

**DRAFT**

# Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report

## Fiscal Year 2018-19

August 24, 2020



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization  
for the Gainesville Urbanized Area



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Fiscal Year 2018-19

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With Assistance from:

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
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August 24, 2020

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# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	v
Chapter I: Annual Ridership Trends System-wide, 1991-2019 .....	3
Chapter II: Monthly Ridership Trends City Routes, 2008-2019.....	7
Chapter III: Monthly Ridership Trends Campus Routes, 2008-2019 .....	19
Appendix A: Monthly Ridership Trends Seasonal Routes, 2008-2019.....	A-3

## Illustrations

Illustration 1.1 Annual Regional Transit System Ridership Systemwide, 1991-2019 .....	3
Illustration 1.2 Motorcycle and Scooter Permits - University of Florida, 2008-2018 .....	4
Illustration 2.1 Total Ridership - City Routes Fiscal Year 2018-19 .....	10
Illustration 2.2 Ridership Distribution - City Routes Fiscal Year 2018-19 .....	11
Illustration 2.3 Route 1 Map - Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Butler Plaza .....	12
Illustration 2.4 Monthly Trend for Route 1 .....	12
Illustration 2.5 Route 9 Map - Reitz Union to Hunters Run Subdivision .....	13
Illustration 2.6 Monthly Trend for Route 9 .....	13
Illustration 2.7 Route 12 - Map Reitz Union to Butler Plaza .....	14
Illustration 2.8 Monthly Trend for Route 12 .....	14
Illustration 2.9 Route 20 Map - Reitz Union to Oaks Mall .....	15
Illustration 2.10 Monthly Trend for Route 20 .....	15
Illustration 2.11 Route 35 - Map Reitz Union to SW 35th Place.....	16
Illustration 2.12 Monthly Trend for Route 35 .....	16
Illustration 3.1 Campus Route 117 Map 2019 .....	20
Illustration 3.2 Monthly Trend for Route 117 .....	20
Illustration 3.3 Campus Route 118 Map 2019 .....	21
Illustration 3.4 Monthly Trend for Route 118 .....	21
Illustration 3.5 Campus Route 119 Map 2019 .....	22
Illustration 3.6 Monthly Trend for Route 119 .....	22
Illustration 3.7 Campus Route 120 Map 2019 .....	23
Illustration 3.8 Monthly Trend for Route 120 .....	23
Illustration 3.9 Campus Route 121 Map 2019 .....	24
Illustration 3.10 Monthly Trend for Route 121 .....	24

## Illustrations (Continued)

Illustration 3.11 Campus Route 122 Map 2019.....	25
Illustration 3.12 Monthly Trend for Route 122 .....	25
Illustration 3.13 Campus Route 125 Map 2019.....	26
Illustration 3.14 Monthly Trend for Route 125 .....	26
Illustration 3.15 Campus Route 126 Map 2019.....	27
Illustration 3.16 Monthly Trend for Route 126 .....	27
Illustration 3.17 Campus Route 127 Map 2019.....	28
Illustration 3.18 Monthly Trend for Route 127 .....	28
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019 .....	28
Illustration 3.19 Campus Route 128 Map 2019.....	29
Illustration 3.20 Monthly Trend for Route 128 .....	29
Illustration 3.21 Monthly Trend for Route 129 .....	30
Illustration 3.22 Total Ridership - University of Florida Campus Routes .....	31

## Tables

Table 2.1 Major Trip Generators and Attractors - City of Gainesville Fiscal Year 2018-19 .....	7
Table 2.2 Total Ridership - City Routes Fiscal Year 2018-19.....	8
Table 3.1 Total Ridership - Campus Routes Fiscal Year 2018-19.....	30

# 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 2018-19, there were 61 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.

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# Chapter I

## Annual Ridership Trends

### Systemwide, 1991-2019

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## Chapter I: Annual Ridership Trends System-wide, 1991-2019

This chapter provides an overview of the system-wide transit ridership trends from 1991 to 2019 (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.

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, 1991-2019

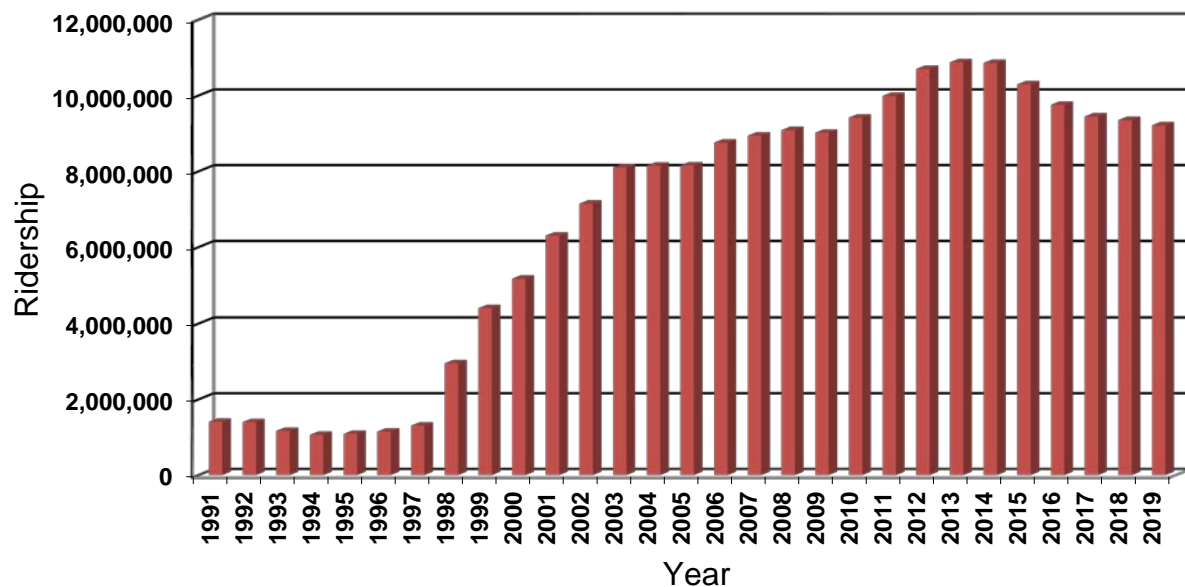
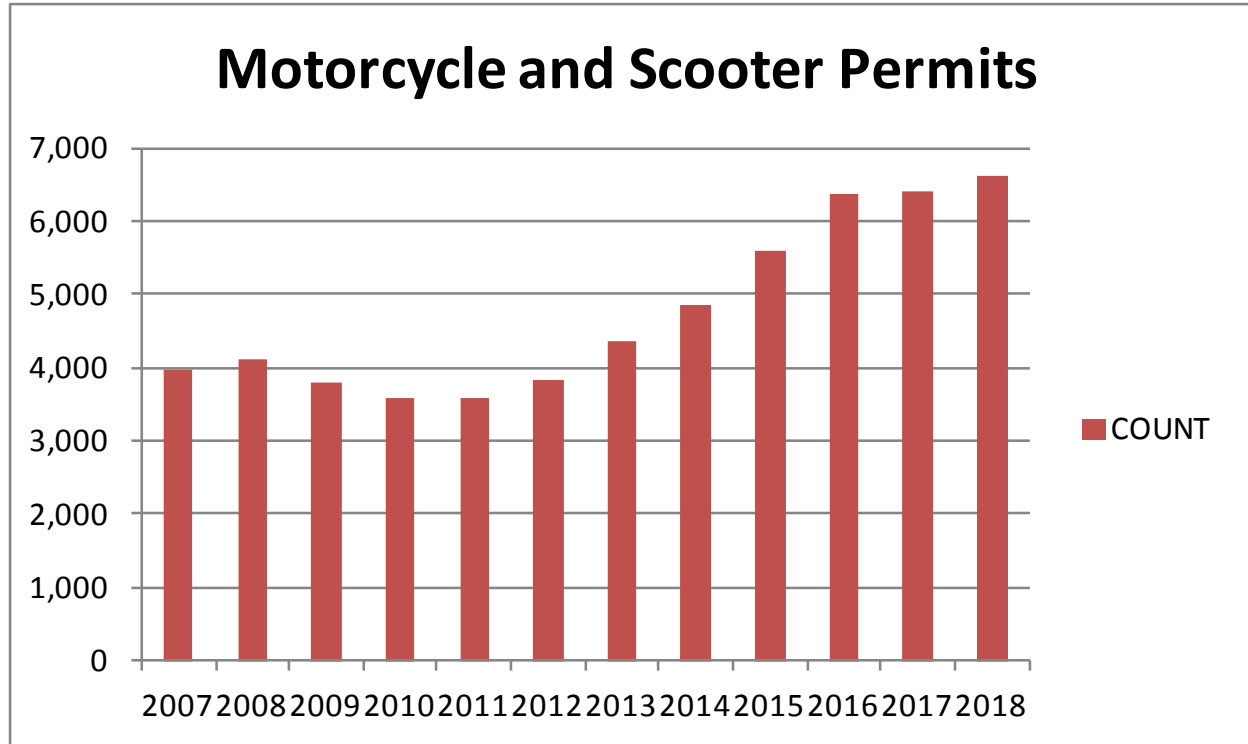


Illustration 1.2

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



# Chapter II

## Monthly Ridership Trends

### City Routes, 2008-2019

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## Chapter II: Monthly Ridership Trends City Routes, 2008-2019

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 2018-19. Illustration 2.2 shows the distribution of annual ridership for all the city routes for Fiscal Year 2018-19. 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 2018-19

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 2018-19**

<b>Route Number</b>	<b>Route Name</b>	<b>FY 2019 Total</b>
1	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	537,313
2	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Northeast Walmart Supercenter	63,458
3	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to North Main Post Office	27,360
5	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Oaks Mall	355,345
6	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Plaza Verde Shopping Center	86,117
7	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Eastwood Meadows Apartments	73,833
8	Shands Hospital to North Walmart Supercenter, Senior Recreation Center	280,368
9	University of Florida Reitz Union to Hunters Run Subdivision	441,655
10	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Santa Fe College	98,823
11	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Eastwood Meadows Apartments	97,954
12	Reitz Union to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	467,250
13	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Career Source	382,539
15	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to NW 13th Street at NW 23rd Avenue	243,564
16	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Sugar Hill Neighborhood	110,842
17	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Rosa Parks Downtown Station	105,098
19	University of Florida Reitz Union to SW 23rd Terrace at SW 35th Place	7,505
20	University of Florida Reitz Union to Oaks Mall	811,181
21	University of Florida Reitz Union to Cabana Beach	263,437
22	University of Florida Hub to Old Archer Road	0
23	Oaks Mall to Santa Fe College	87,794
24	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Gainesville Job Corps Center	12,127
25	University of Florida Commuter Lot to Gainesville Regional Airport	66,405
26	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Gainesville Regional Airport	108,209
27	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Northeast Walmart Supercenter	10,805
28	University of Florida Hub to Forest Park Apartments	162,885
29	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Kiwanis Park	50,943
33	Butler Plaza Transfer Station to Midtown	377,951
34	University of Florida Hub to Lexington Crossing Apartments	229,494
35	University of Florida Reitz Union to Southwest 35th Place	591,596
36	University of Florida Reitz Union to Southwest 34th Street Post Office	82,742
37	University of Florida Reitz Union to Butler Plaza (via Southwest 35th Place)	203,690
38	University of Florida Hub to Gainesville Place	625,155
39	Santa Fe College to Gainesville Regional Airport	20,547
40	University of Florida Hub to Hunters Crossing Apartments	30,334
41	Not In Use	
43	University of Florida Shands Hospital to Santa Fe College	188,653
46	University of Florida Reitz Union to Rosa Parks Downtown Station	154,833
62	Oaks Mall to Lexington Crossing Apartments	0
75	Oaks Mall to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	221,012
76	Santa Fe College to Haile Square Market	31,733
77	Santa Fe College to Cabana Beach Apartments	18,568
711	Downtown for East Meadows	34,228
800X	Santa Fe to Butler Plaza	13,530
<b>City Totals</b>		<b>7,776,876</b>

