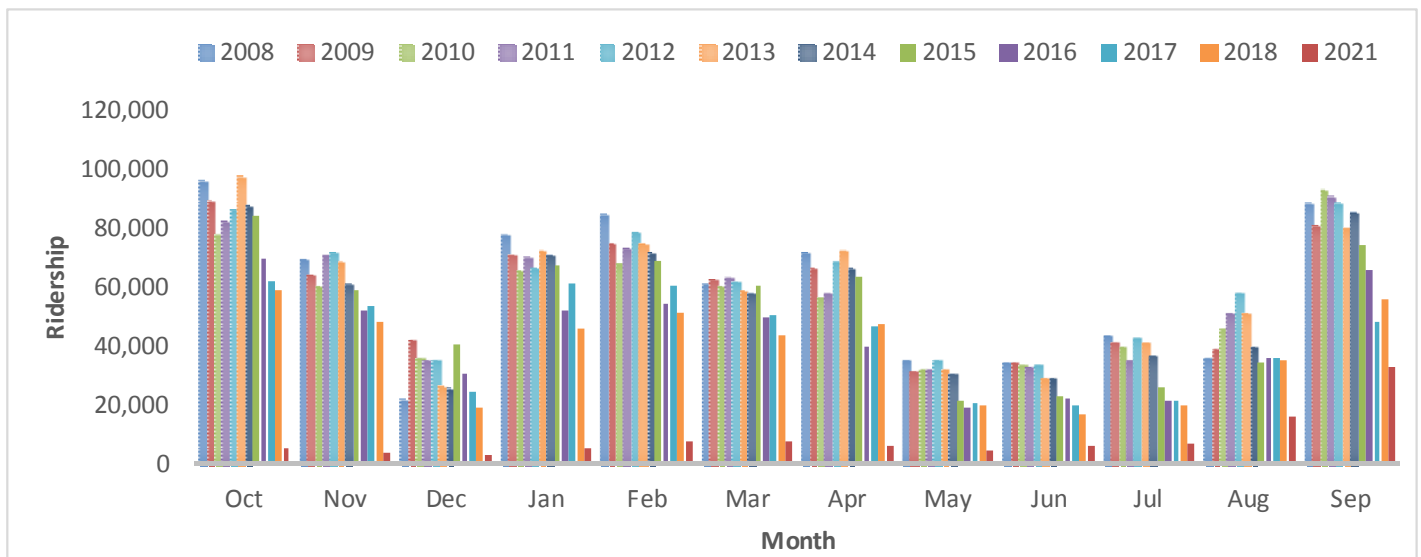
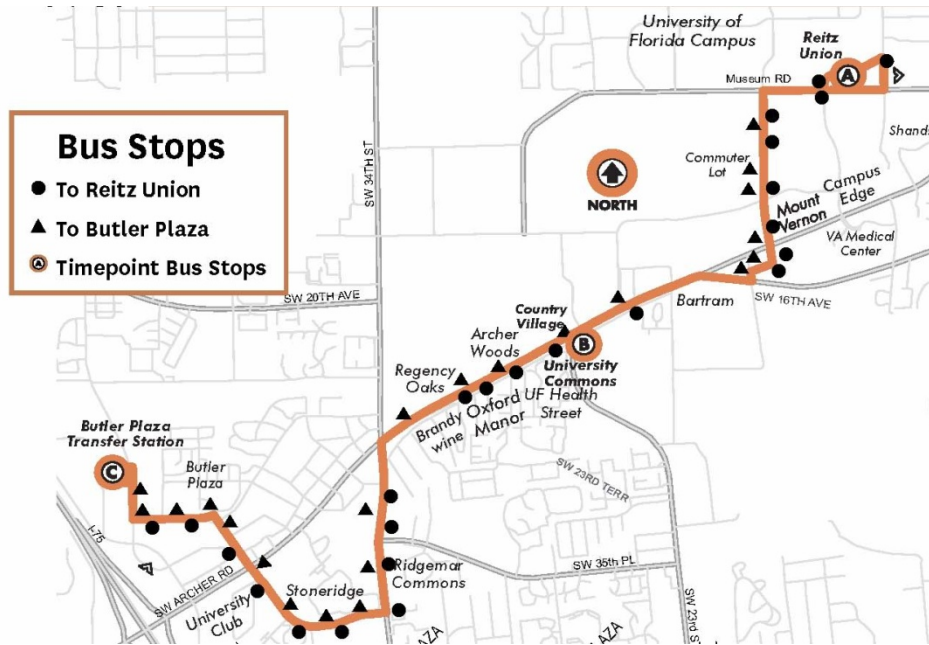


Illustration 2.7

Route 12 - Map Reitz Union to Butler Plaza



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 2.8 shows monthly ridership trends for Route 12 from Reitz Union to Butler Plaza.

Illustration 2.8

Monthly Trend for Route 12 City of Gainesville, 2008-2021

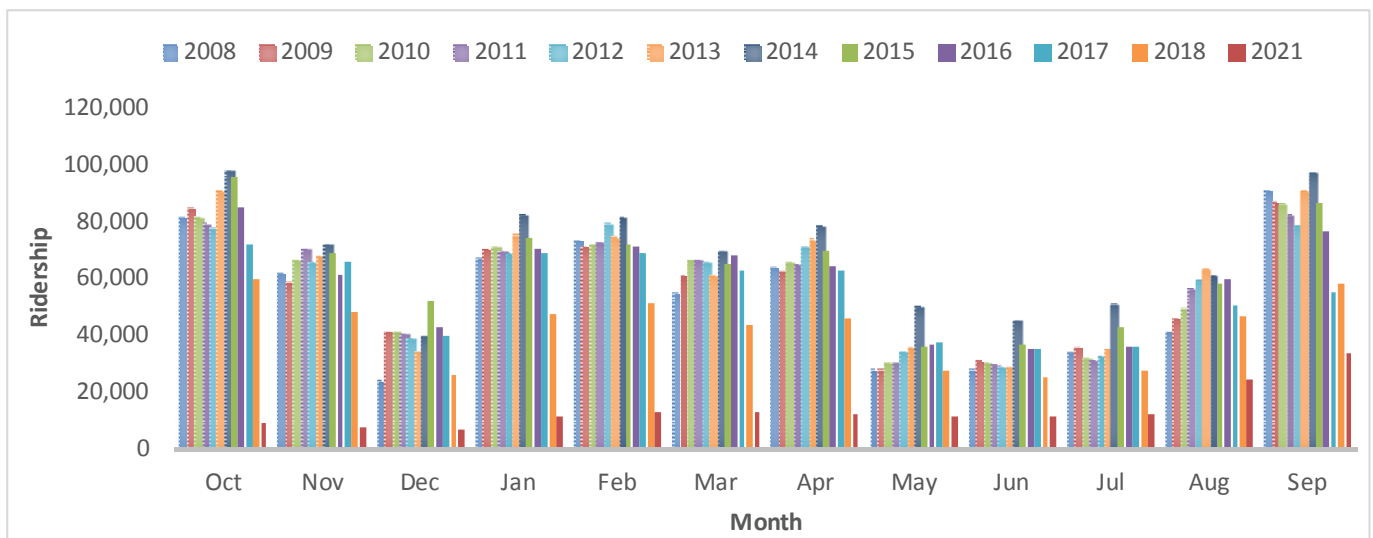
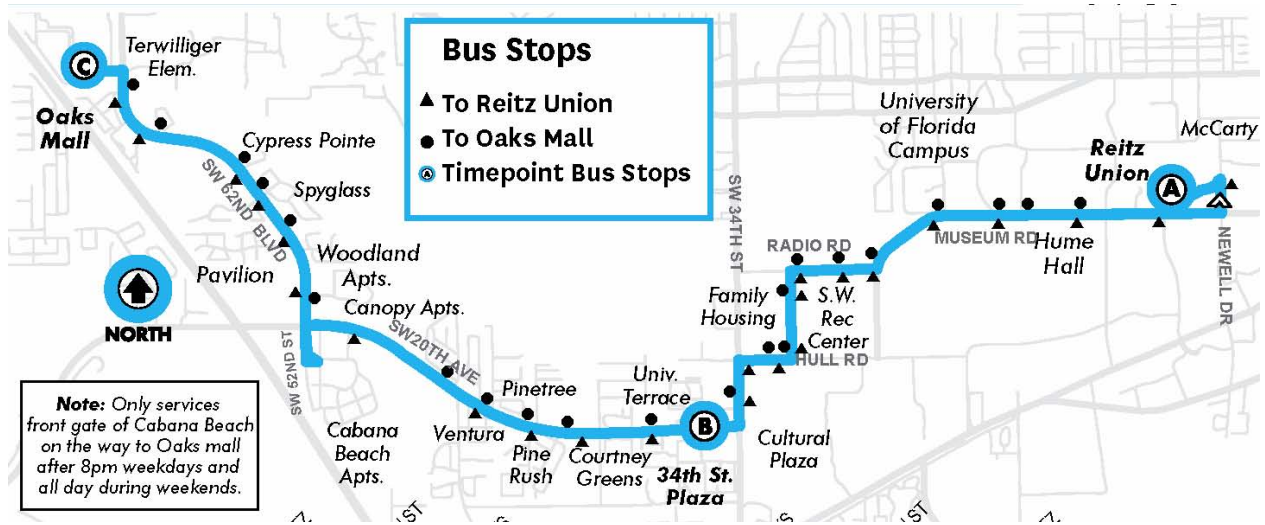


Illustration 2.9

Route 20 Map - Reitz Union to Oaks Mall



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 2.10 shows monthly ridership trends on Route 20 from Reitz Union to Oaks Mall.

