

Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report

Fiscal Year 2019-20

July 14, 2021



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report

Fiscal Year 2019-20

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
352.955.2200

With Assistance from:

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
352.955.2200

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grants from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, United States Department of Transportation, under the State Planning and Research Program, Section 505 [or Metropolitan Planning Program, Section 104(f)] of Title 23, United States Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the United States Department of Transportation.

July 14, 2021

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	v
Chapter I: Annual Ridership Trends System-wide, 1991-2020	3
Chapter II: Monthly Ridership Trends City Routes, 2008-2020.....	7
Chapter III: Monthly Ridership Trends Campus Routes, 2008-2020	19
Appendix A: Monthly Ridership Trends Seasonal Routes, 2008-2020	A-3

Illustrations

Illustration 1.1 Annual Regional Transit System Ridership Systemwide, 1991-2020.....	3
Illustration 1.2 Motorcycle and Scooter Permits - University of Florida, 2008-2018	4
Illustration 2.1 Total Ridership - City Routes Fiscal Year 2019-20	10
Illustration 2.2 Ridership Distribution - City Routes Fiscal Year 2019-20.....	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 2020.....	20
Illustration 3.2 Monthly Trend for Route 117.....	20
Illustration 3.3 Campus Route 118 Map 2020.....	21
Illustration 3.4 Monthly Trend for Route 118.....	21
Illustration 3.5 Campus Route 119 Map 2020.....	22
Illustration 3.6 Monthly Trend for Route 119.....	22
Illustration 3.7 Campus Route 120 Map 2020.....	23
Illustration 3.8 Monthly Trend for Route 120.....	23
Illustration 3.9 Campus Route 121 Map 2020.....	24
Illustration 3.10 Monthly Trend for Route 121	24

Illustrations (Continued)

Illustration 3.11 Campus Route 122 Map 2020	25
Illustration 3.12 Monthly Trend for Route 122	25
Illustration 3.13 Campus Route 125 Map 2020	26
Illustration 3.14 Monthly Trend for Route 125	26
Illustration 3.15 Campus Route 126 Map 2020	27
Illustration 3.16 Monthly Trend for Route 126	27
Illustration 3.17 Campus Route 127 Map 2020	28
Illustration 3.18 Monthly Trend for Route 127	28
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020	28
Illustration 3.19 Campus Route 128 Map 2020	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 2019-20	7
Table 2.2 Total Ridership - City Routes Fiscal Year 2019-20	8
Table 3.1 Total Ridership - Campus Routes Fiscal Year 2019-20	30

Introduction

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

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 2019-20, 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.

Covid-19 Global Pandemic Influence

In the spring of 2020, a globalwide 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.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Chapter I

Annual Ridership Trends

Systemwide, 1991-2020

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Chapter I: Annual Ridership Trends System-wide, 1991-2020

This chapter provides an overview of the system-wide transit ridership trends from 1991 to 2020 (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, 1991-2020