**Table 2.2 Continued**  
**Total Ridership - City Routes**  
**Fiscal Year 2018-19**

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2019 Total
117	Park-N-Ride 2 (SW 34th Street)	73,609
118	Park-N-Ride 1 (Cultural Plaza)	346,071
119	Family Housing	52,487
120	West Circulator (Fraternity Row)	202,118
121	Commuter Lot	48,666
122	UF North/South Circulator	72,314
125	Lakeside	144,678
126	University of Florida East/West Circulator	83,697
127	East Circulator (Sorority Row)	278,340
128	Reitz Union to Lake Wauburg	1,454
129	University of Florida West/East Circulator	0
150	Haile Plantation to Campus	2,932
<b>Campus Totals</b>		<b>1,306,366</b>

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2019 Total
600	Microtransit - East University Avenue	8,395
601	Microtransit - Hawthorne Road	4,737
602	-	1,058
901	Tricounty Route - Lake City	514
902	Tricounty Route - Trenton	370
<b>Microtransit/Express Totals</b>		<b>15,074</b>

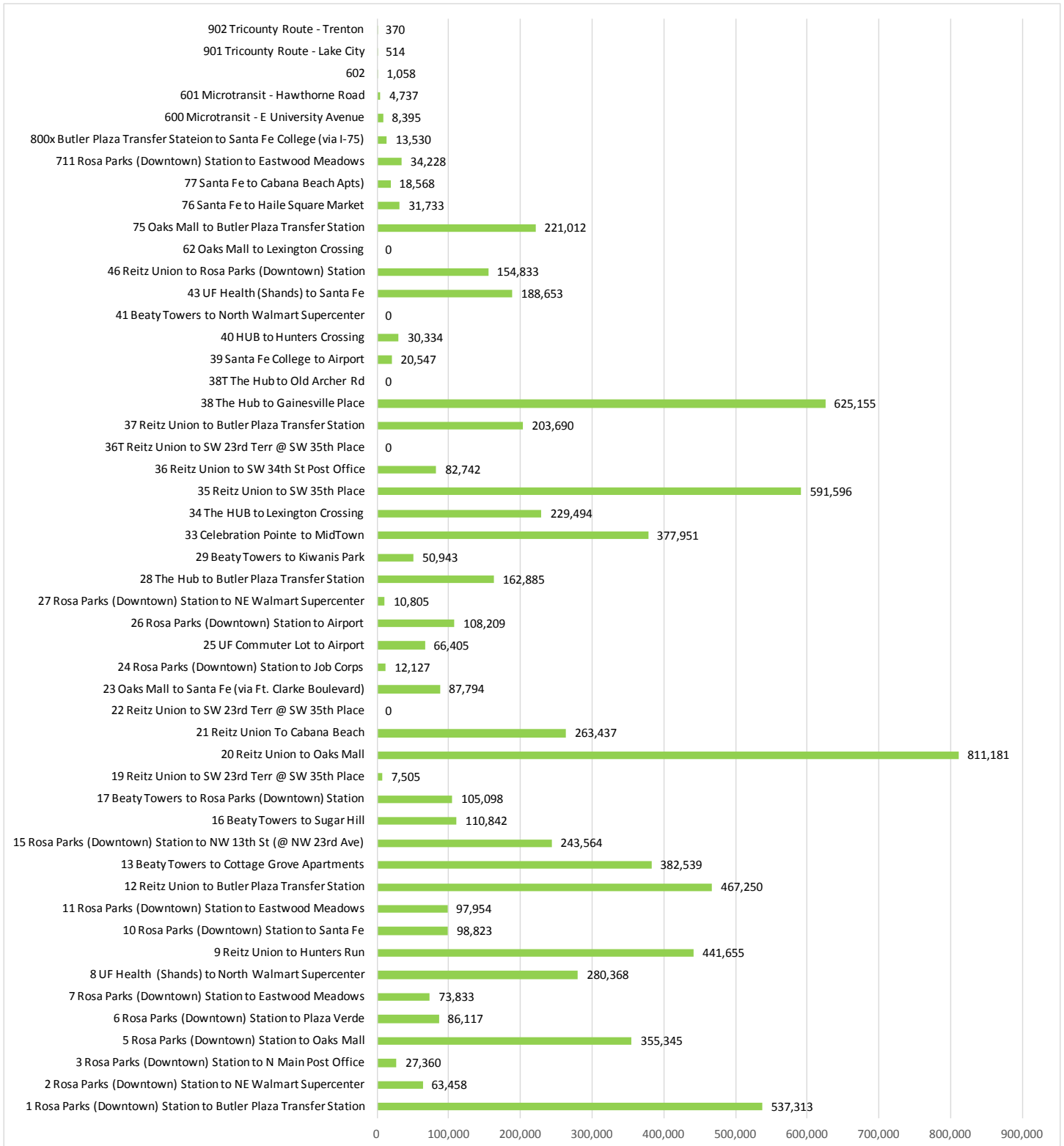
Route Number	Route Name	FY 2019 Total
300	Later Gator A (Fraternity Row to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	11,959
301	Later Gator B (Southwest Gainesville to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	12,728
302	Later Gator C (Oaks Mall to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	21,819
303	Later Gator D (CareerSource to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	1,297
305	Later Gator F (Butler Plaza to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	3,254
<b>Later Gator Totals</b>		<b>51,057</b>