Illustration 2.10

Monthly Trend for Route 20
City of Gainesville, 2008-2021

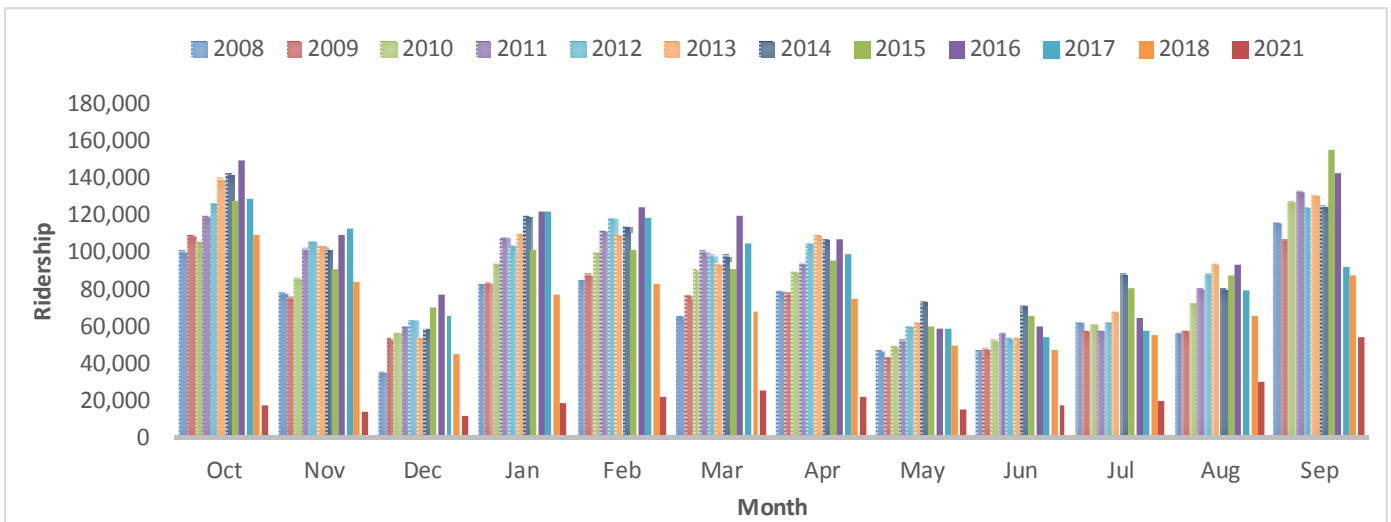
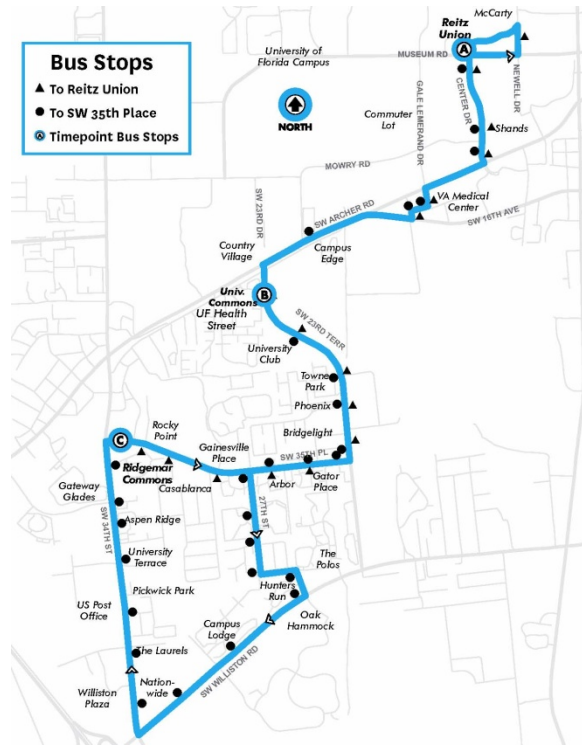


Illustration 2.11

Route 35 - Map Reitz Union to SW 35th Place

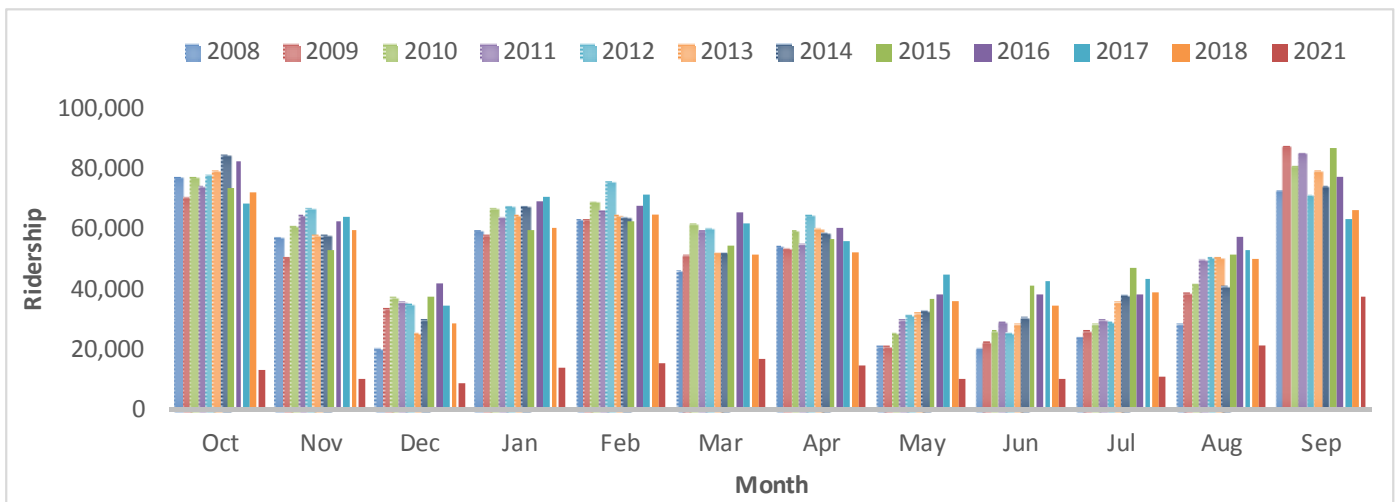


Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 2.12 shows monthly ridership trends on Route 35 from Reitz Union to SW 35th Place.

Illustration 2.12

Monthly Trend for Route 35
City of Gainesville, 2008-2021



Chapter III

Monthly Ridership Trends

Campus Routes, 2008-2021

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Chapter III: Monthly Ridership Trends Campus Routes, 2008-2021

The Regional Transit System operates 11 routes on the University of Florida campus (see Illustration 3.1). This section discusses monthly ridership trends for these routes. Compared with city routes, these routes have a greater proportion of student riders. Therefore, their ridership is influenced by the academic calendar of the University of Florida. For example, all of these routes experienced a significant decrease in ridership during the months of December, May and June.

A majority of the campus routes continued their decreasing ridership trend from 2016 to 2021. Monthly ridership for the following routes decreased:

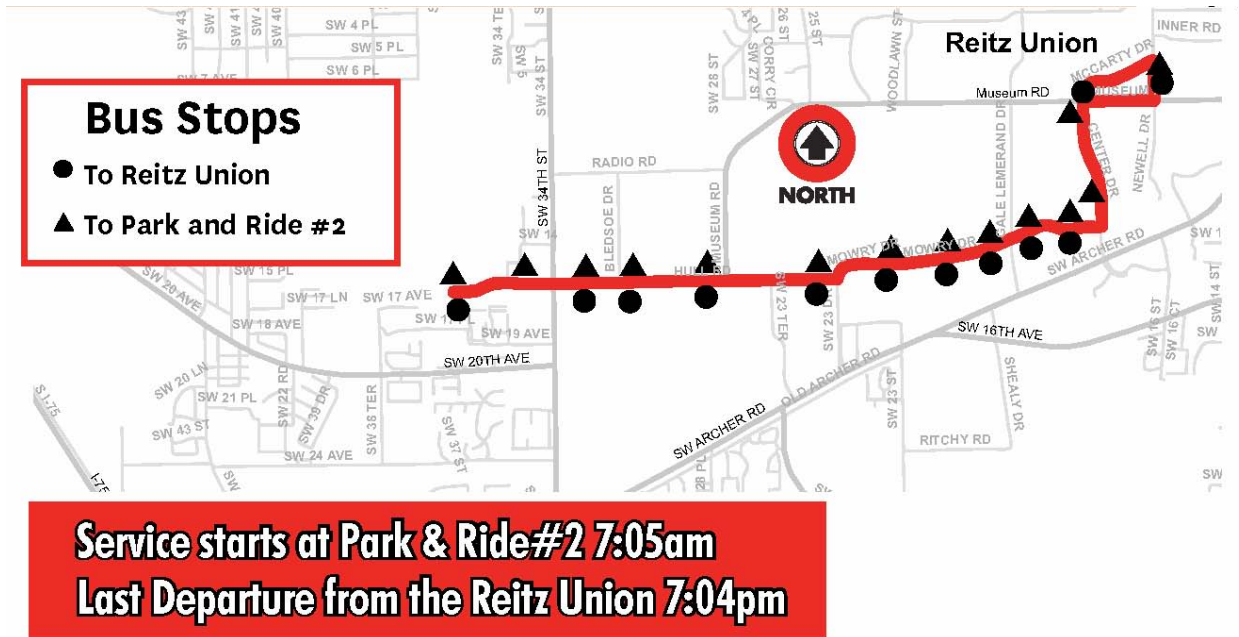
- Route 117 (-97.1 percent);
- Route 118 (-80.1 percent);
- Route 119 (-79.7 percent);
- Route 120 (-94.7 percent);
- Route 121 (-89.5 percent);
- Route 122 (-64.1 percent);
- Route 125 (-85.5 percent);
- Route 126 (-88.6 percent);
- Route 127 (-80.2 percent); and
- Route 128 (-100.0 percent).

The significance of the drop in ridership is due to the Covid-19 Pandemic impacts, which effected academic classes not being conducted on the University of Florida campus. Spring Semester 2021 had limited access to campus. A majority of classes were conducted virtually. The campus did not become fully accessible until the Fall semester 2021, which is outside this reporting period. In addition, micromobility, including the usage of scooters, has also impacted ridership.