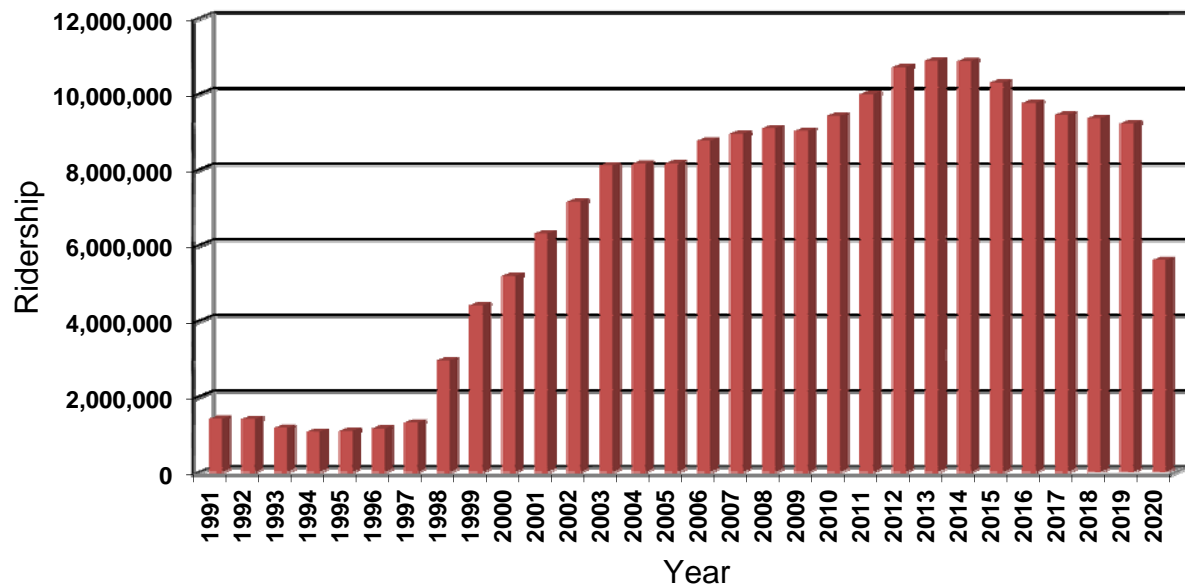
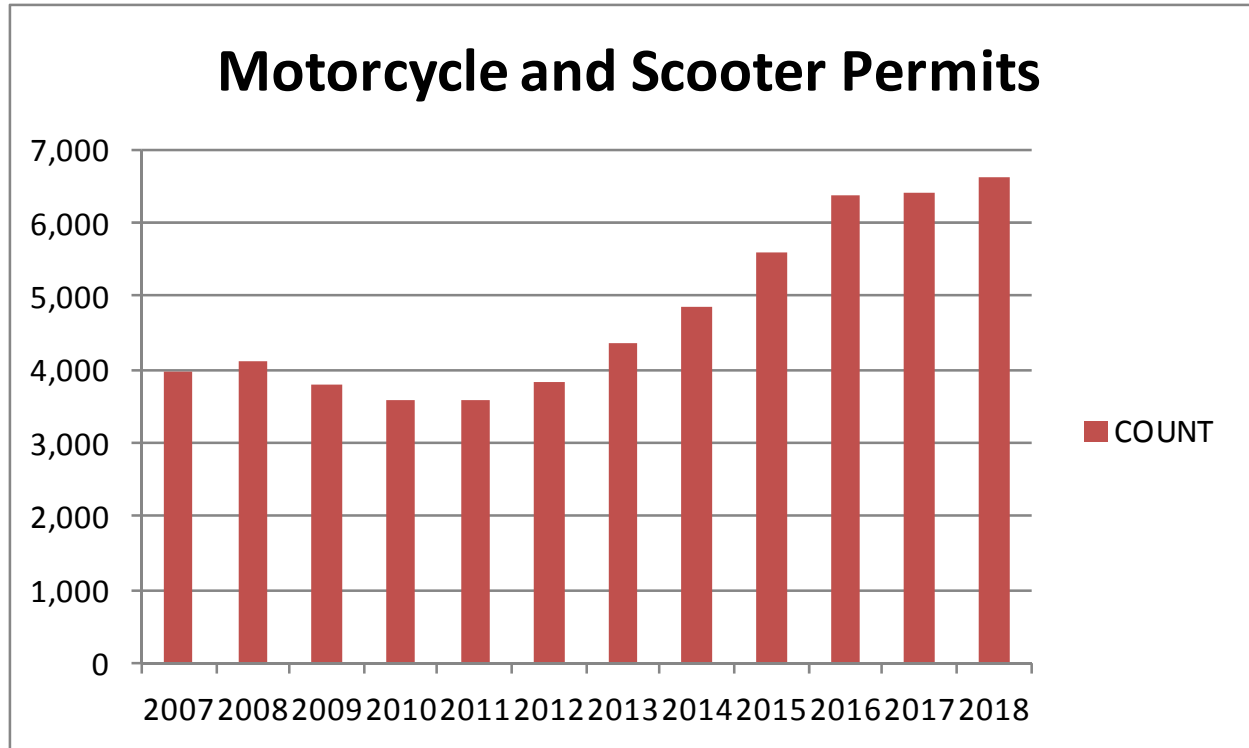


Illustration 1.2

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



Chapter II

Monthly Ridership Trends

City Routes, 2008-2020

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Chapter II: Monthly Ridership Trends City Routes, 2008-2020

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 2019-20. Illustration 2.2 shows the distribution of annual ridership for all the city routes for Fiscal Year 2019-20. 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 2019-20