<b>Other Services Totals</b>	63,092
<b>Systemwide Totals</b>	<b>9,212,465</b>

Indicates route not in operation

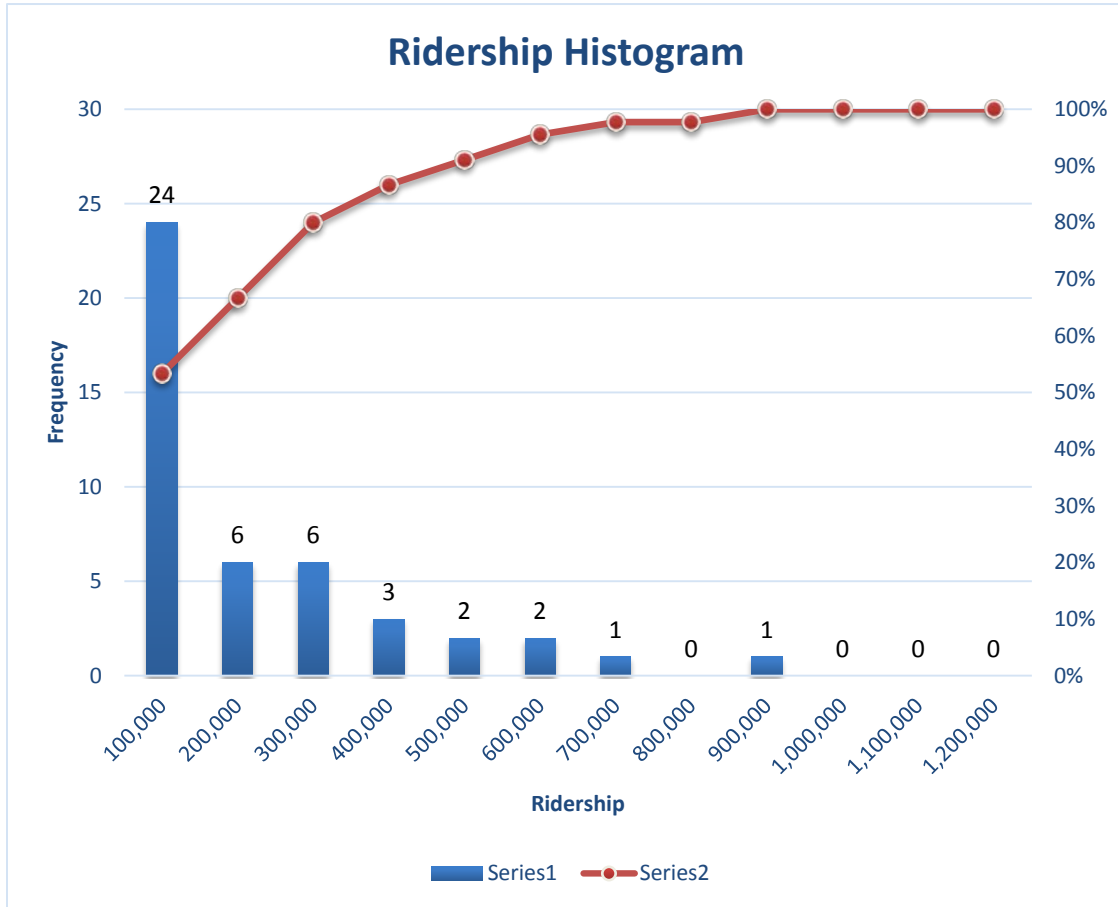
## Illustration 2.1

### Total Ridership - City Routes Fiscal Year 2018-19



## Illustration 2.2

### Ridership Distribution - City Routes Fiscal Year 2018-19





## Illustration 2.5

### Route 9 Map - Reitz Union to Hunters Run Subdivision

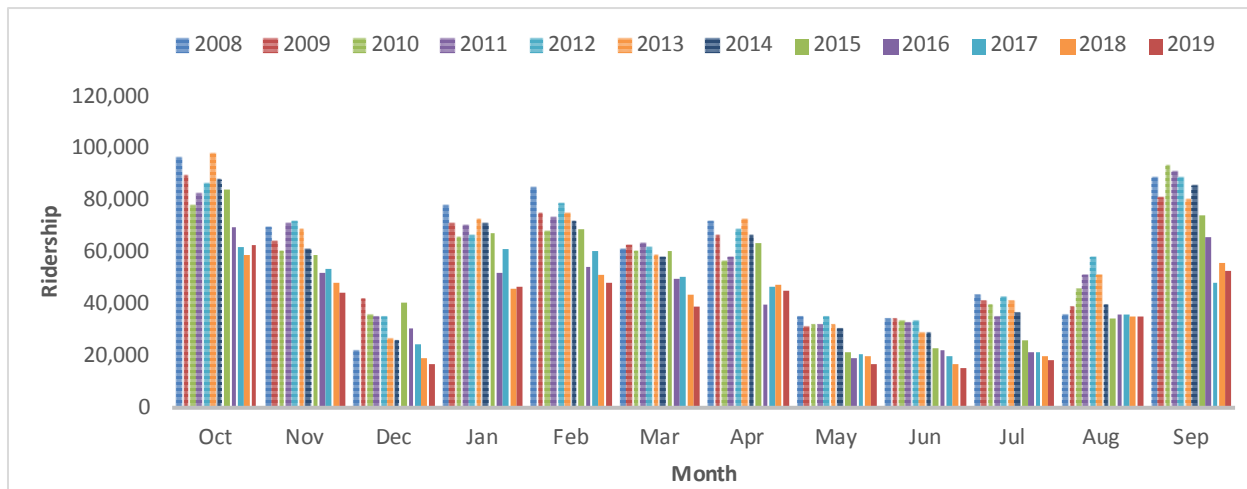


Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

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

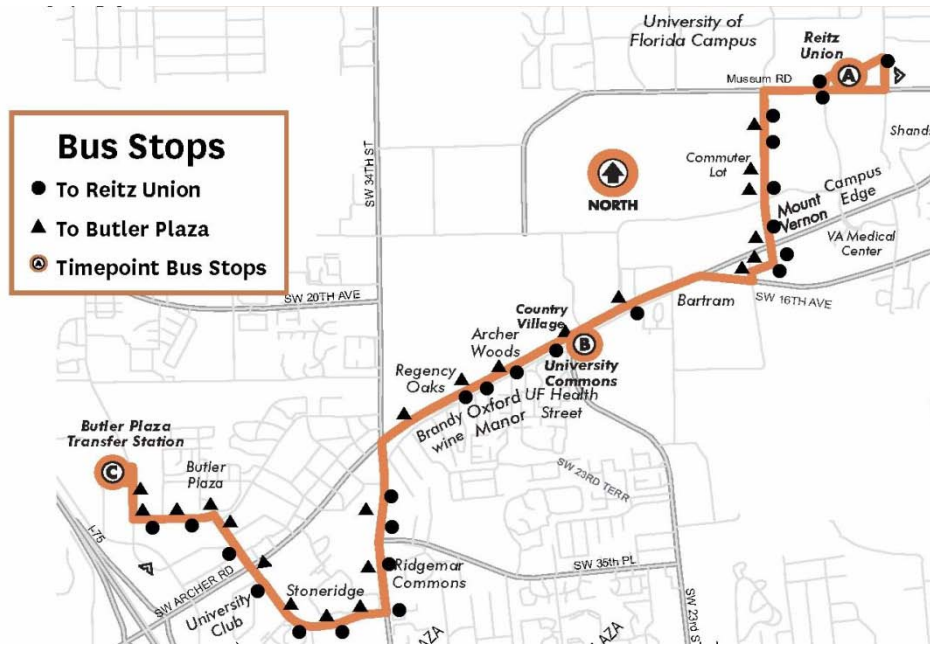
## Illustration 2.6

### Monthly Trend for Route 9 City of Gainesville, 2008-2019



## 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, 2008-2019

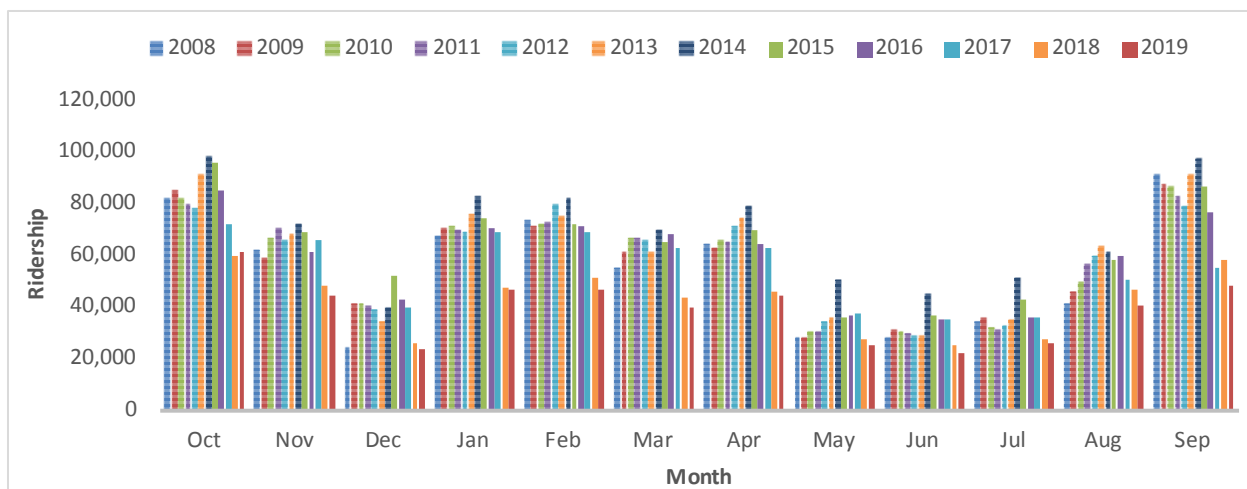
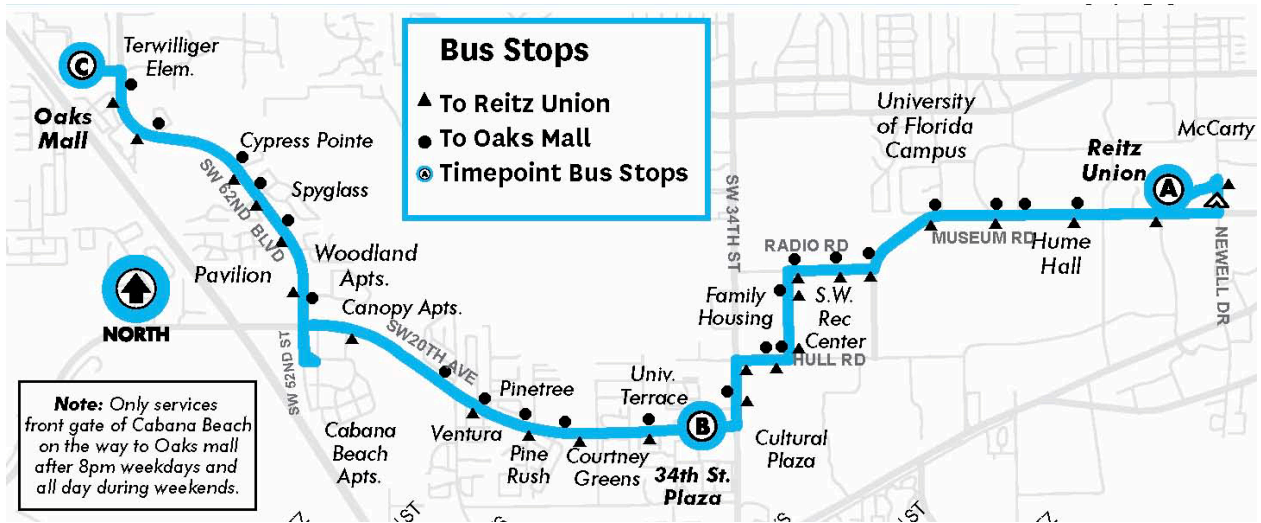




Illustration 2.9

Route 20 Map - Reitz Union to Oaks Mall

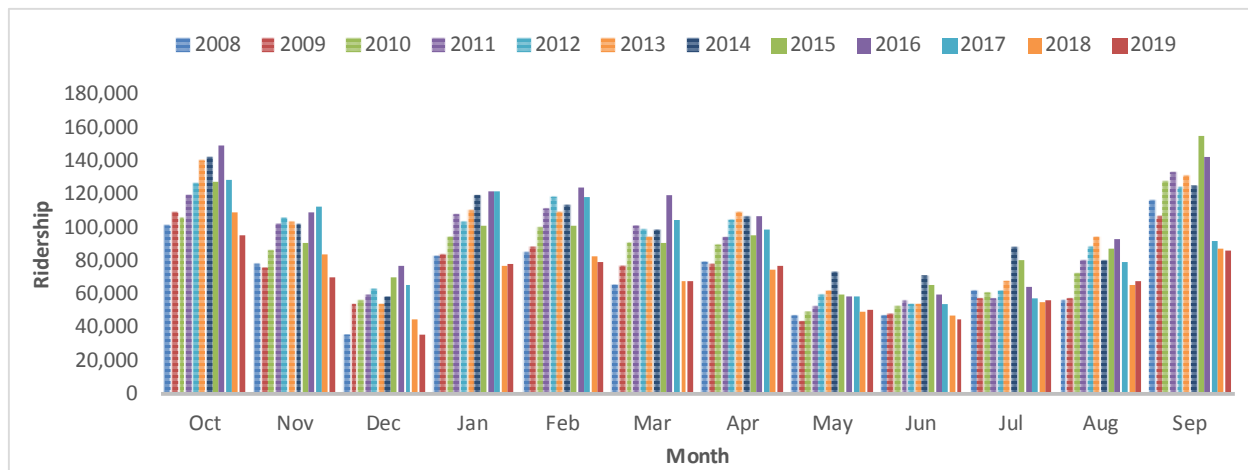


Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

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

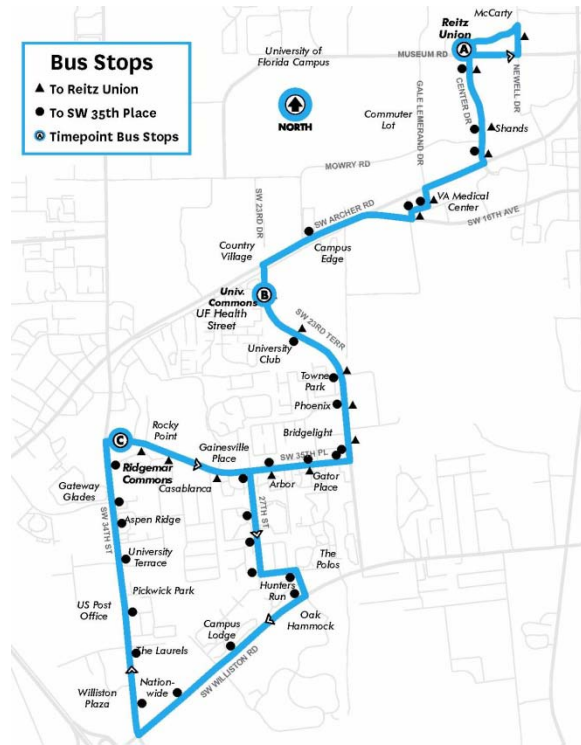
Illustration 2.10

Monthly Trend for Route 20  
City of Gainesville, 2008-2019



## Illustration 2.11

### Route 35 - Map Reitz Union to SW 35th Place

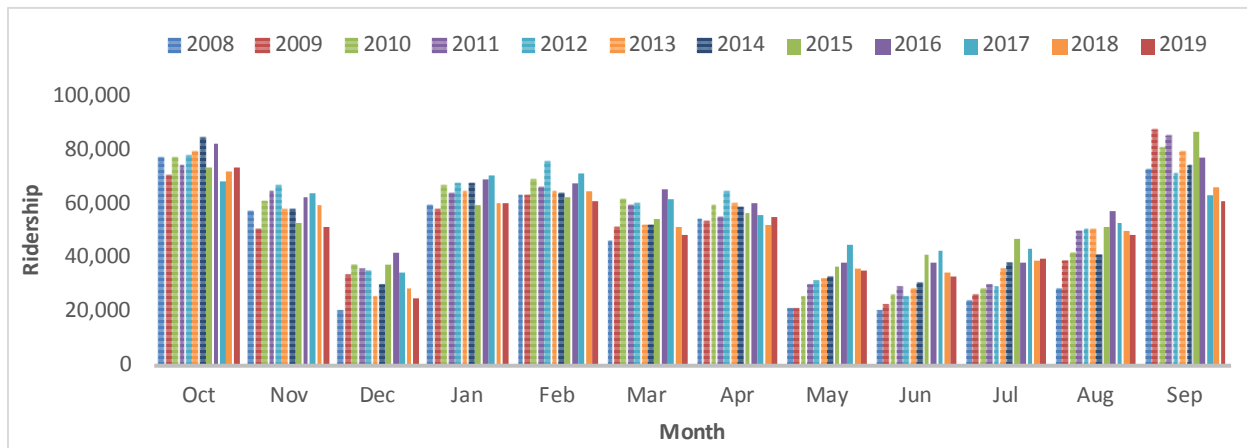


Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

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, 2008-2019



# Chapter III

## Monthly Ridership Trends

### Campus Routes, 2008-2019

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## Chapter III: Monthly Ridership Trends Campus Routes, 2008-2019

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 2018. Monthly ridership for the following routes decreased:

- Route 117 (-36.4 percent);
- Route 118 (-1.2 percent);
- Route 119 (-24.7 percent);
- Route 120 (-10.2 percent);
- Route 121 (-25.7 percent)' and
- Route 128 (-8.3 percent).