Route 129, which was initiated in August 2015 to expand transit coverage on the University of Florida campus, was suspended in Fiscal Year 2017-18. Route 150 which provides service from Haile Plantation to the University of Florida campus was added in Fiscal Year 2018-19. Route 128 was suspended in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Illustration 3.1

Campus Route 117 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.2

Monthly Trend for Route 117
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

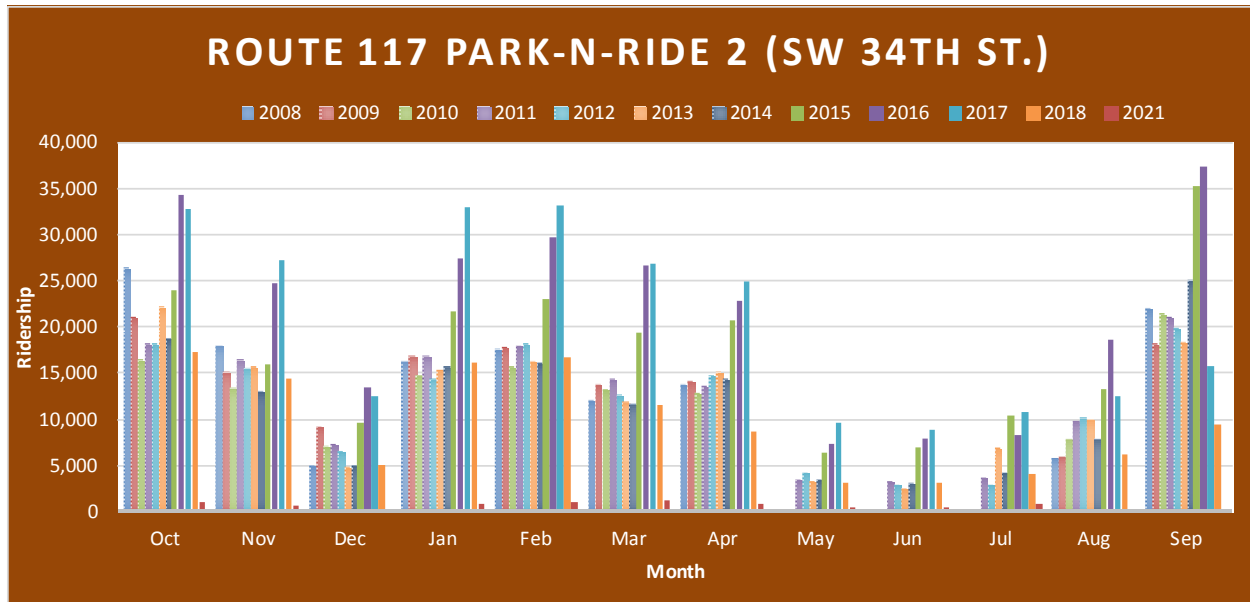
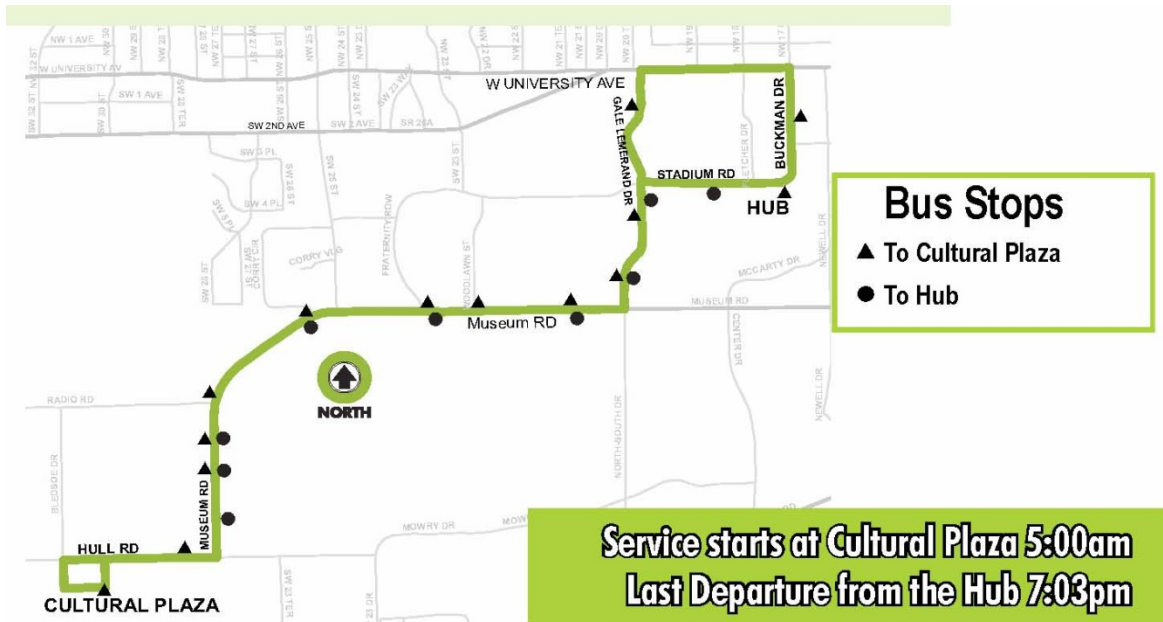


Illustration 3.3
Campus Route 118 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rts.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.4
Monthly Trend for Route 118
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

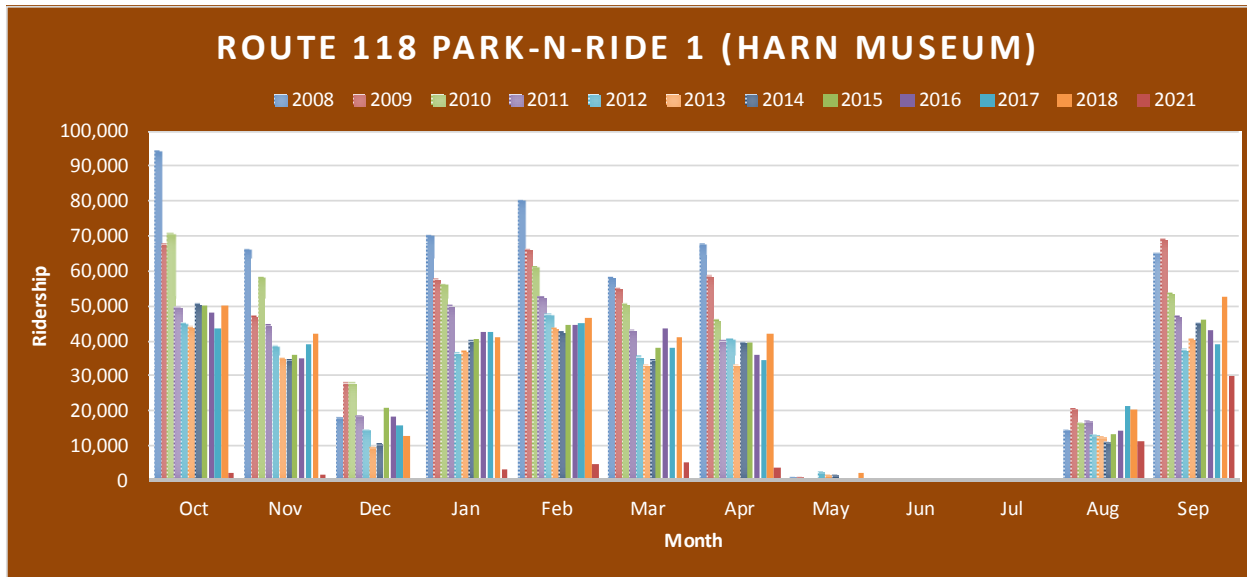
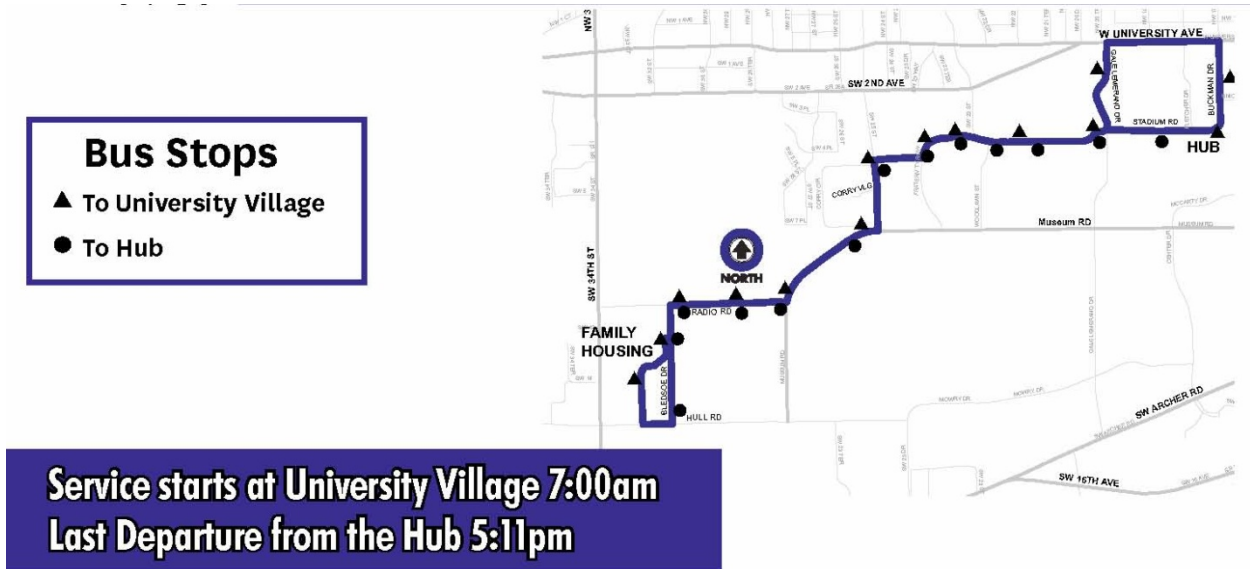


Illustration 3.5

Campus Route 119 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rts.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.6

Monthly Trend for Route 119 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