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 2019-20

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2020 Total
1	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	368,099
2	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Northeast Walmart Supercenter	43,908
3	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to North Main Post Office	22,812
5	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Oaks Mall	244,233
6	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Plaza Verde Shopping Center	53,988
7	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Eastwood Meadows Apartments	54,318
8	Shands Hospital to North Walmart Supercenter, Senior Recreation Center	180,574
9	University of Florida Reitz Union to Hunters Run Subdivision	256,507
10	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Santa Fe College	59,935
11	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Eastwood Meadows Apartments	76,988
12	Reitz Union to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	268,049
13	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Career Source	257,465
15	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to NW 13th Street at NW 23rd Avenue	194,266
16	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Sugar Hill Neighborhood	72,380
17	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Rosa Parks Downtown Station	68,978
19	University of Florida Reitz Union to SW 23rd Terrace at SW 35th Place	4,157
20	University of Florida Reitz Union to Oaks Mall	426,238
21	University of Florida Reitz Union to Cabana Beach	161,340
22	University of Florida Hub to Old Archer Road	0
23	Oaks Mall to Santa Fe College	54,638
24	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Gainesville Job Corps Center	8,734
25	University of Florida Commuter Lot to Gainesville Regional Airport	45,224
26	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Gainesville Regional Airport	73,763
27	Rosa Parks Downtown Station to Northeast Walmart Supercenter	8,610
28	University of Florida Hub to Forest Park Apartments	111,539
29	University of Florida Beaty Towers to Kiwanis Park	27,123
33	Butler Plaza Transfer Station to Midtown	200,139
34	University of Florida Hub to Lexington Crossing Apartments	125,439
35	University of Florida Reitz Union to Southwest 35th Place	321,678
36	University of Florida Reitz Union to Southwest 34th Street Post Office	37,821
37	University of Florida Reitz Union to Butler Plaza (via Southwest 35th Place)	150,536
38	University of Florida Hub to Gainesville Place	346,949
39	Santa Fe College to Gainesville Regional Airport	10,361
40	University of Florida Hub to Hunters Crossing Apartments	21,497
41	Not In Use	
43	University of Florida Shands Hospital to Santa Fe College	107,172
46	University of Florida Reitz Union to Rosa Parks Downtown Station	78,077
62	Oaks Mall to Lexington Crossing Apartments	0
75	Oaks Mall to Butler Plaza Shopping Center	187,172
76	Santa Fe College to Haile Square Market	19,563
77	Santa Fe College to Cabana Beach Apartments	0
711	Downtown for East Meadows	27,683
800X	Santa Fe to Butler Plaza	9,827
City Totals		4,785,480

Table 2.2 Continued
Total Ridership - City Routes
Fiscal Year 2019-20

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2020 Total
117	Park-N-Ride 2 (SW 34th Street)	34,342
118	Park-N-Ride 1 (Cultural Plaza)	224,502
119	Family Housing	24,624
120	West Circulator (Fraternity Row)	95,258
121	Commuter Lot	22,864
122	UF North/South Circulator	40,918
125	Lakeside	67,978
126	University of Florida East/West Circulator	62,036
127	East Circulator (Sorority Row)	153,490
128	Reitz Union to Lake Wauburg	484
129	University of Florida West/East Circulator	0
150	Haile Plantation to Campus	14,921
Campus Totals		741,417

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2020 Total
600	Microtransit - East University Avenue	6,853
601	Microtransit - Hawthorne Road	6,567
602	-	4,754
901	Tricounty Route - Lake City	196
902	Tricounty Route - Trenton	254
Microtransit/Express Totals		18,624

Route Number	Route Name	FY 2020 Total
300	Later Gator A (Fraternity Row to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	4,881
301	Later Gator B (Southwest Gainesville to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	7,800
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)	997
305	Later Gator F (Butler Plaza to and from Rosa Parks Downtown Station)	1,996
Later Gator Totals		28,000