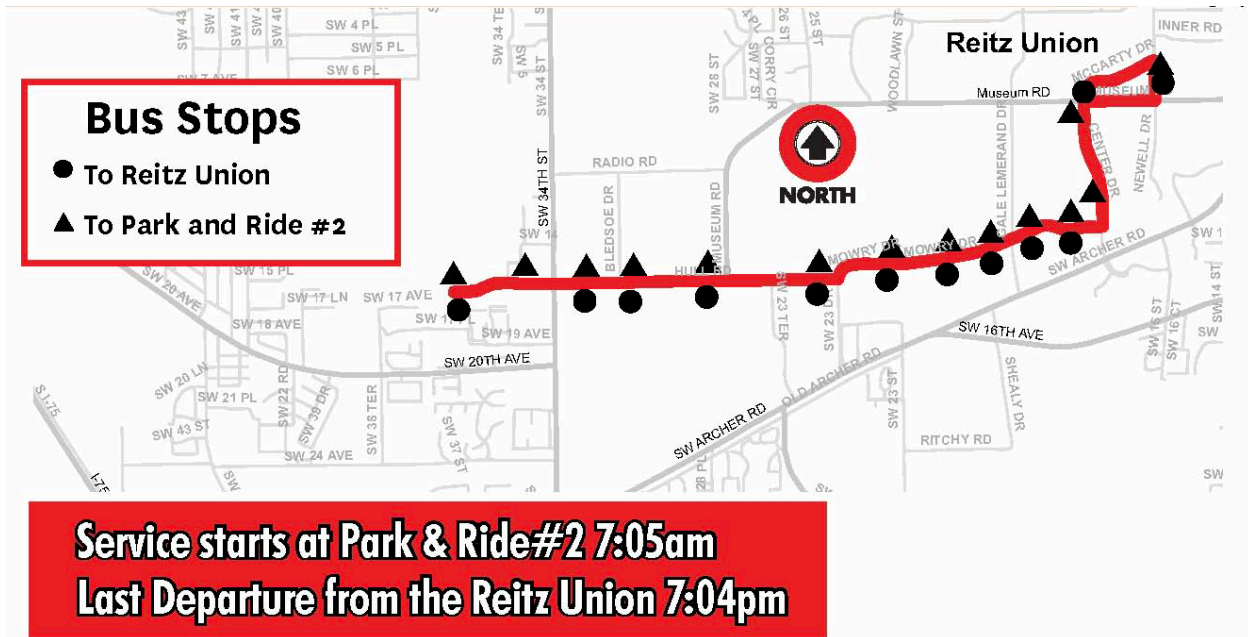
Monthly ridership for the following routes increased:

- Route 122 (48.5 percent);
- Route 125 (10.0 percent);
- Route 126 (6.0 percent);
- Route 127 (12.8 percent); and

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.