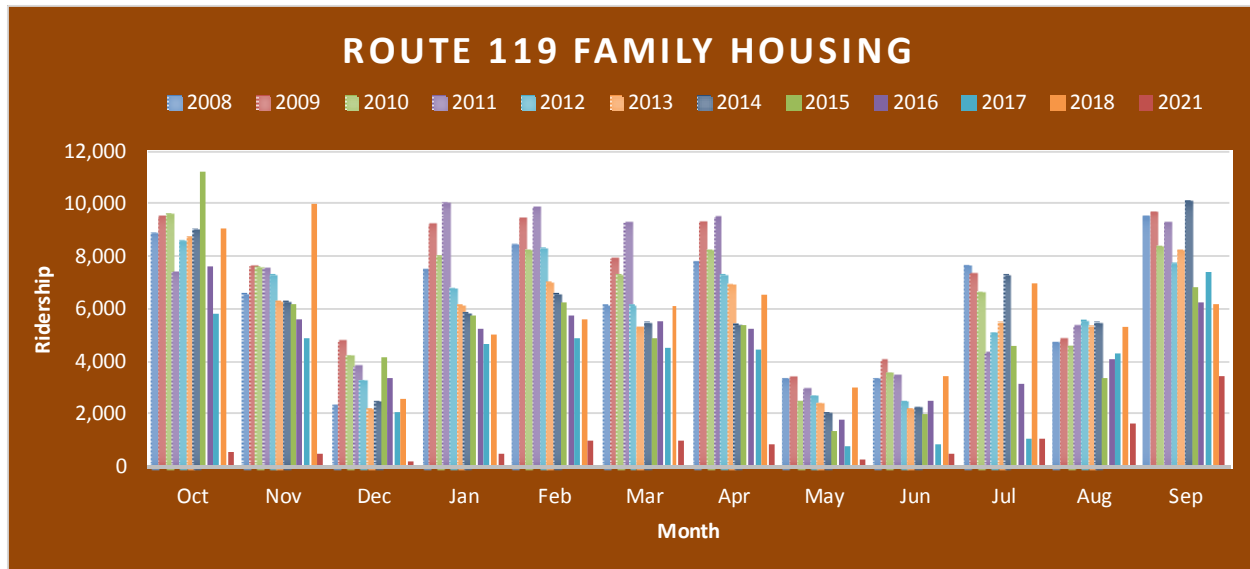
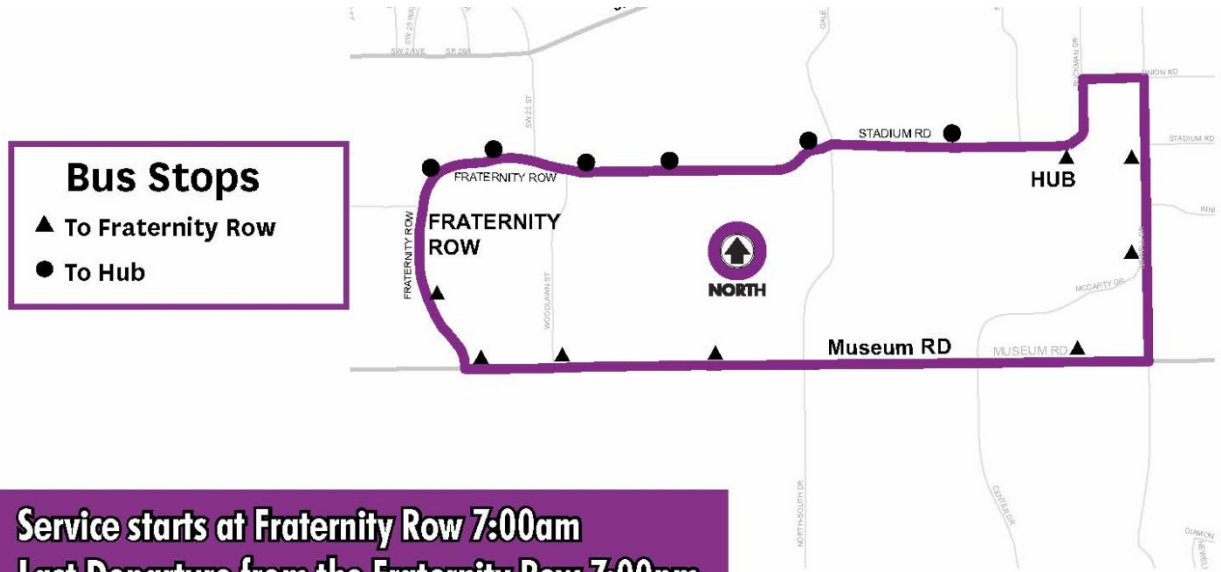


Illustration 3.7

Campus Route 120 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.8

Monthly Trend for Route 120
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

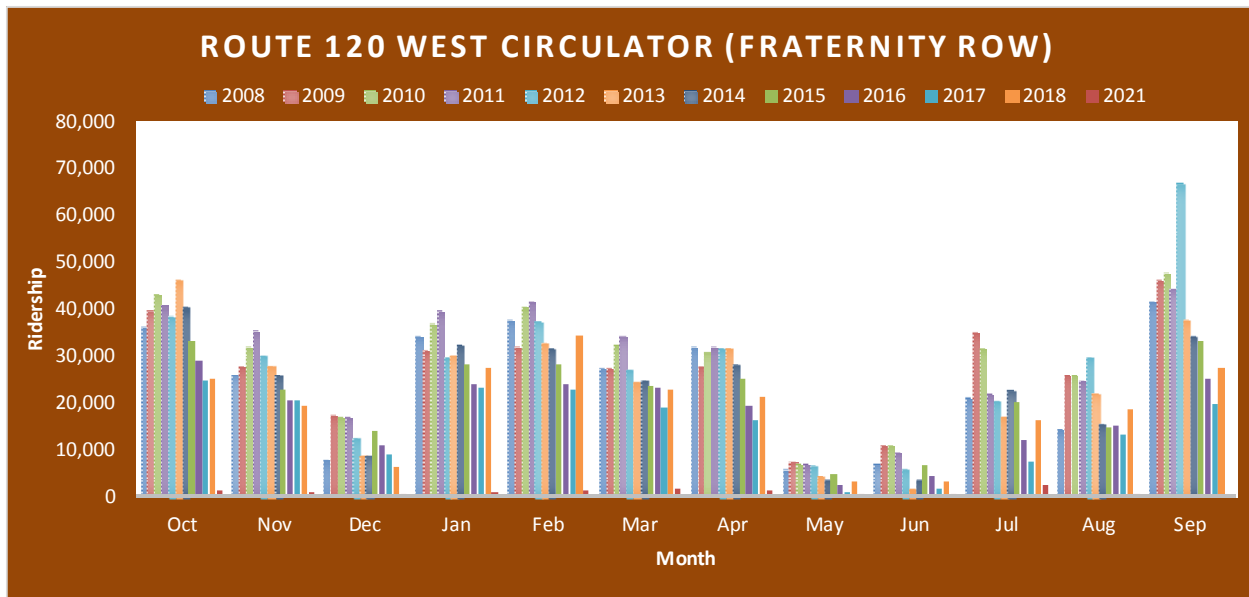


Illustration 3.9

Campus Route 121 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rts.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.10

Monthly Trend for Route 121
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

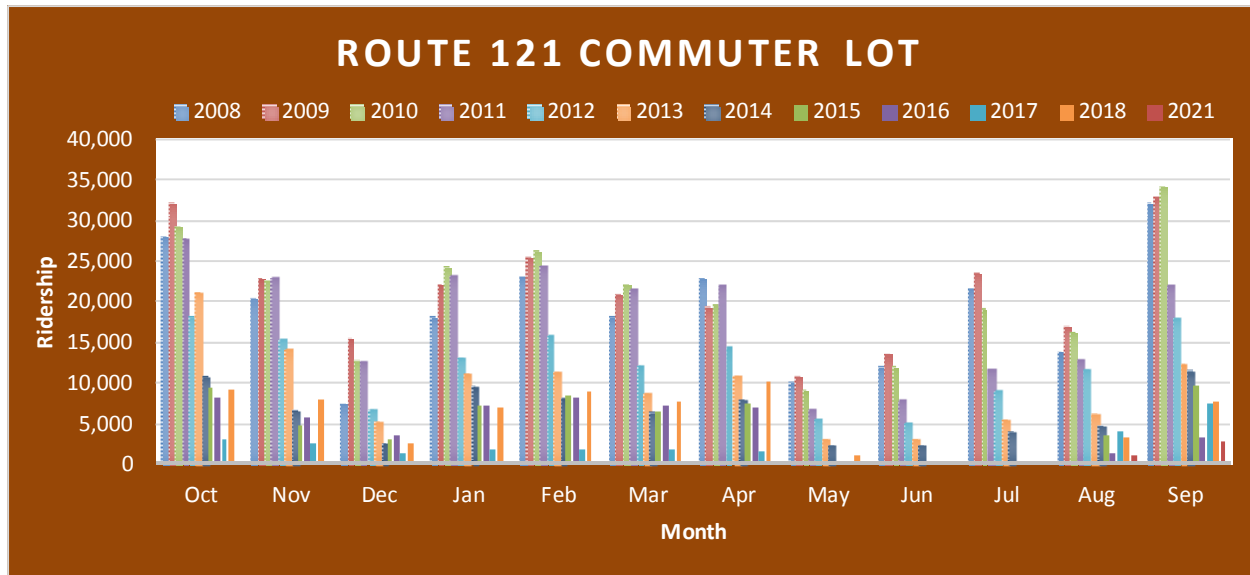


Illustration 3.11

Campus Route 122 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rts.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.12

Monthly Trend for Route 122
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