Other Services Totals	27,916
Systemwide Totals	5,601,437

Indicates route not in operation

Illustration 2.1

Total Ridership - City Routes Fiscal Year 2019-20

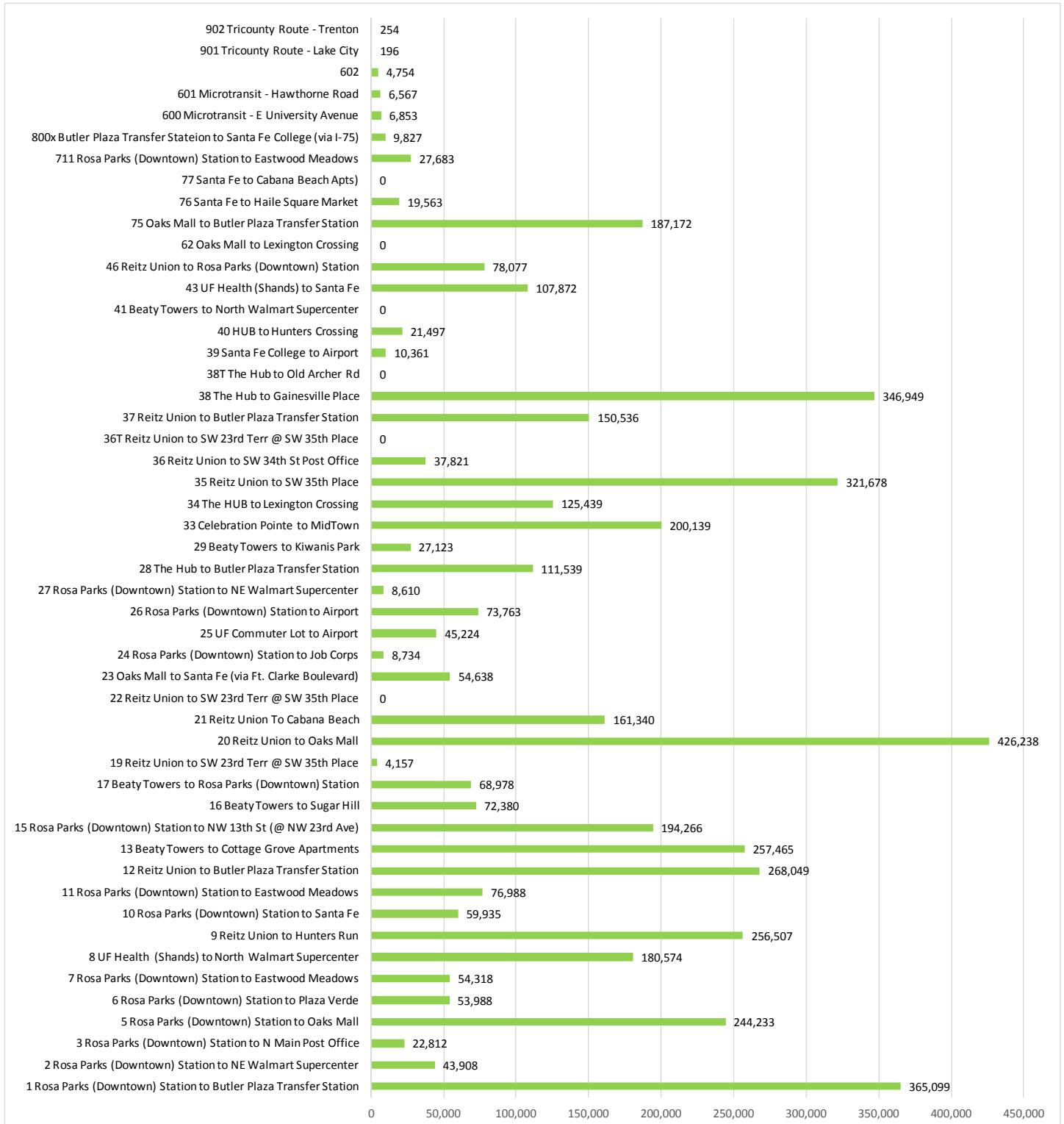


Illustration 2.2

Ridership Distribution - City Routes Fiscal Year 2019-20

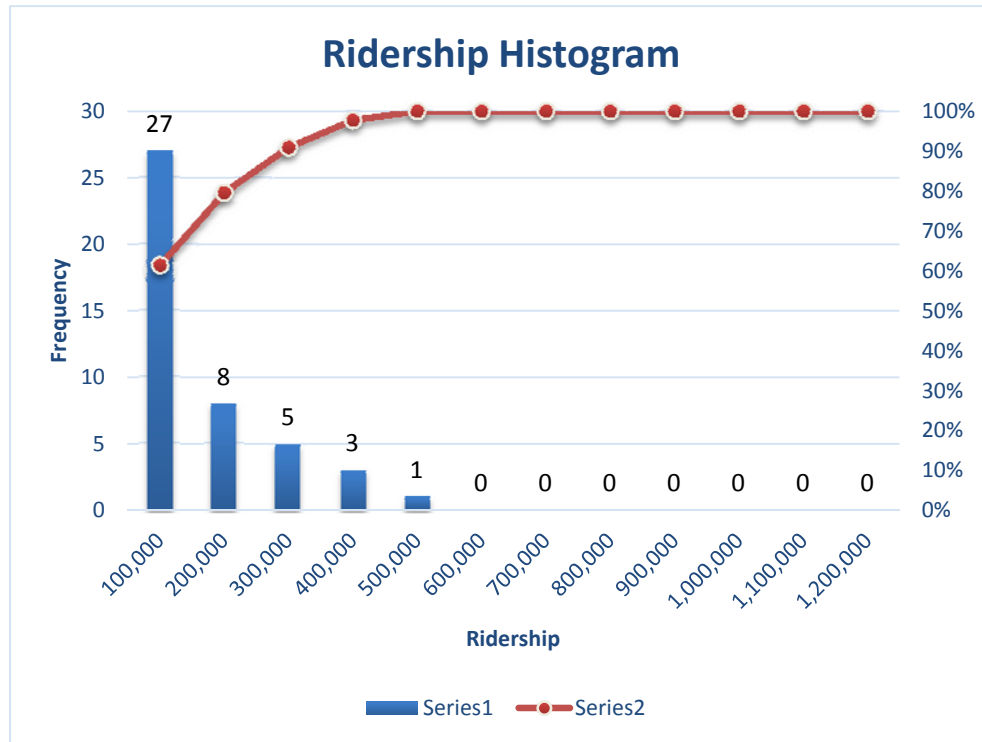
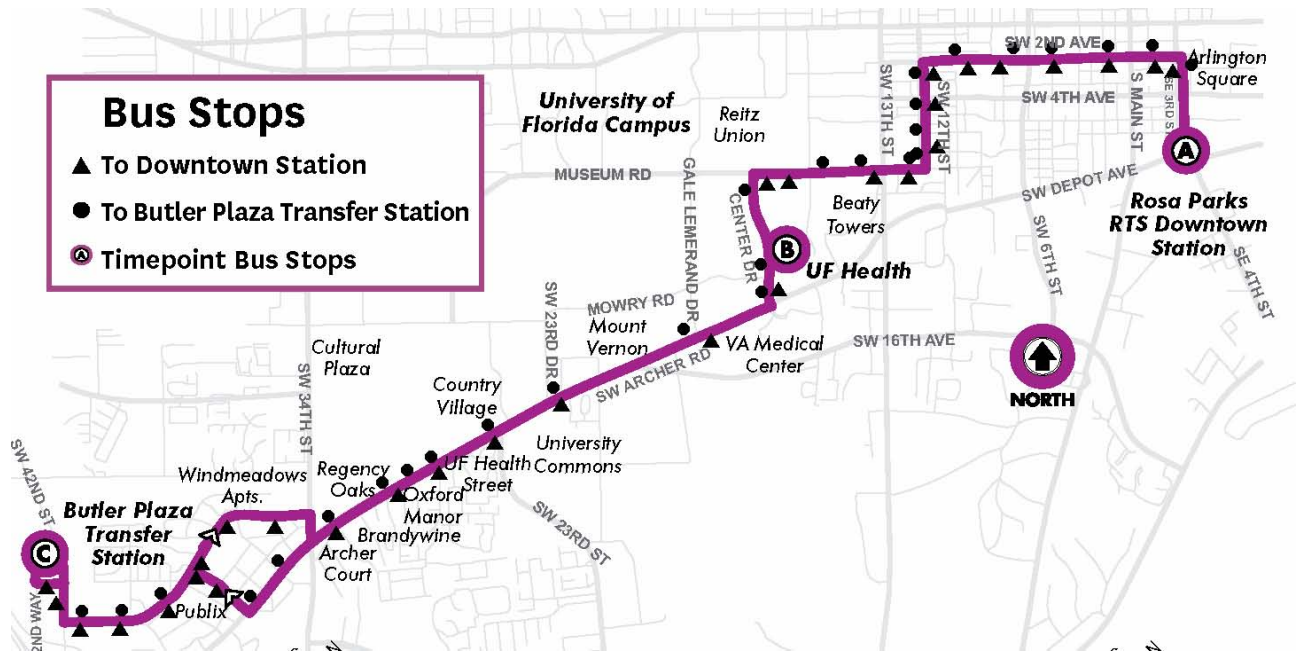