### Illustration 3.1

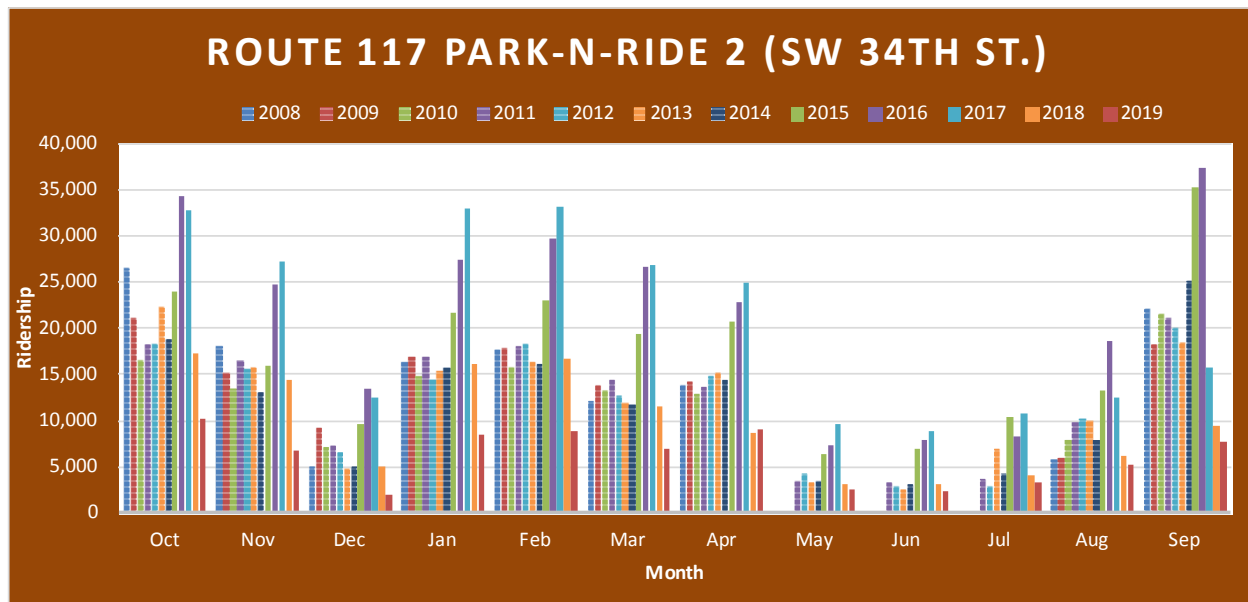
#### Campus Route 117 Map 2019



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

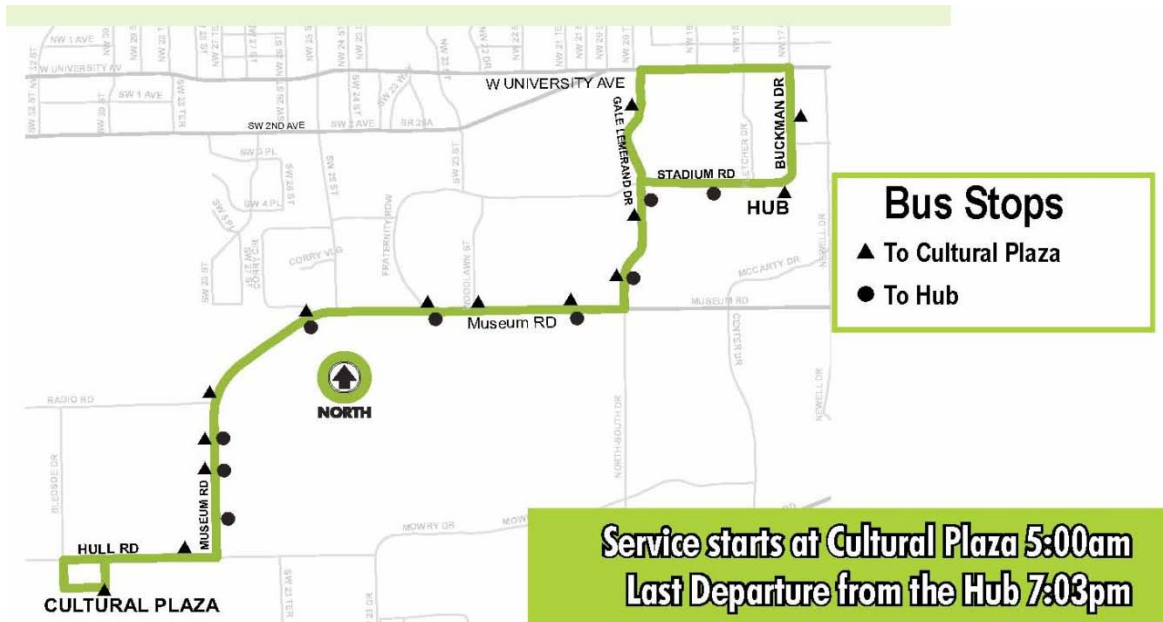
### Illustration 3.2

#### Monthly Trend for Route 117 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019



### Illustration 3.3

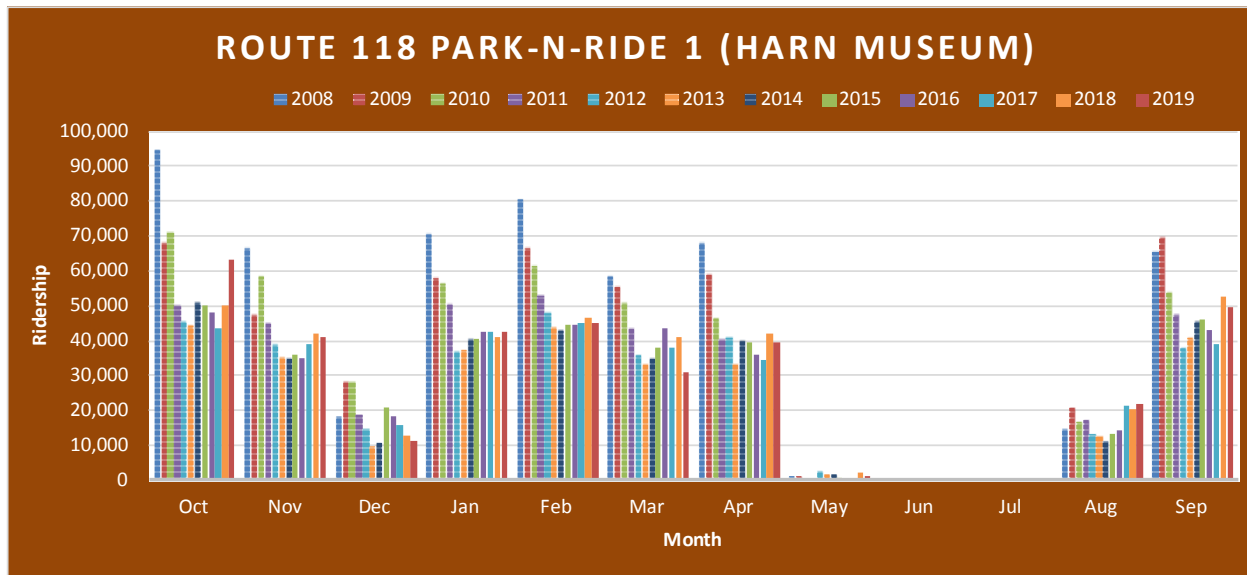
#### Campus Route 118 Map 2019



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

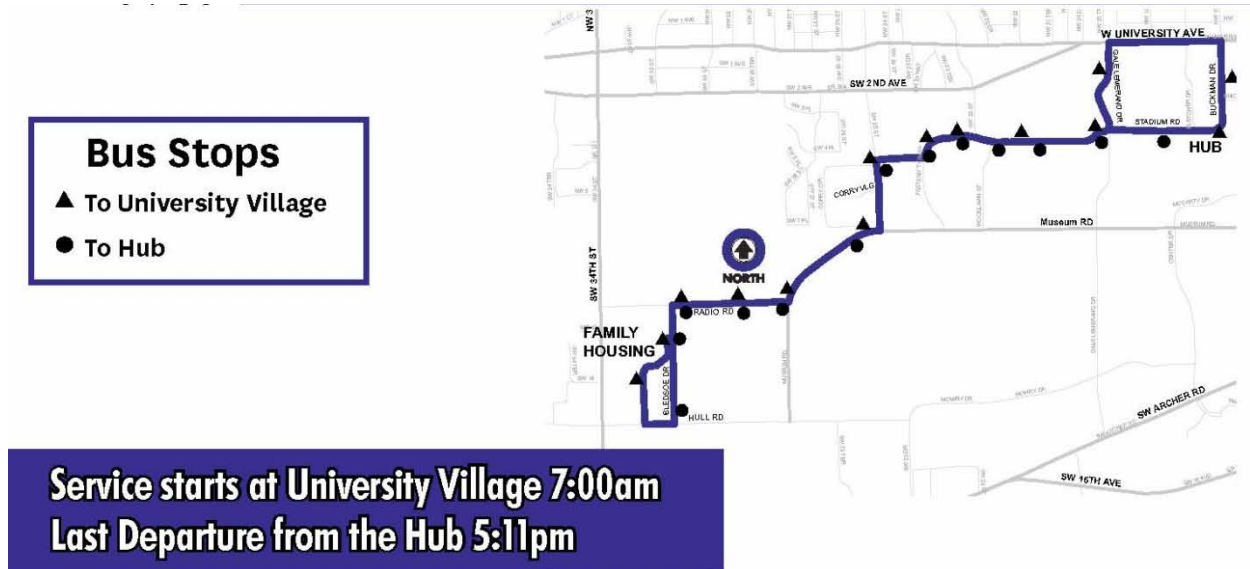
### Illustration 3.4

#### Monthly Trend for Route 118 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019



### Illustration 3.5

#### Campus Route 119 Map 2019



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

### Illustration 3.6

#### Monthly Trend for Route 119 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019

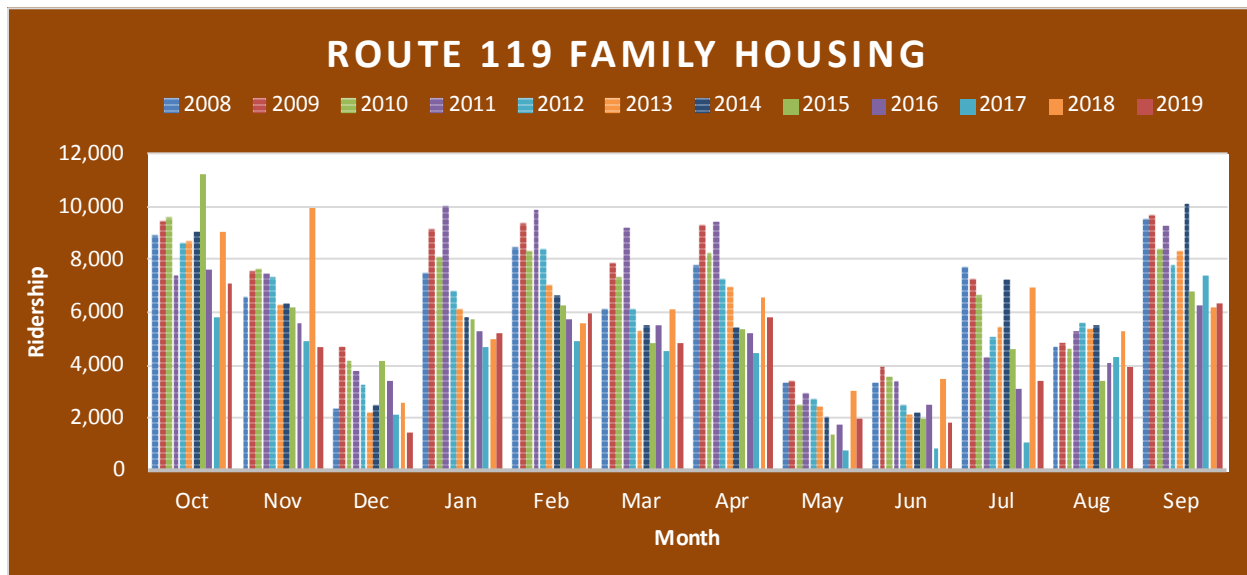
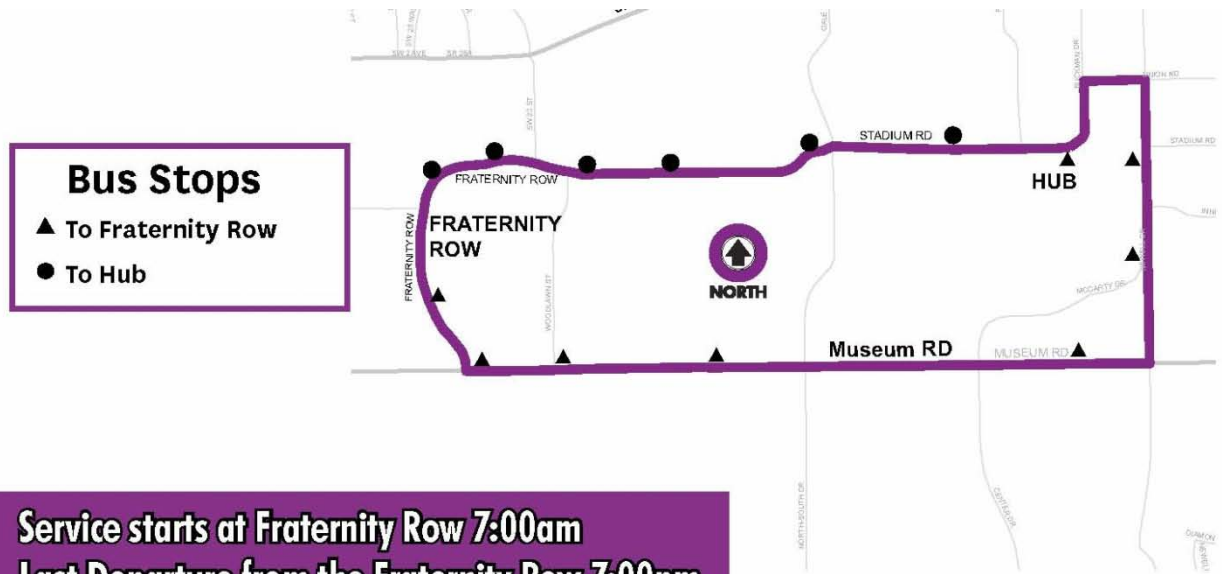




Illustration 3.7

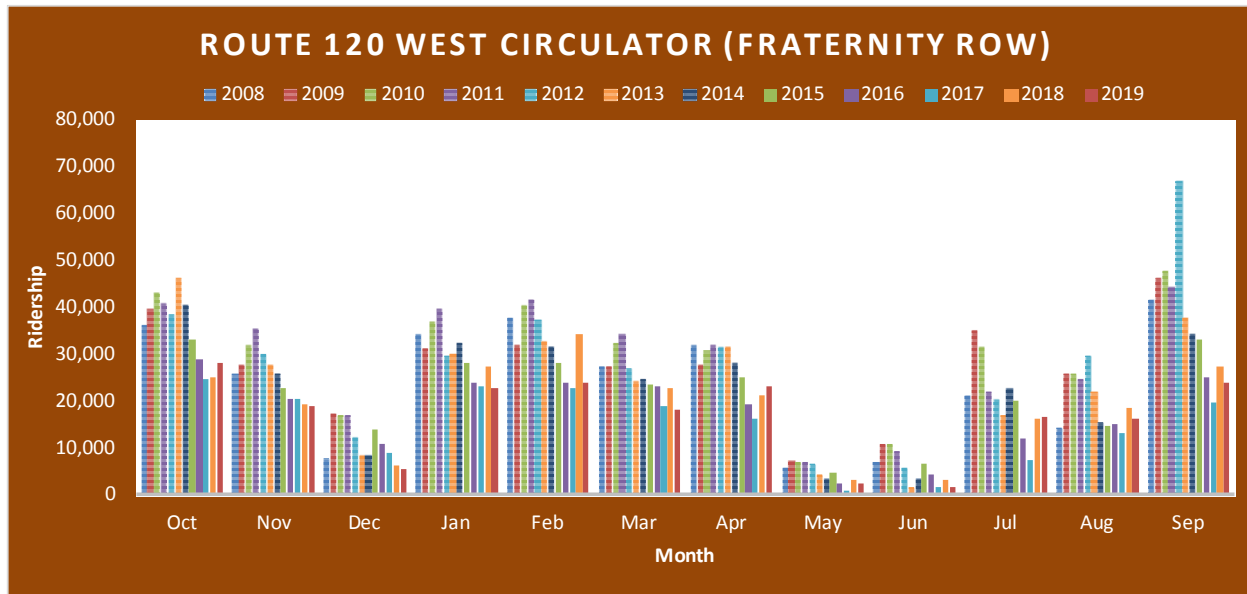
Campus Route 120 Map 2019



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

Illustration 3.8

Monthly Trend for Route 120  
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019



**Illustration 3.9**  
**Campus Route 121 Map 2019**



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

**Illustration 3.10**  
**Monthly Trend for Route 121**  
**University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019**

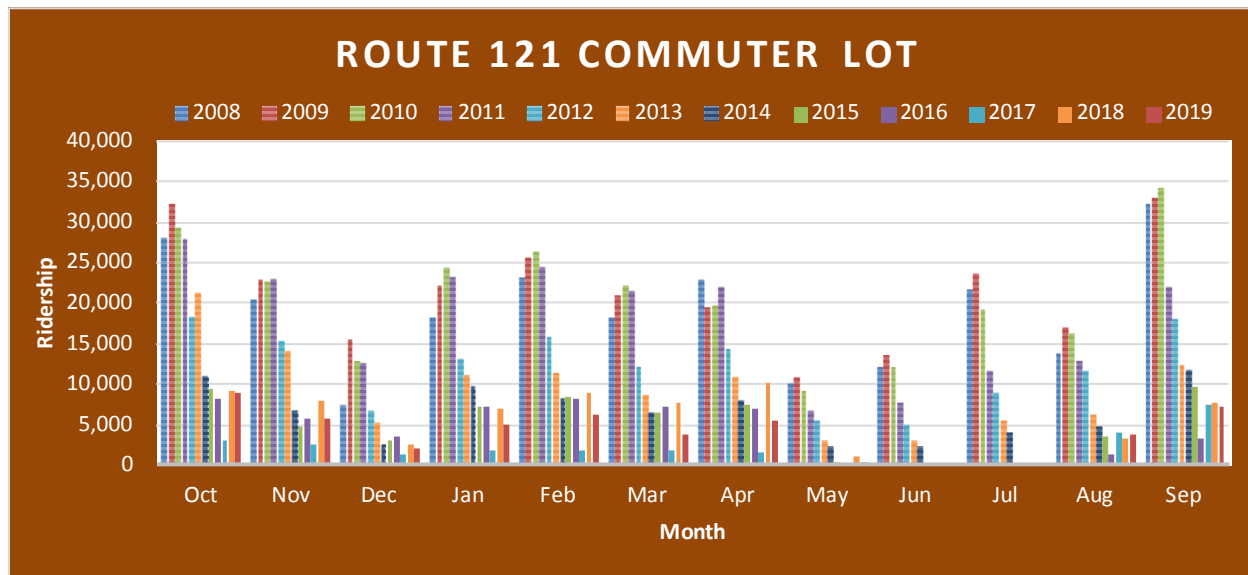
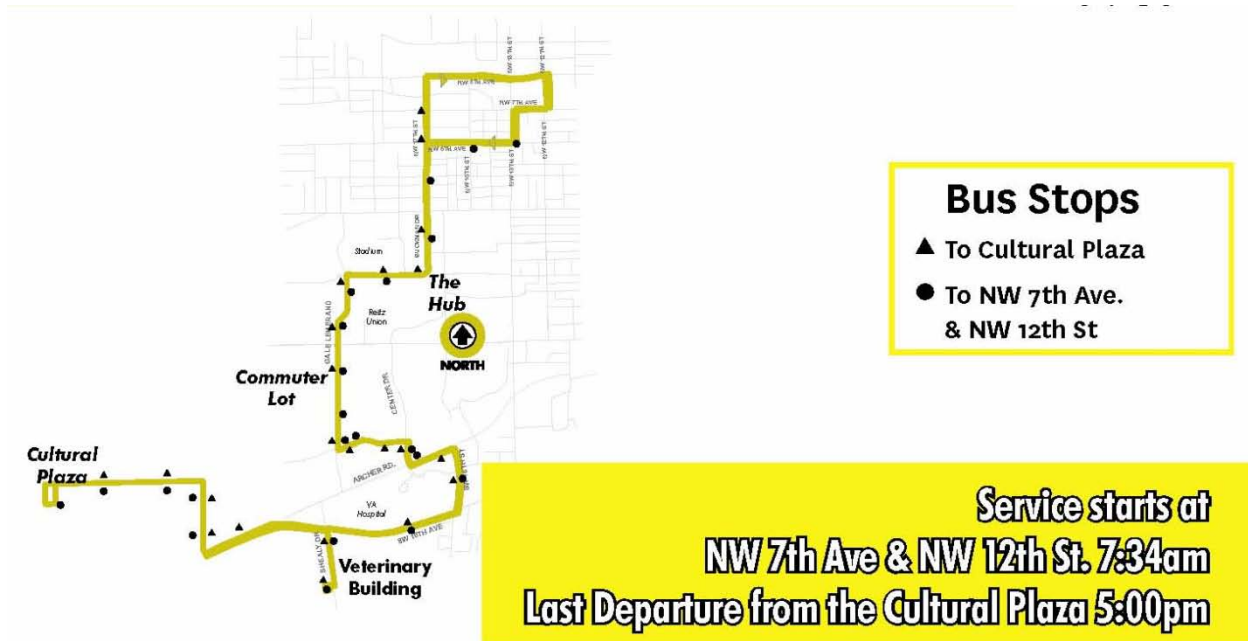


Illustration 3.11

Campus Route 122 Map 2019



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

Illustration 3.12

Monthly Trend for Route 122  
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019