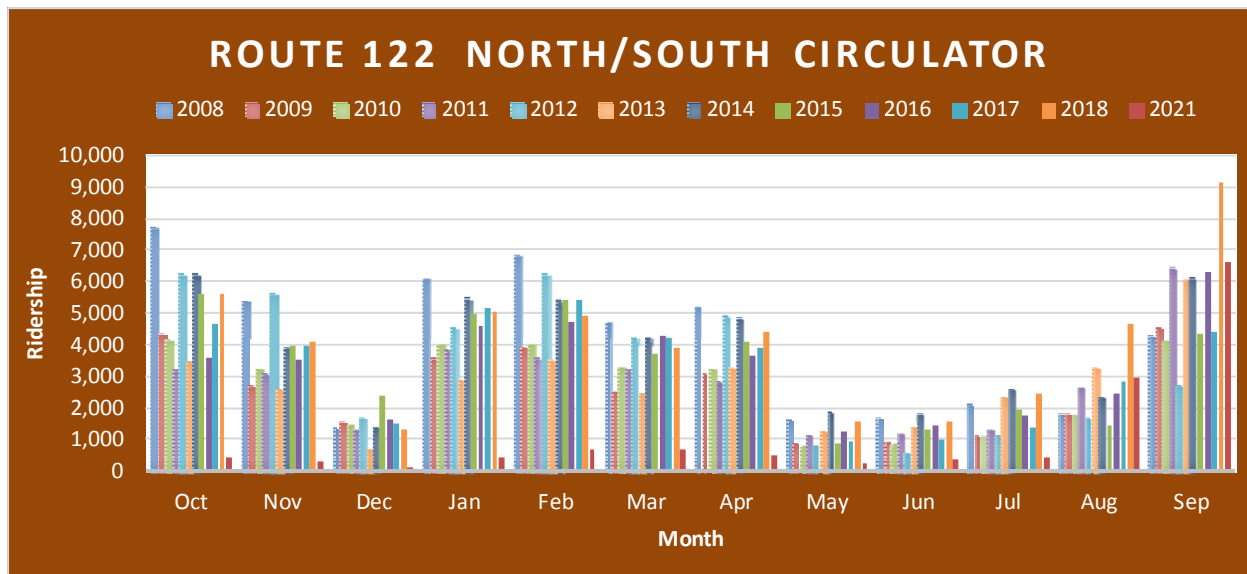
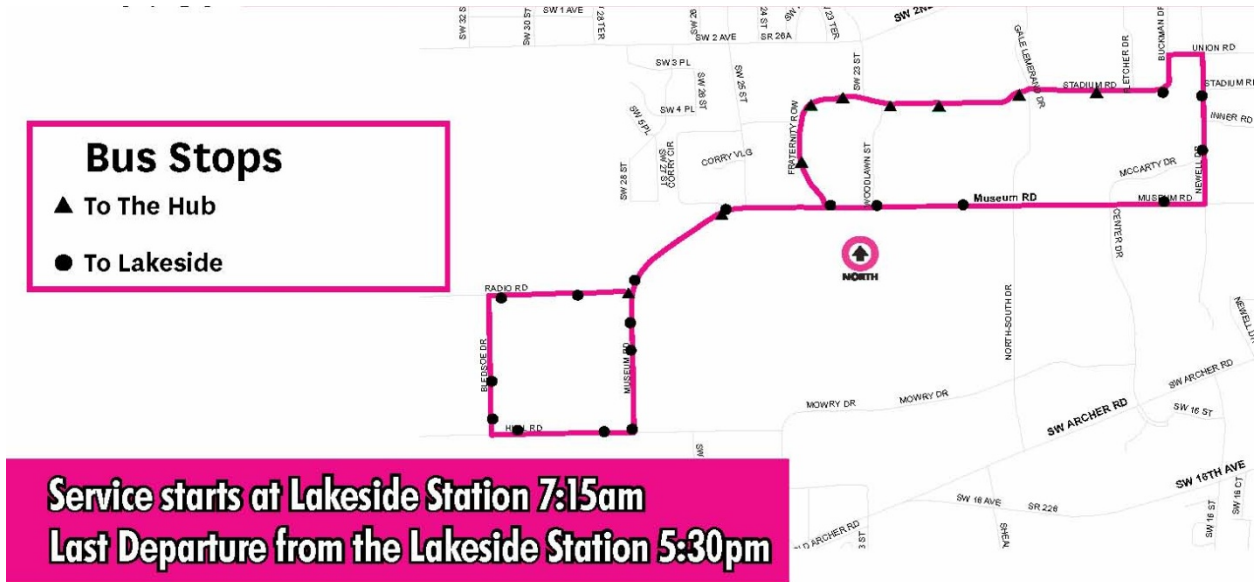


Illustration 3.13

Campus Route 125 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.14

Monthly Trend for Route 125
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

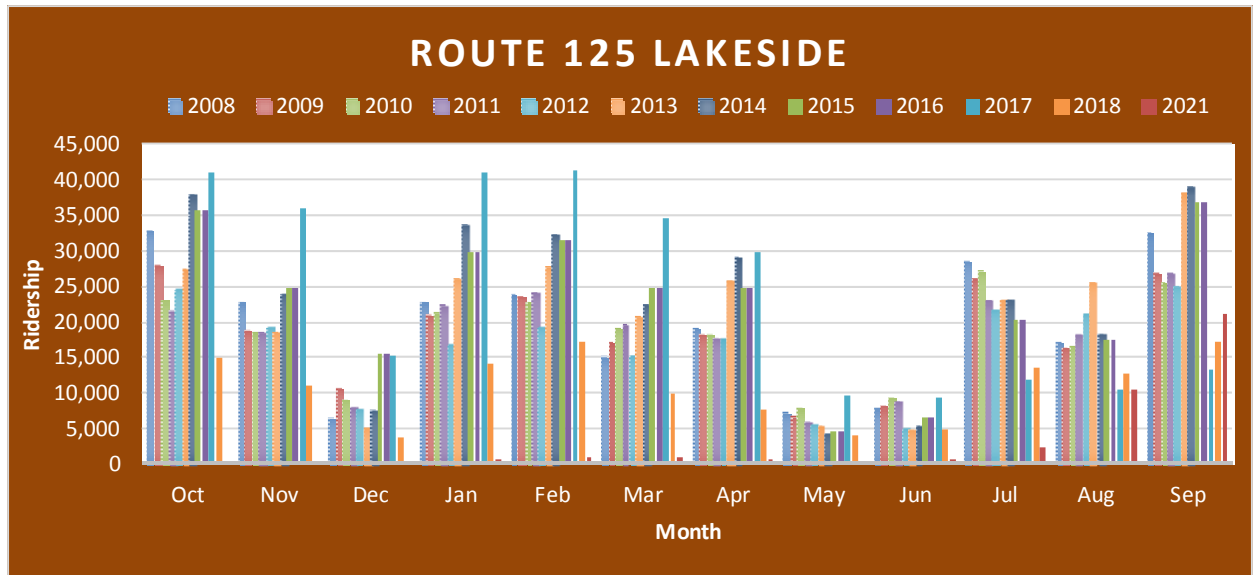
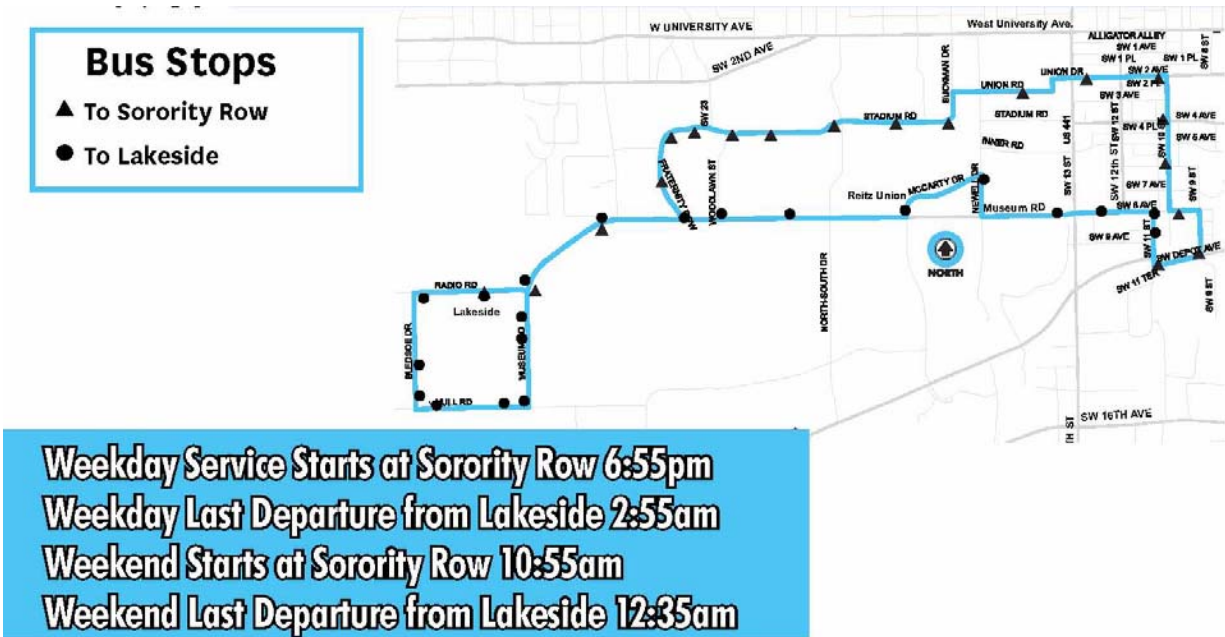


Illustration 3.15

Campus Route 126 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.16

Monthly Trend for Route 126
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