Illustration 2.3

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, 2008-2020



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, 2008-2020

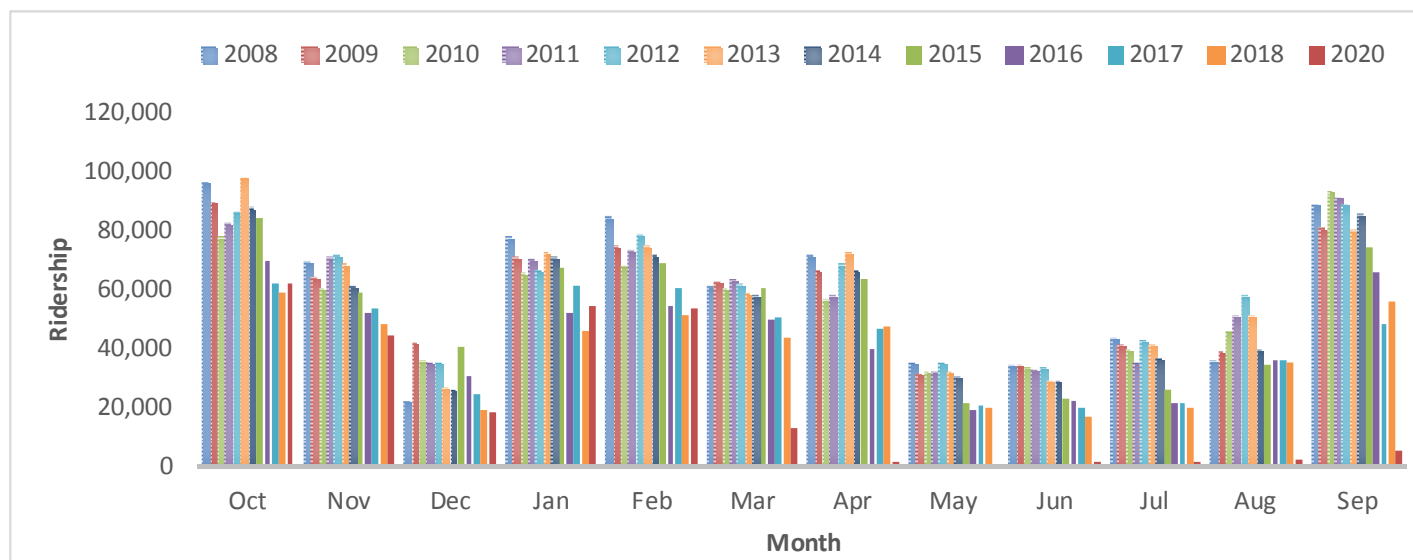
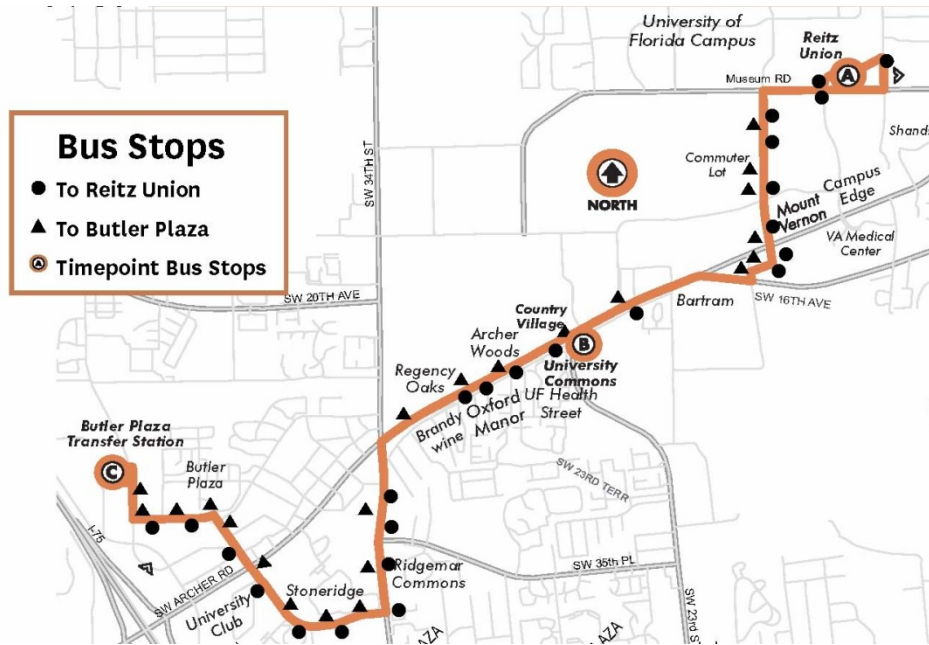