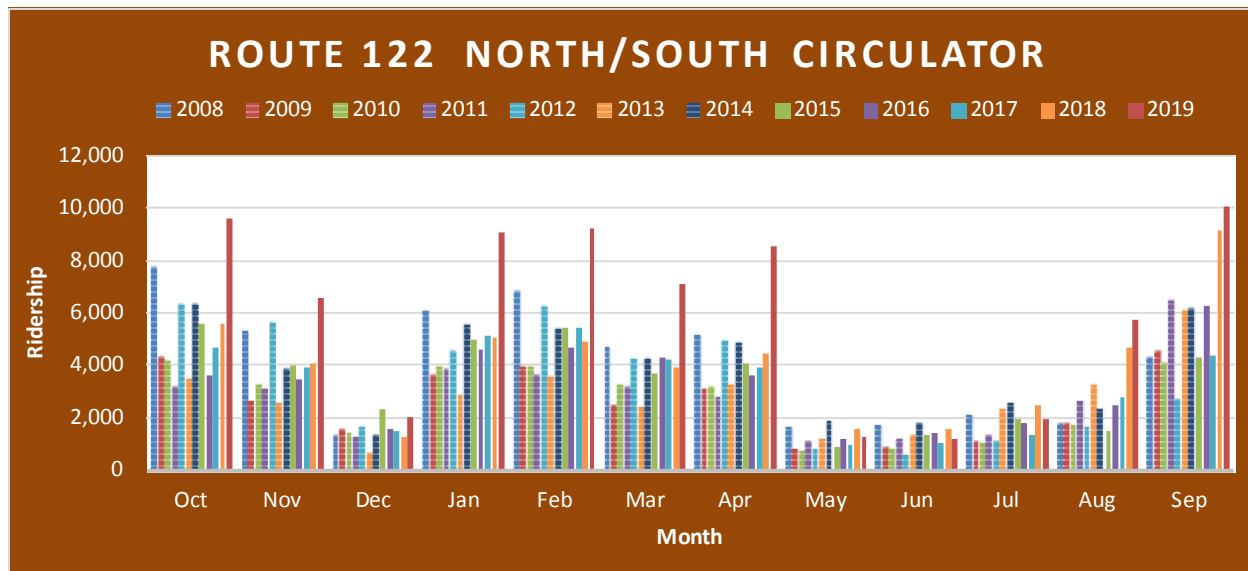
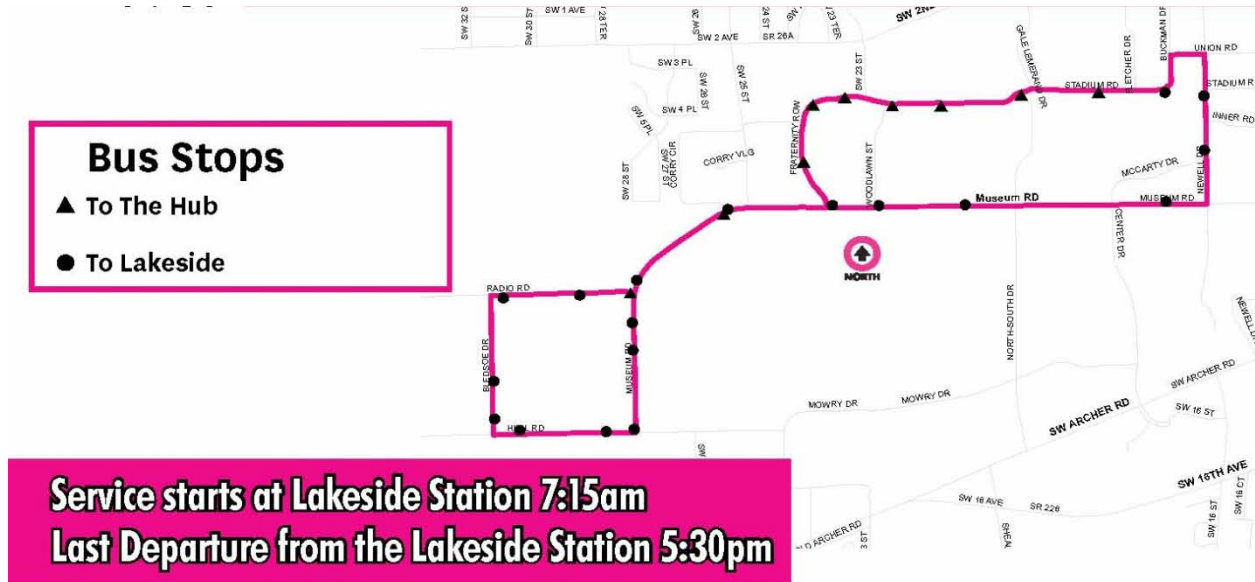


Illustration 3.13

Campus Route 125 Map 2019



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

Illustration 3.14

Monthly Trend for Route 125  
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019

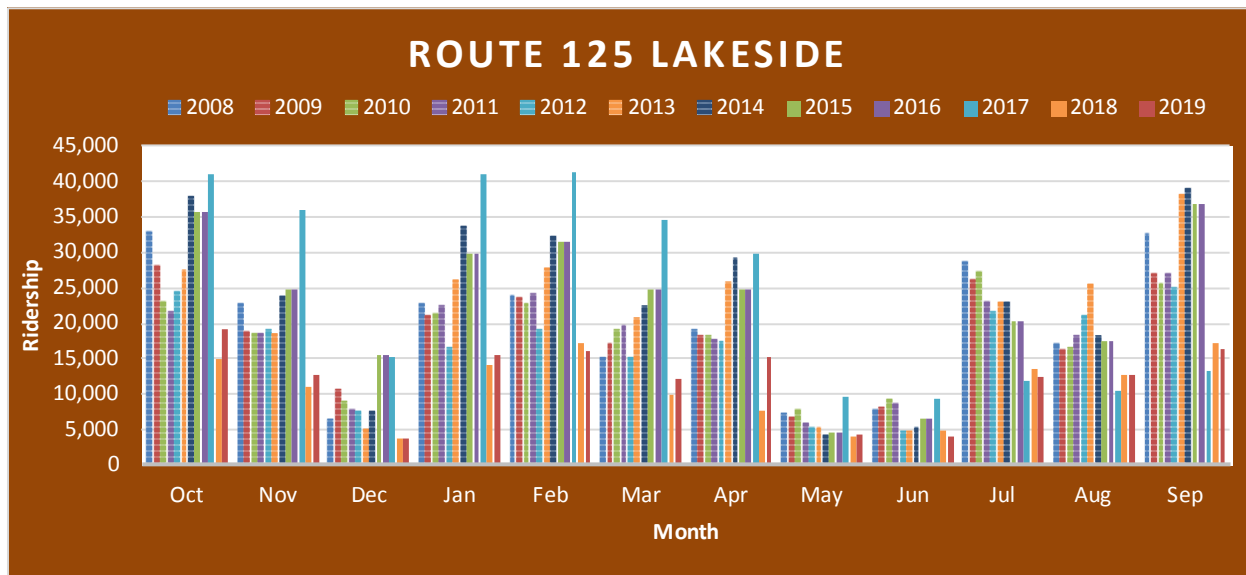
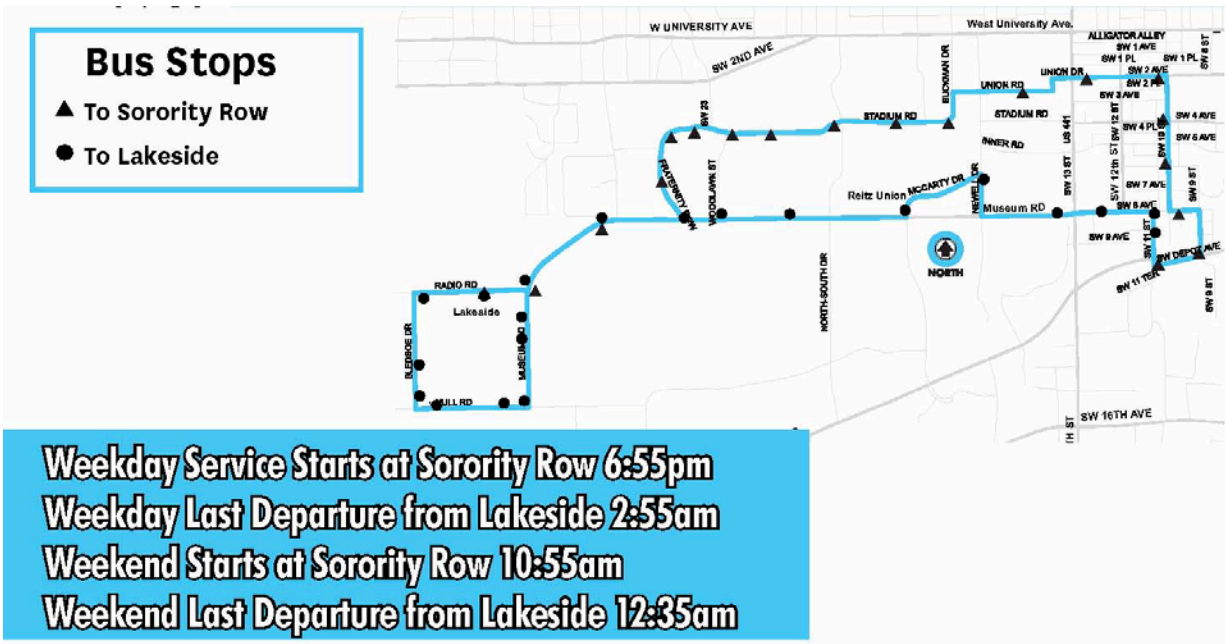


Illustration 3.15

Campus Route 126 Map 2019



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

Illustration 3.16

Monthly Trend for Route 126  
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019

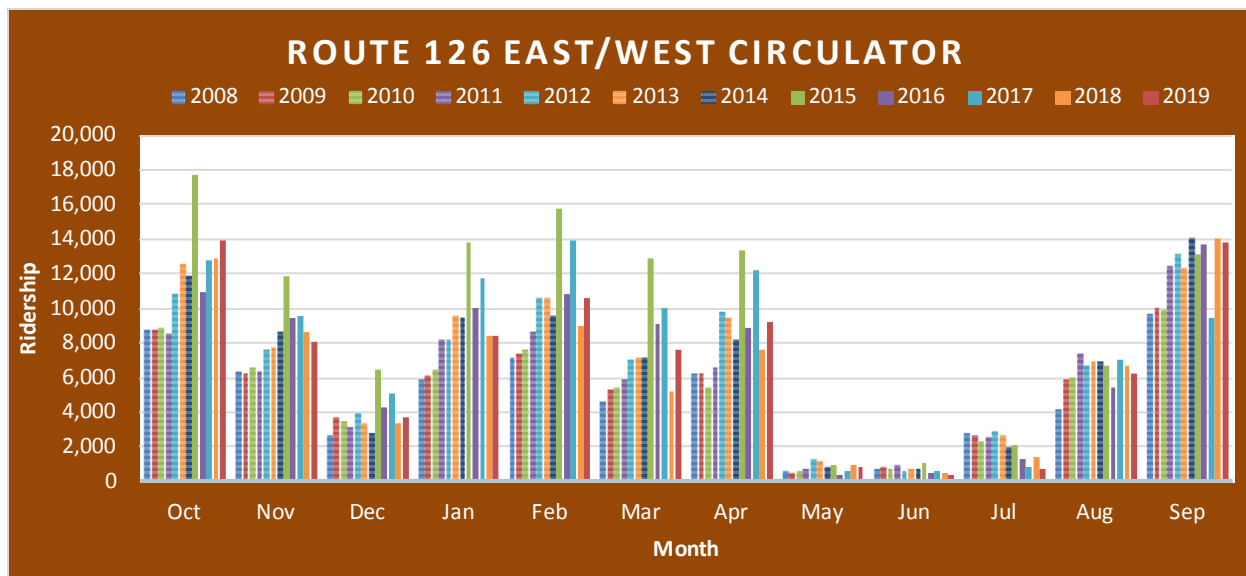
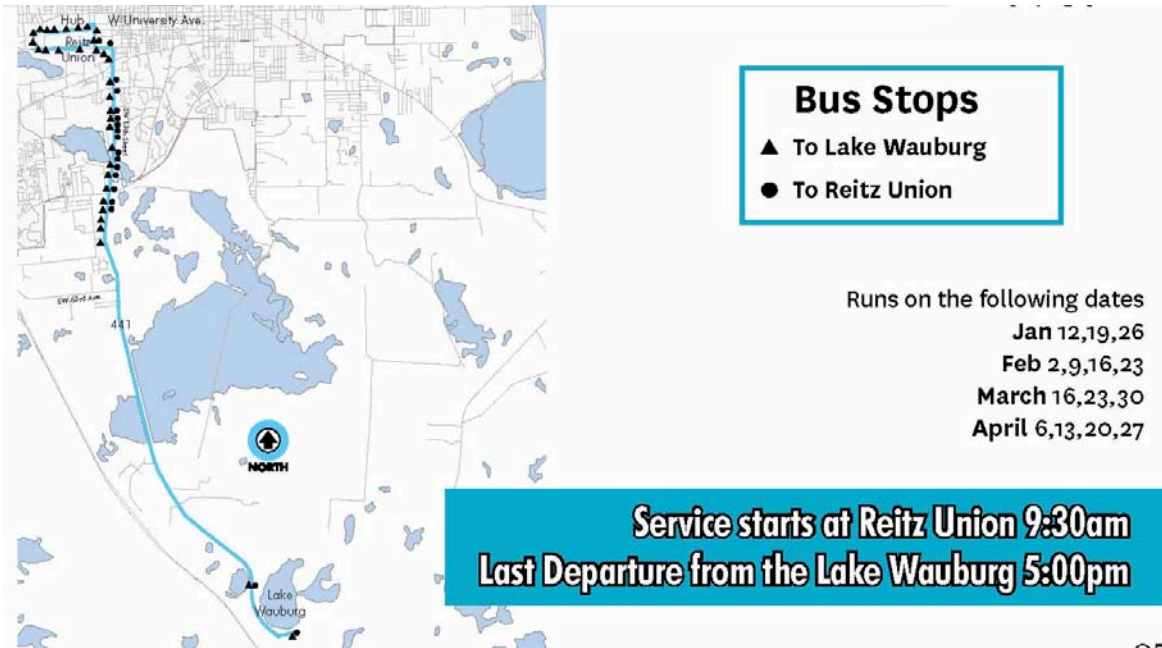