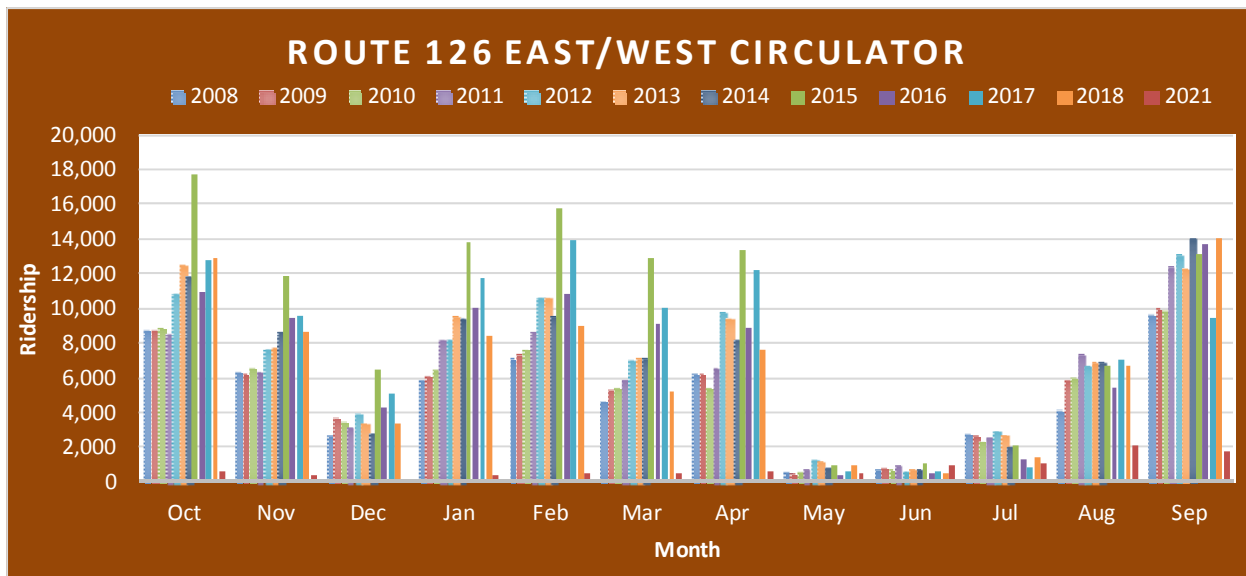


Illustration 3.17

Campus Route 127 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.18

Monthly Trend for Route 127
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

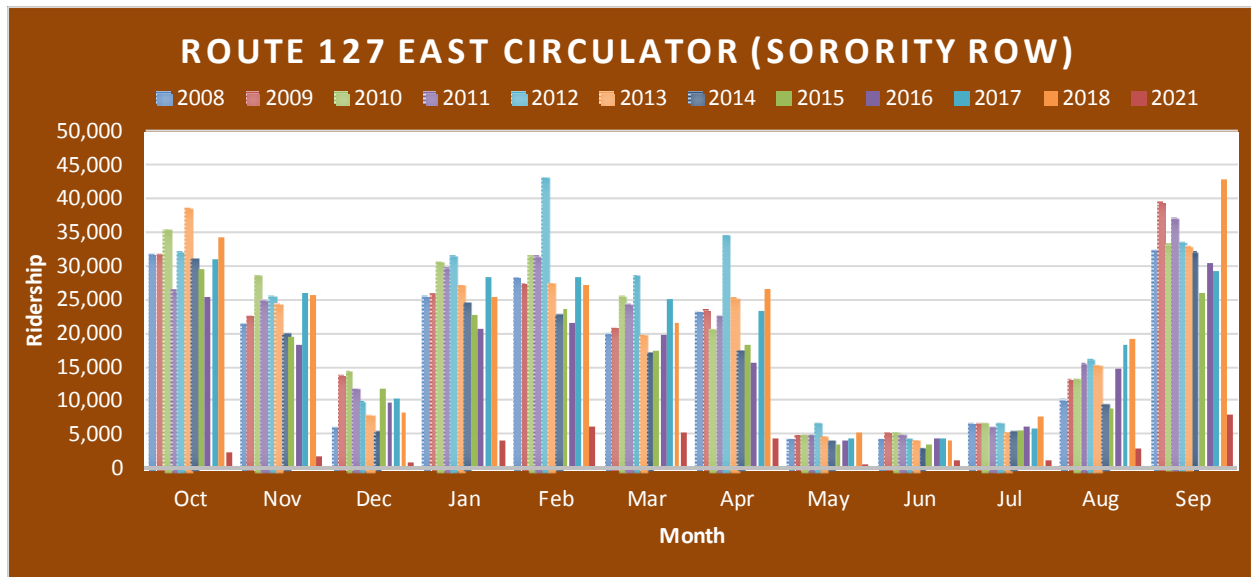
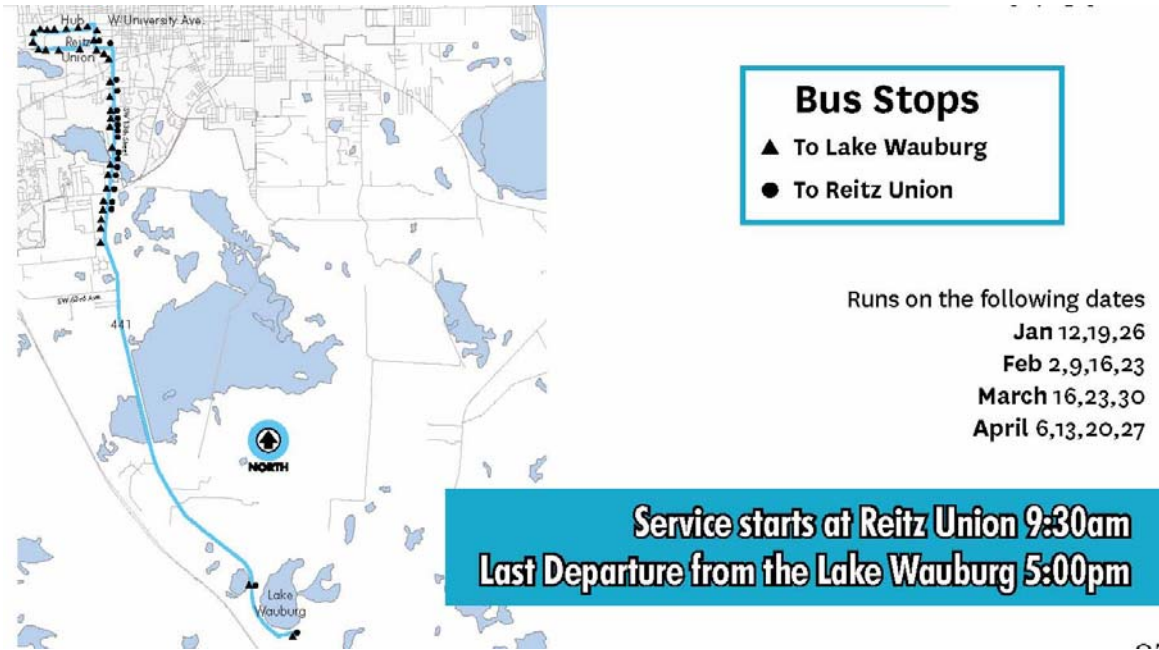


Illustration 3.19

Campus Route 128 Map 2021



Source: <http://go-rts.com/schedule.php>

Illustration 3.20

Monthly Trend for Route 128
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021

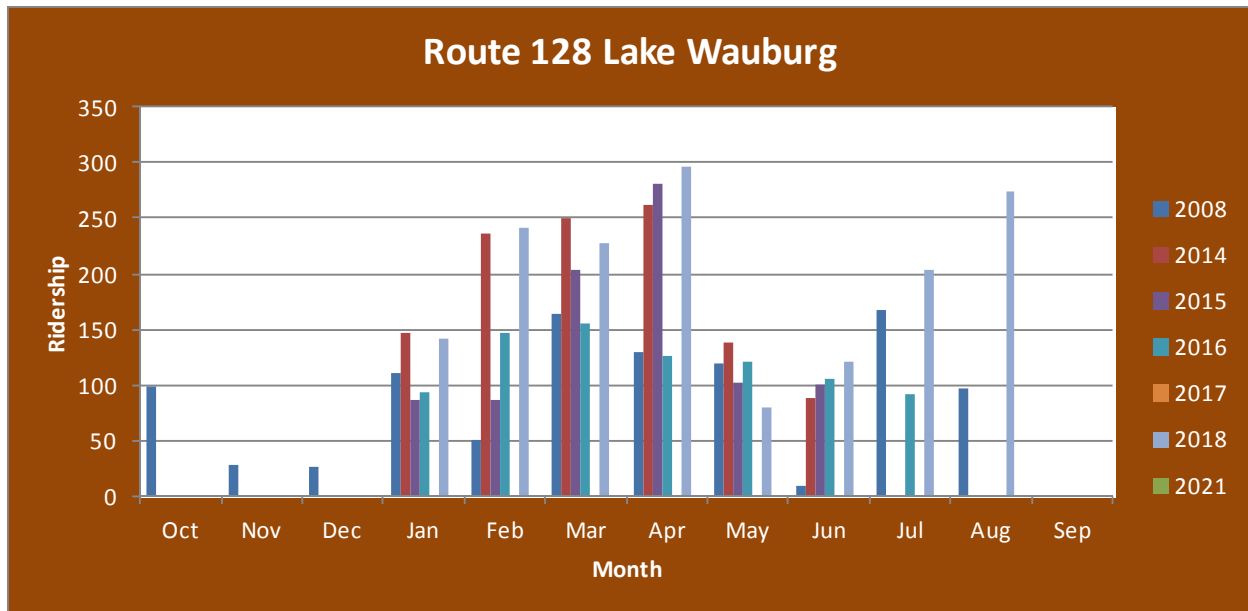
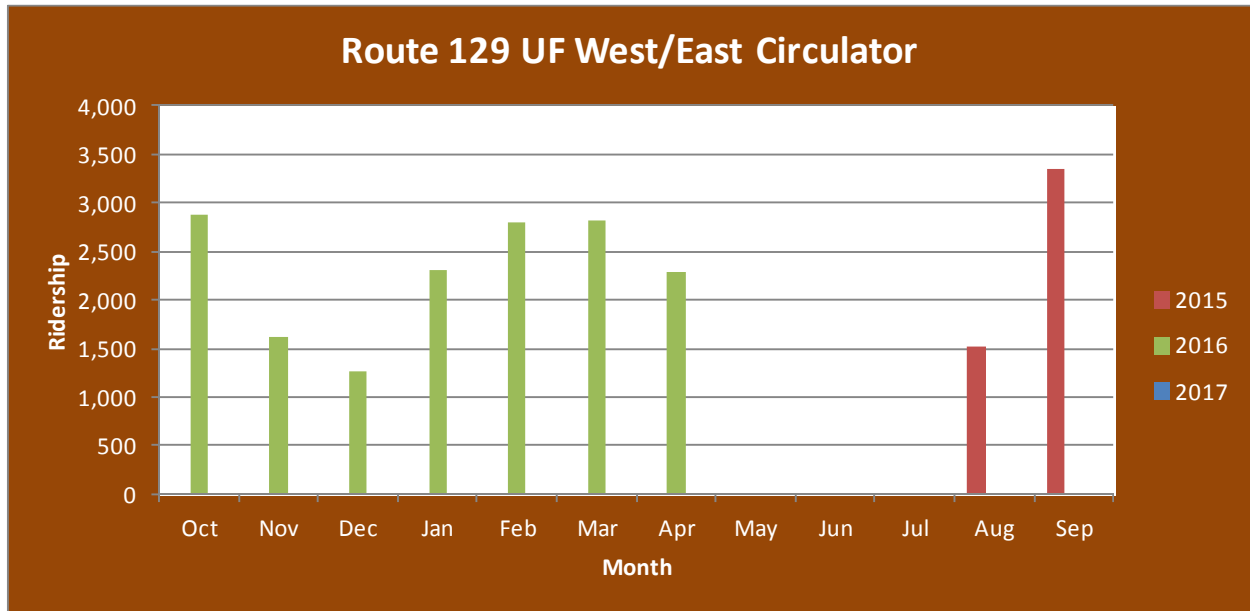


Illustration 3.21

**Monthly Trend for Route 129
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2021**



Route 129 has been suspended.