Illustration 2.7

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, 2008-2020

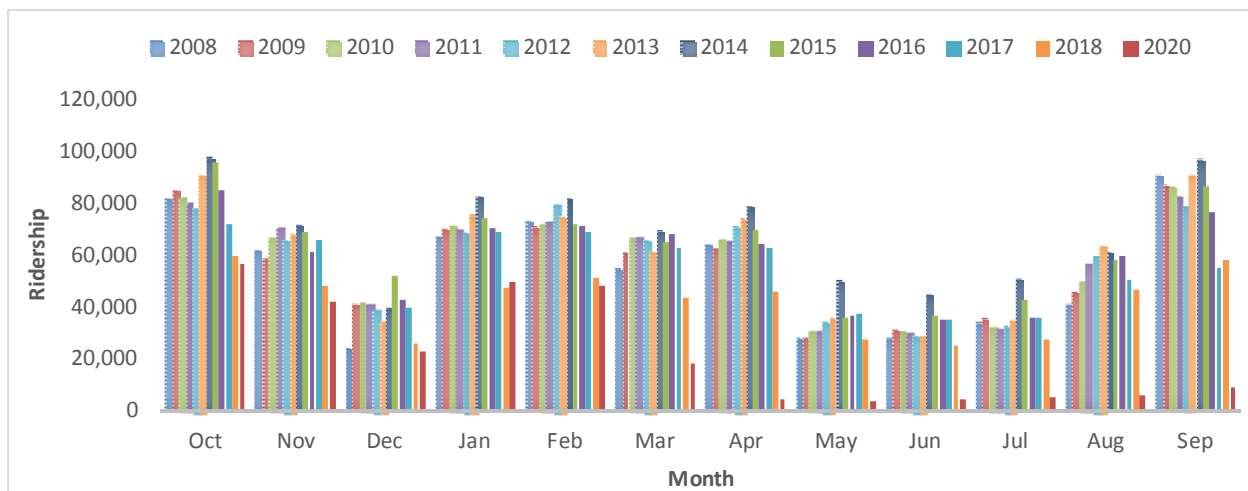
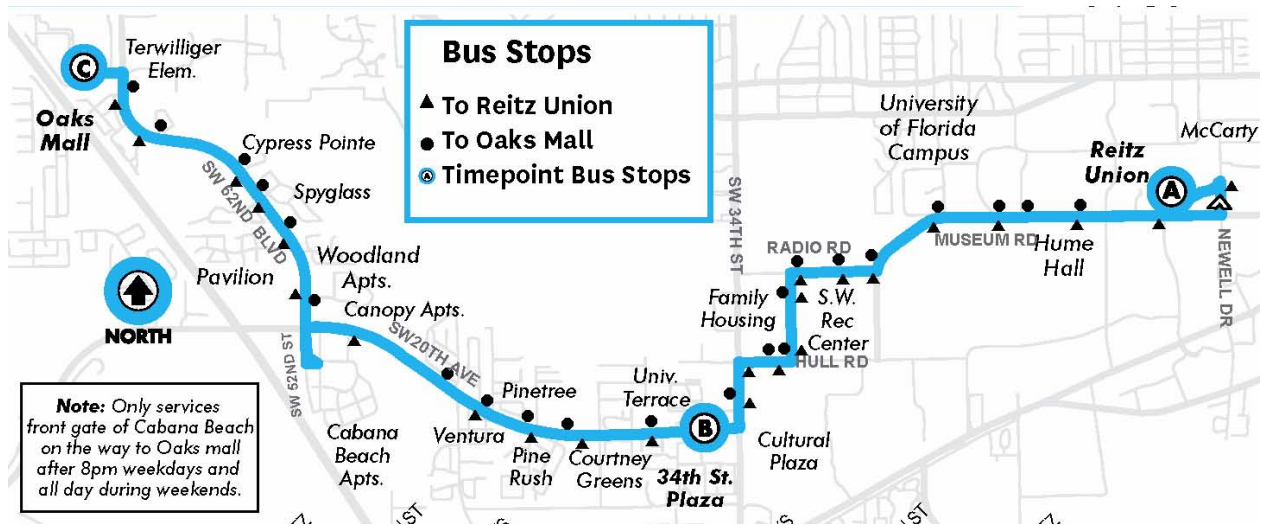