Illustration 3.19

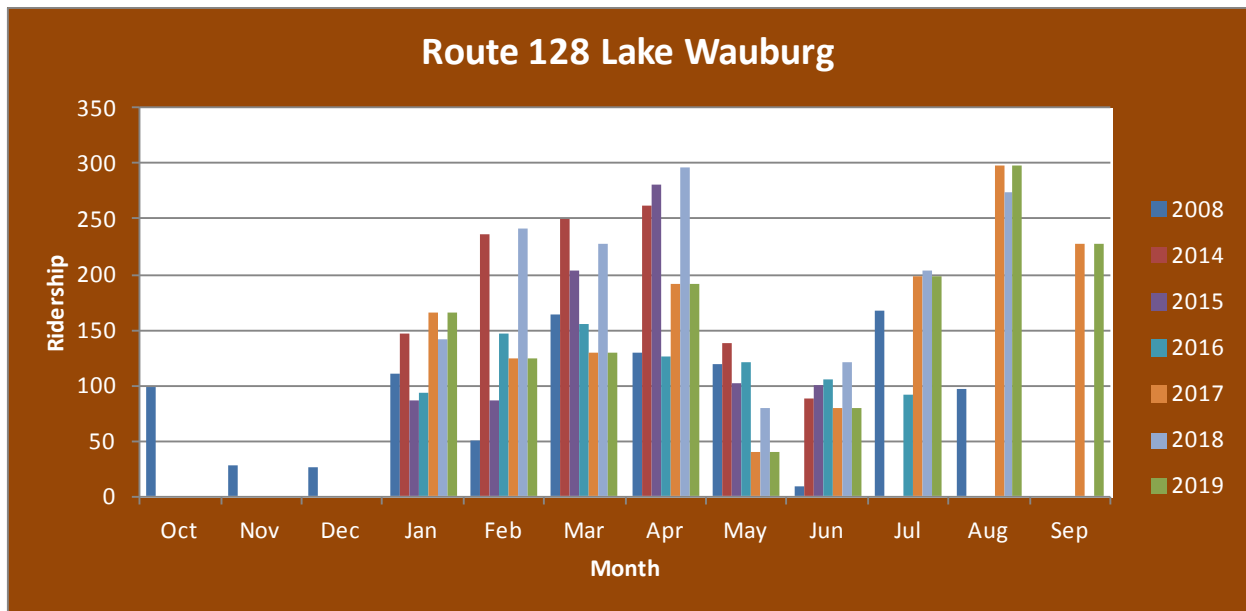
Campus Route 128 Map 2019



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

Illustration 3.20

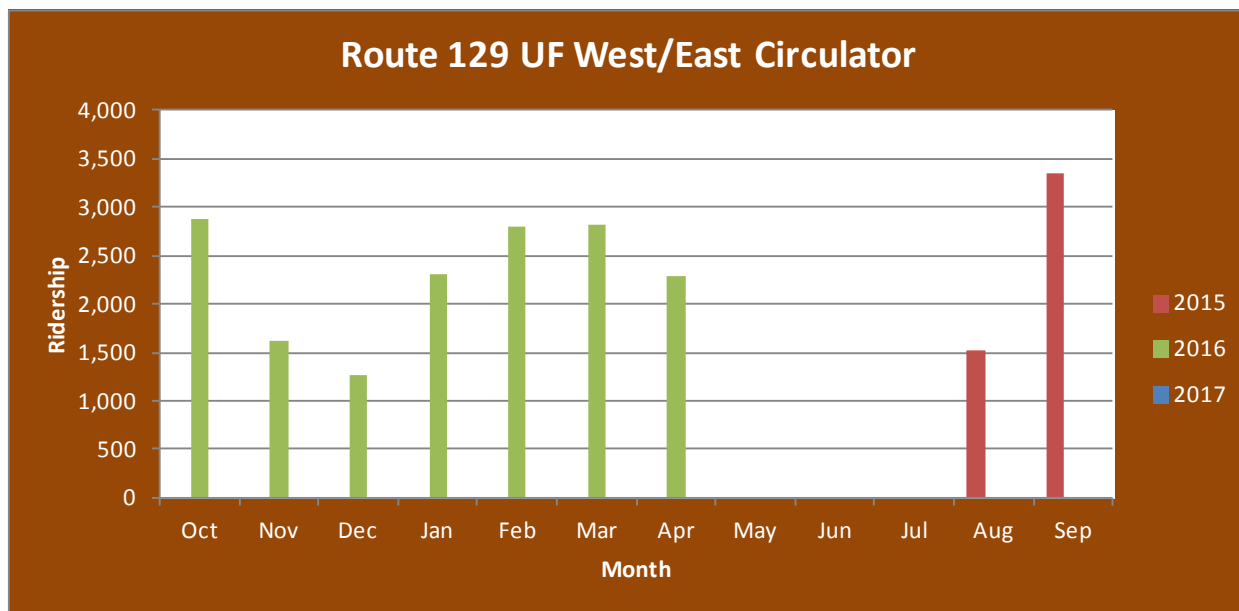
Monthly Trend for Route 128  
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019





### Illustration 3.21

#### Monthly Trend for Route 129 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2019



Route 129 has been suspended.

**Table 3.1**

#### Total Ridership - Campus Routes Fiscal Year 2018-19

Route Number	Route Name	Fiscal Year 2018-19 Total
117	Park-N-Ride 2 (SW 34th Street)	73,609
118	Park-N-Ride 1 (Harn Museum)	346,071
119	Family Housing	52,487
120	West Circulator (Fraternity Row)	202,116
121	Commuter Lot	48,666
122	University of Florida North/South Circulator	72,314
125	Lakeside	144,678
126	University of Florida East/West Circulator (Evening)	83,697
127	East Circulator (Sorority Row)	278,340
128	Lake Wauburg	1,454
129	West/East Circulator	0
150	Haile Plantation to Campus	2,932



### Illustration 3.22

#### Total Ridership - University of Florida Campus Routes Fiscal Year 2018-19

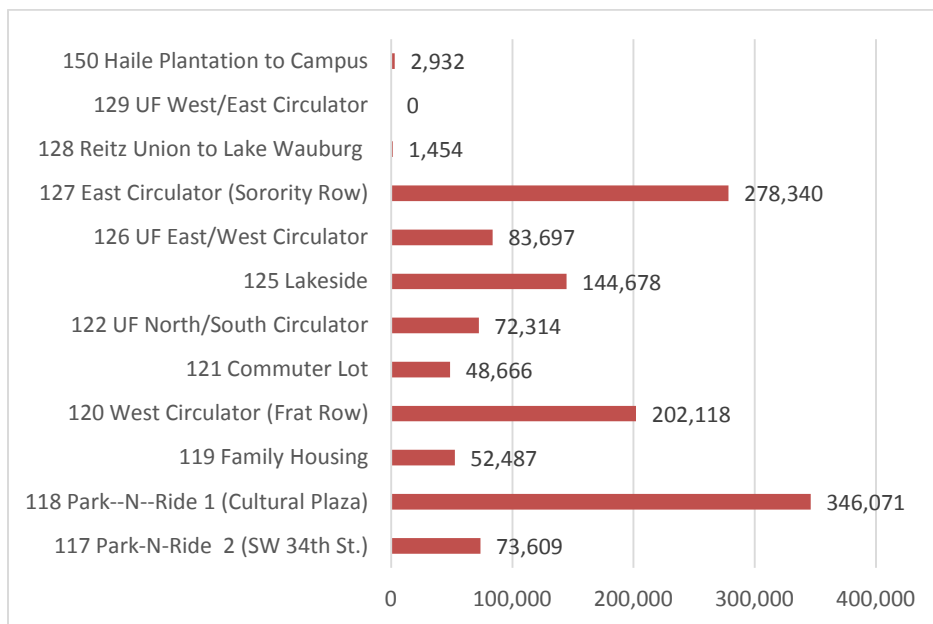


Illustration 3.22 provides a summary of the annual total ridership for University of Florida campus routes for Fiscal Year 2018-19. It indicates that Route 118 and Route 127 had the highest annual ridership among campus routes in Fiscal Year 2018-19.