Table 3.1

**Total Ridership - Campus Routes
Fiscal Year 2020-21**

Route Number	Route Name	Fiscal Year 2020-21 Total
117	Park-N-Ride 2 (SW 34th Street)	7,508
118	Park-N-Ride 1 (Harn Museum)	62,541
119	Family Housing	11,388
120	West Circulator (Fraternity Row)	11,123
121	Commuter Lot	5,437
122	University of Florida North/South Circulator	13,718
125	Lakeside	39,510
126	University of Florida East/West Circulator (Evening)	9,657
127	East Circulator (Sorority Row)	37,709
128	Lake Wauburg	0
129	West/East Circulator	0
150	Haile Plantation to Campus	11,105

Illustration 3.22

**Total Ridership - University of Florida Campus Routes
Fiscal Year 2020-21**

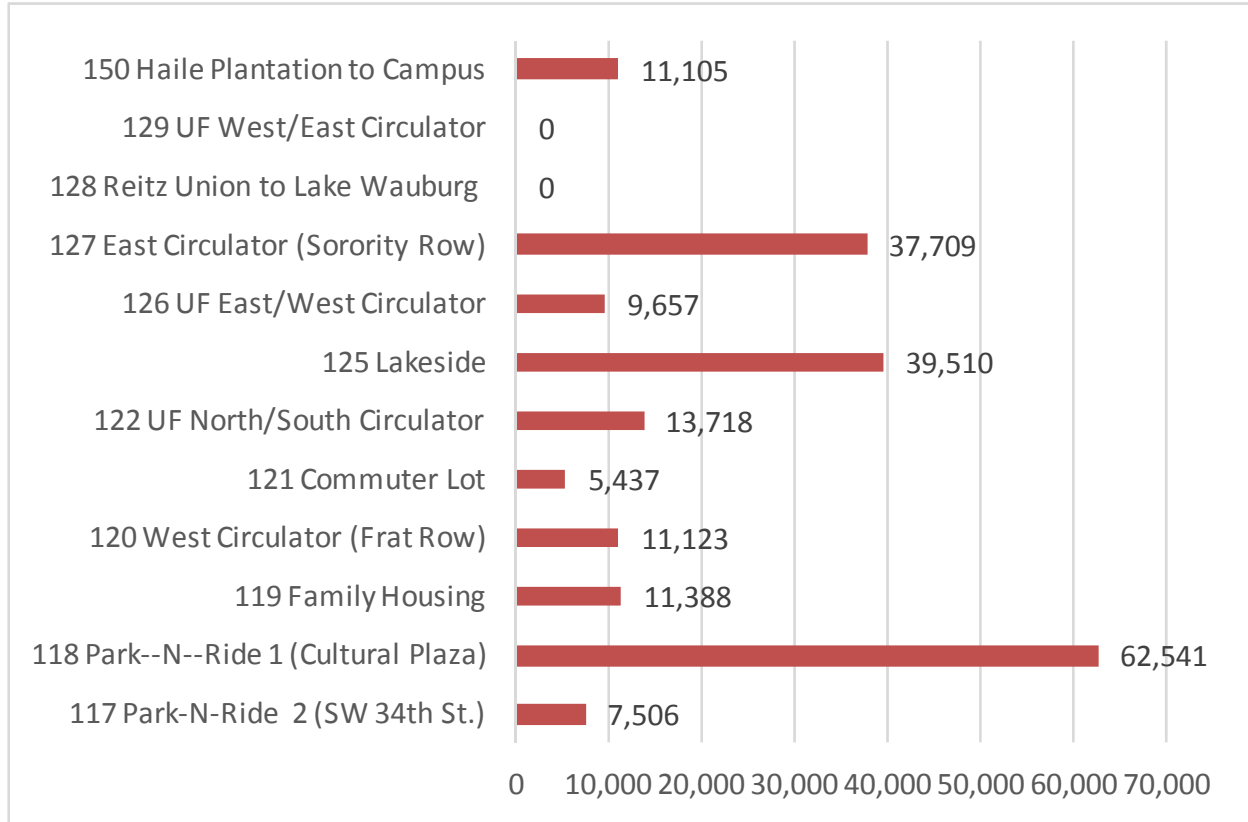


Illustration 3.22 provides a summary of the annual total ridership for University of Florida campus routes for Fiscal Year 2020-21. It indicates that Route 118 and Route 127 had the highest annual ridership among campus routes in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

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Appendix A

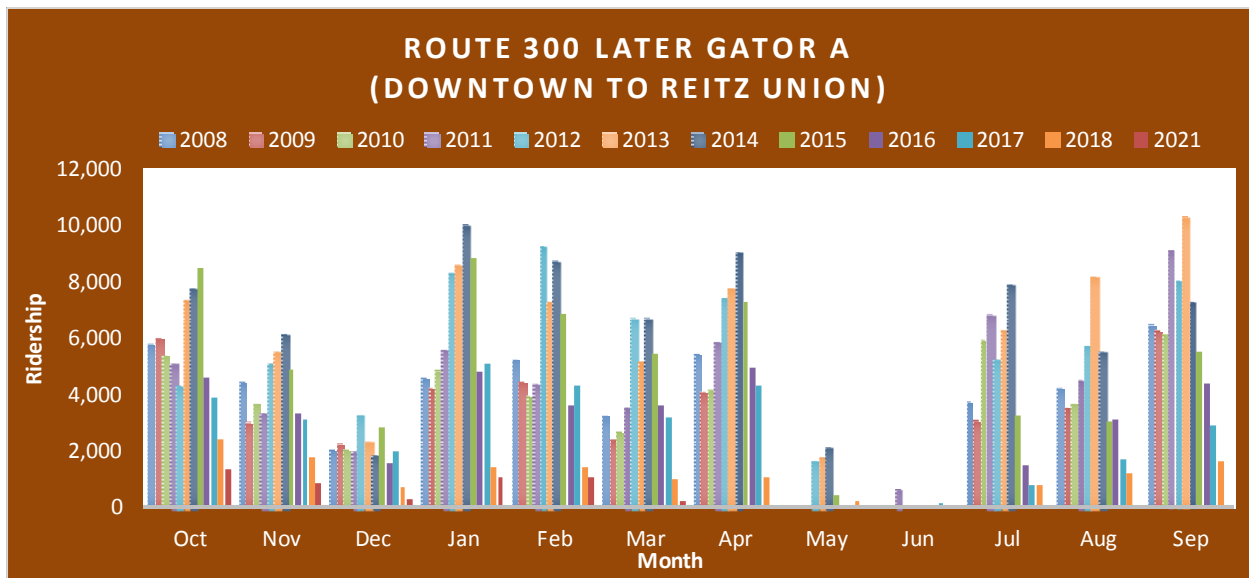
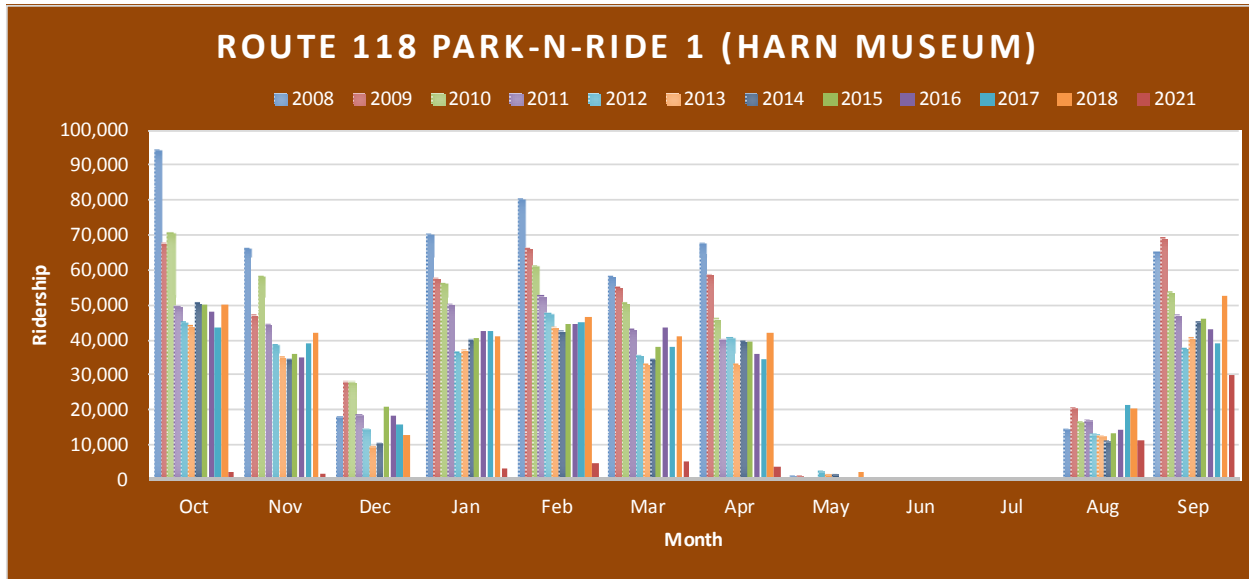
Monthly Ridership Trends