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# Appendix A

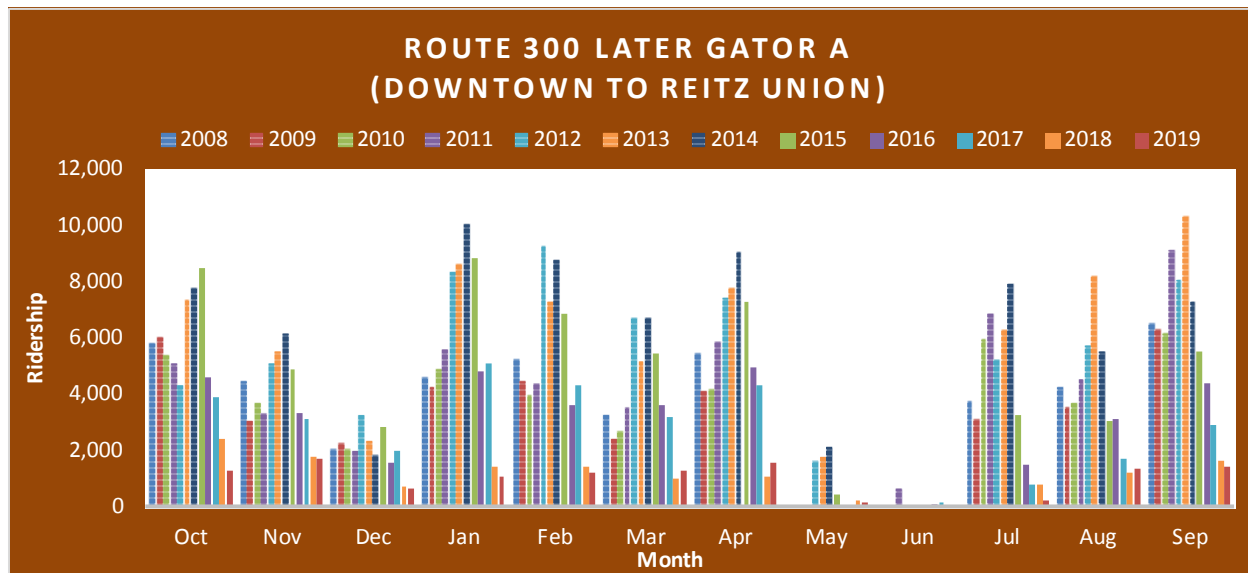
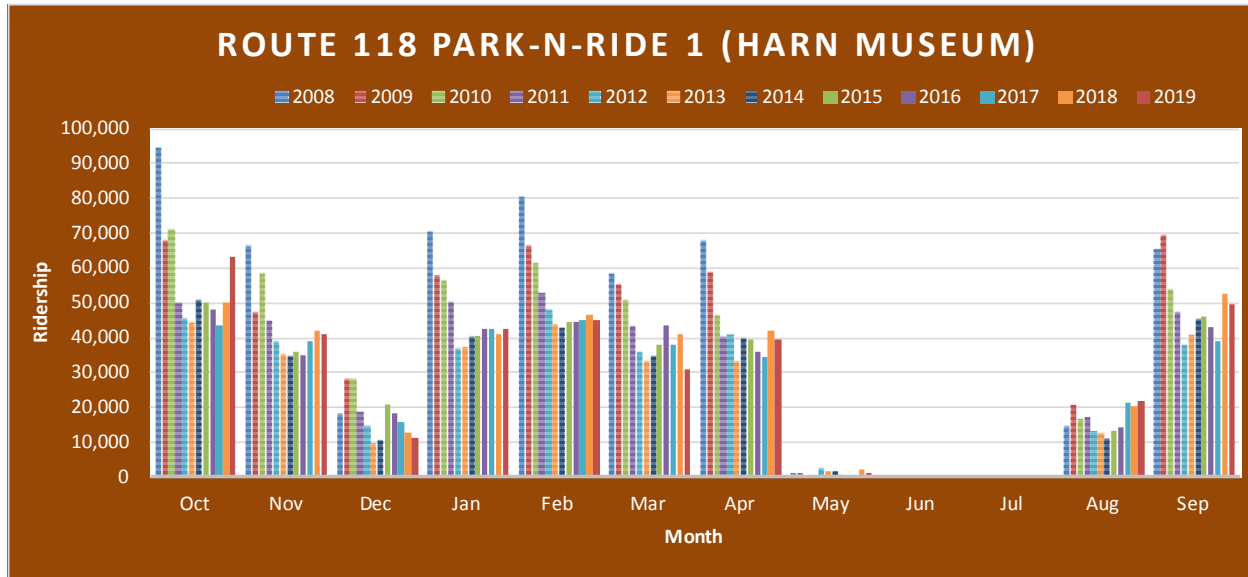
## Monthly Ridership Trends

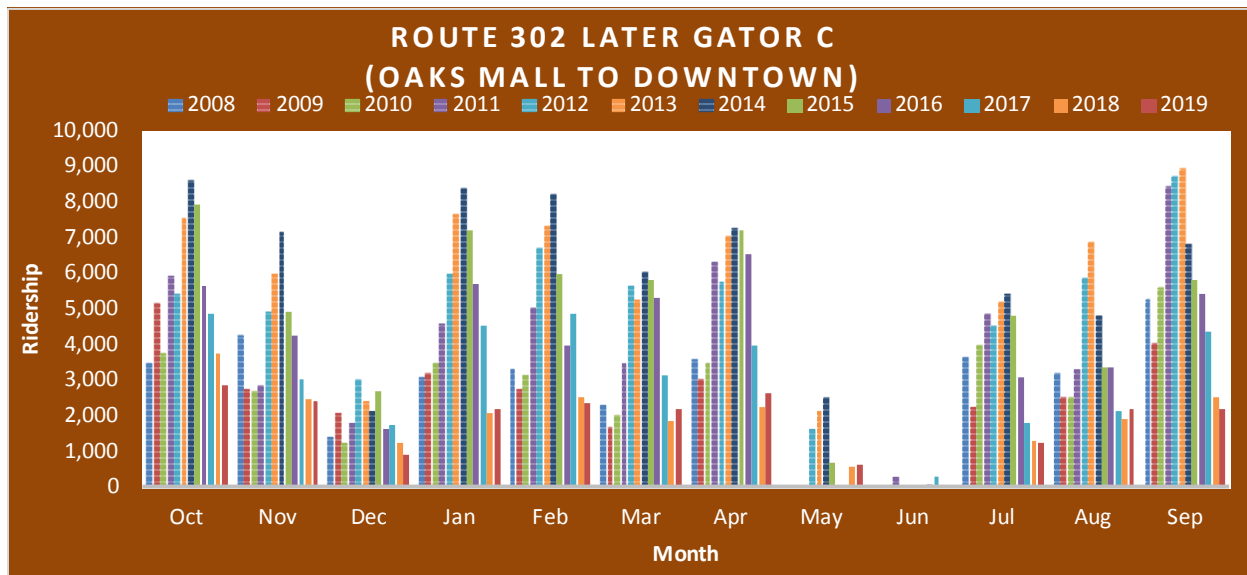
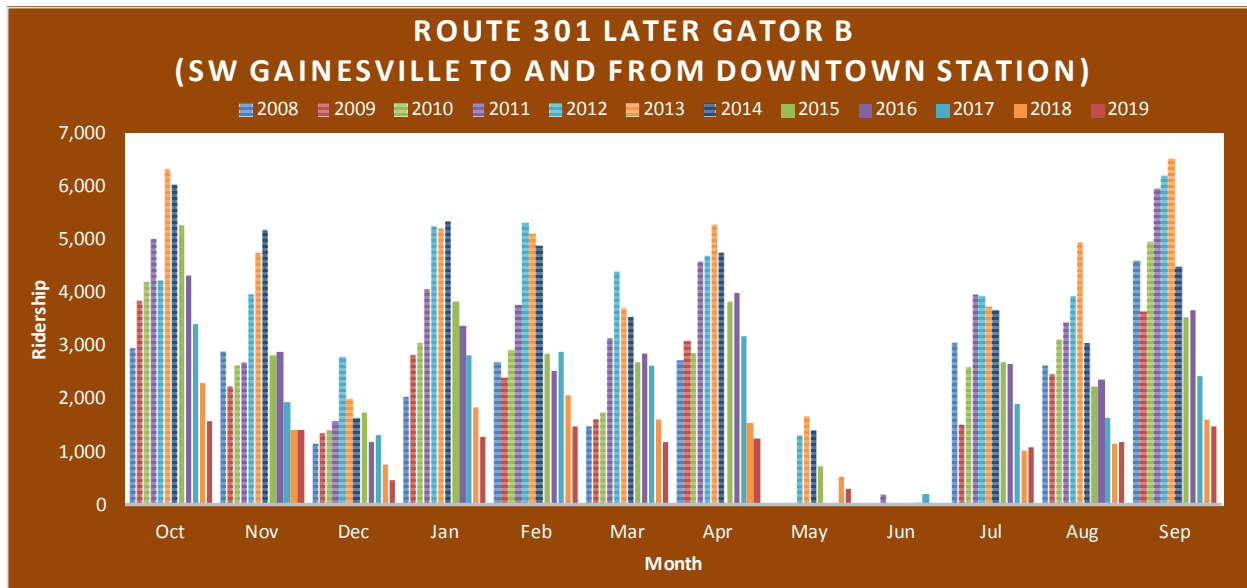
### Seasonal Routes, 2008-2019

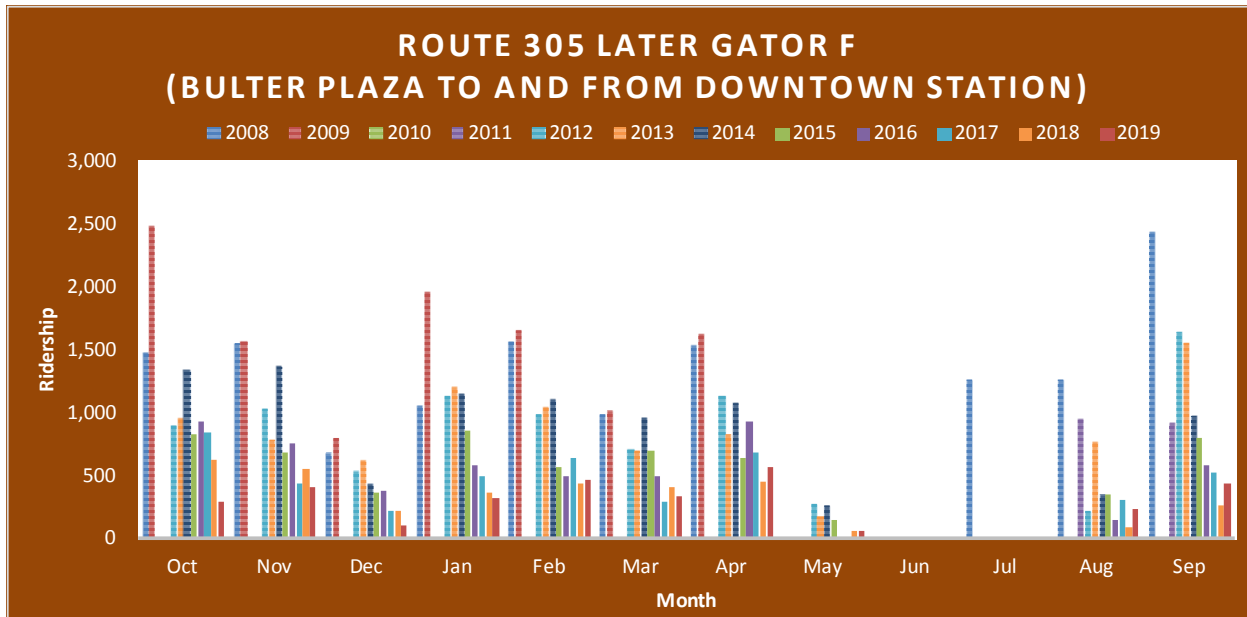
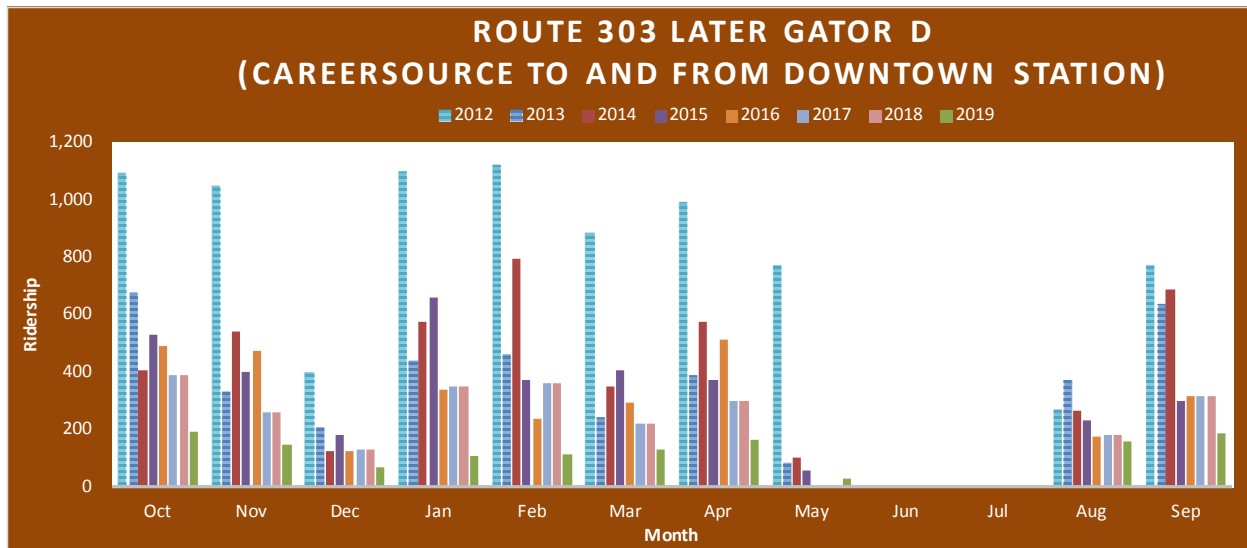
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## Appendix A: Monthly Ridership Trends Seasonal Routes, 2008-2019

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







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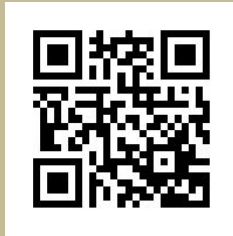
# Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

*Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report Team*

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