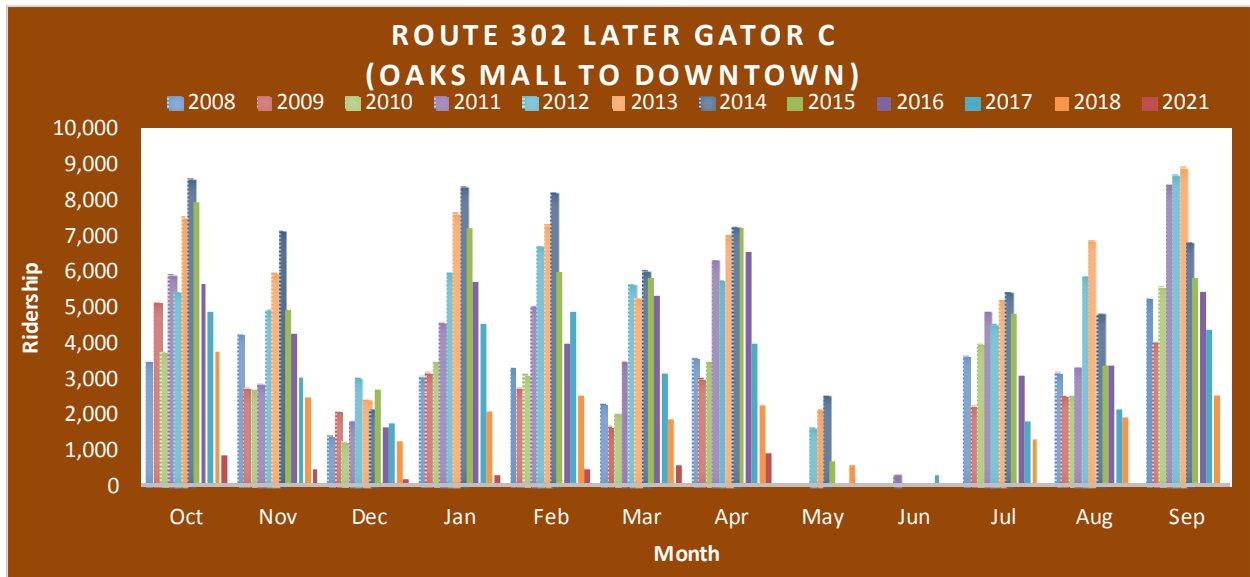
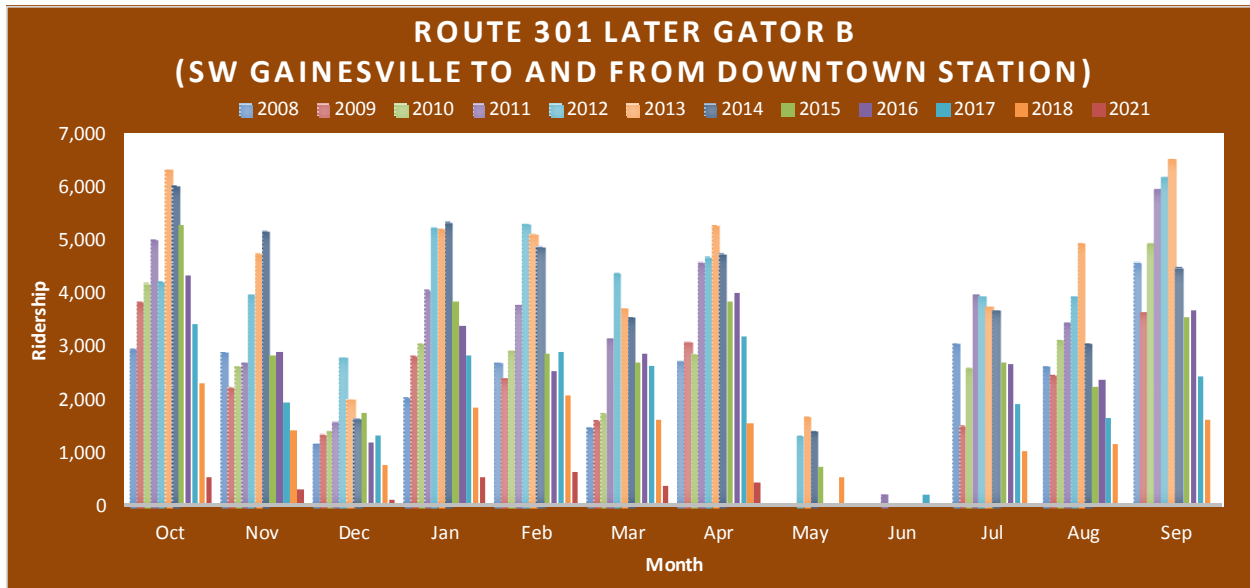
Seasonal Routes, 2008-2021

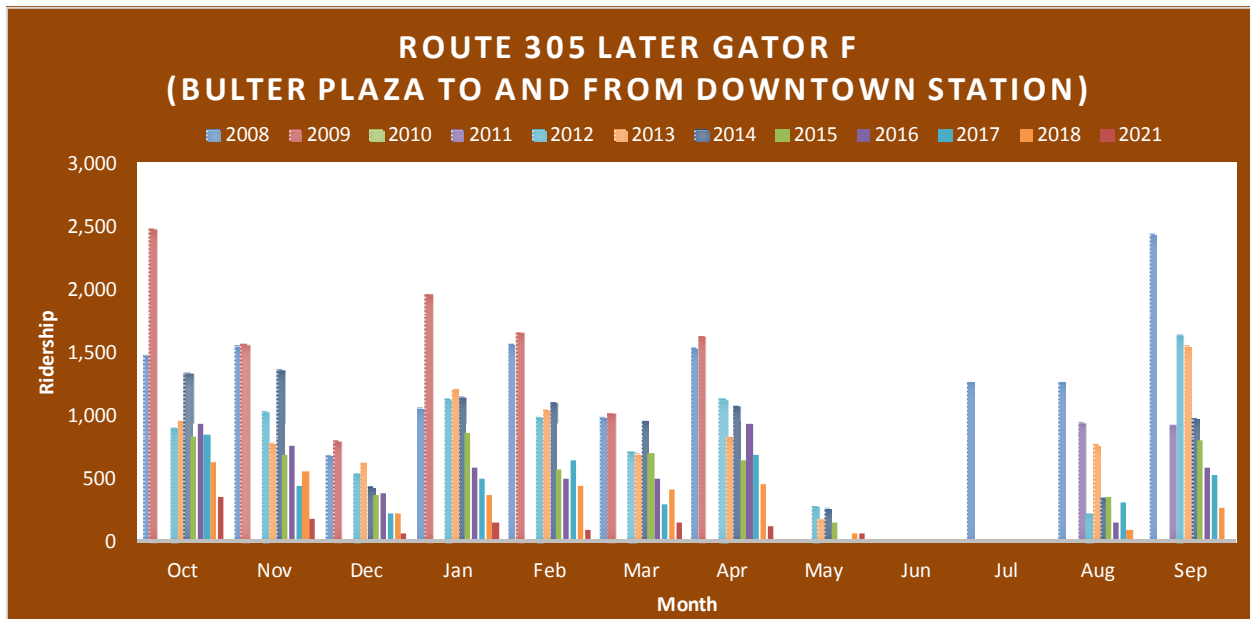
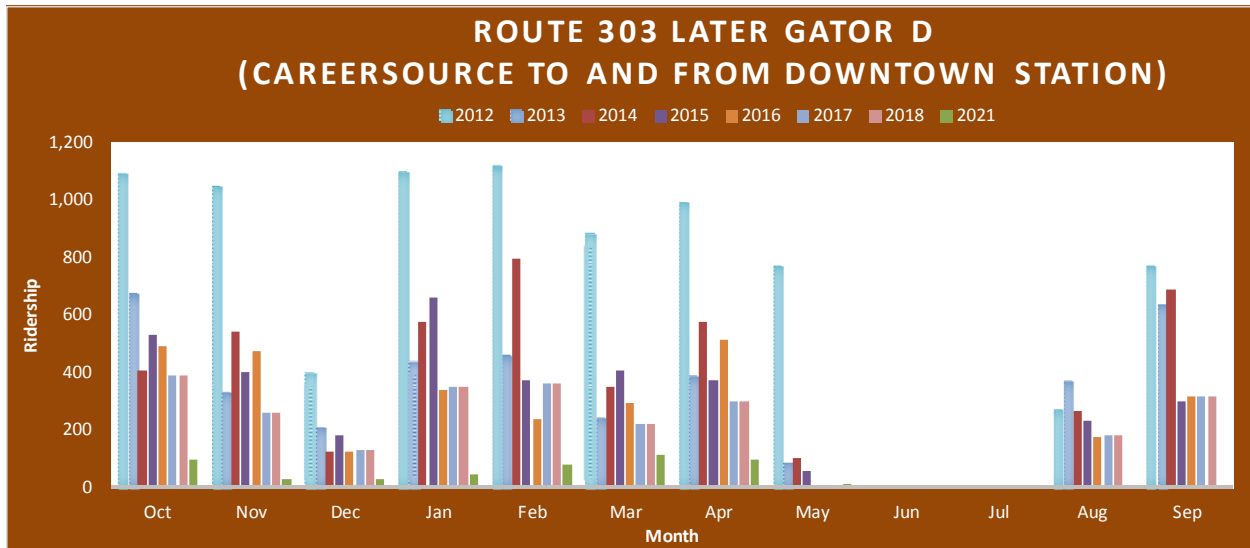
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Appendix A: Monthly Ridership Trends Seasonal Routes, 2008-2021

This appendix contains the illustrations of the ridership of seasonal routes (reduced service in summer).







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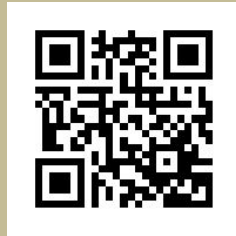
Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report Team

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* Primary Responsibility
** Secondary Responsibility



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