Illustration 2.9

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, 2008-2020

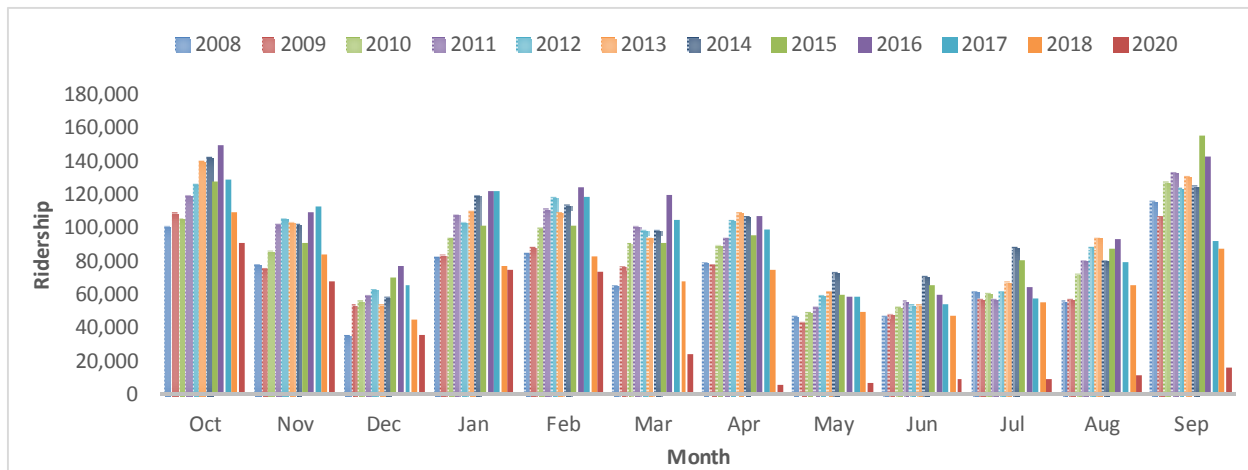
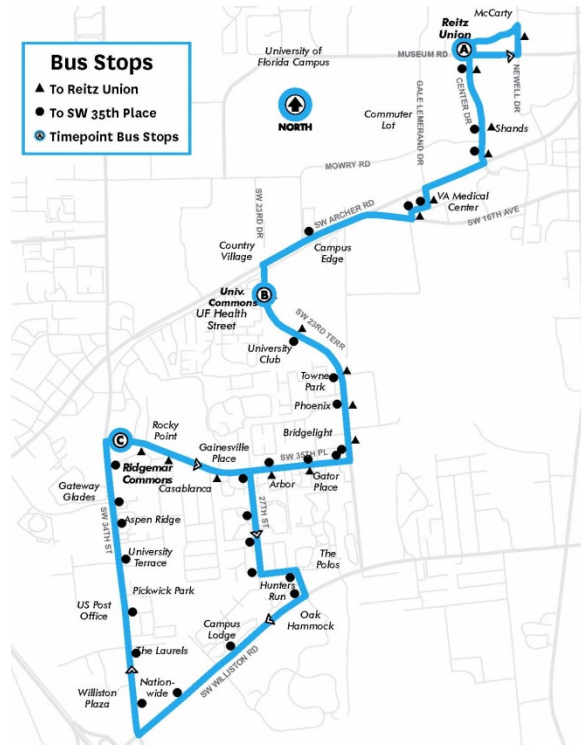


Illustration 2.11

Route 35 - Map Reitz Union to SW 35th Place

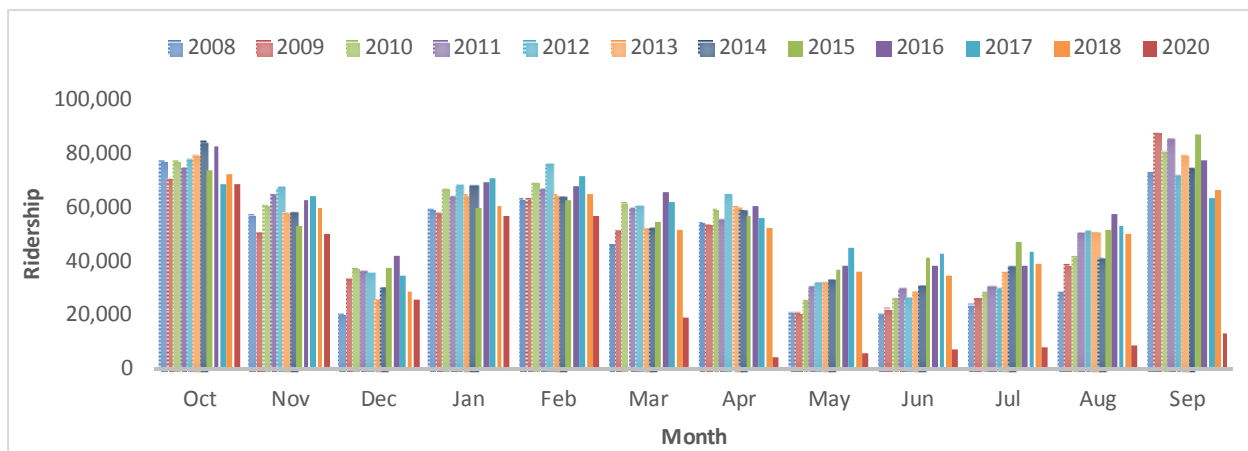


Source: <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php>

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, 2008-2020



Chapter III

Monthly Ridership Trends

Campus Routes, 2008-2020

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Chapter III: Monthly Ridership Trends Campus Routes, 2008-2020

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 2020. Monthly ridership for the following routes decreased:

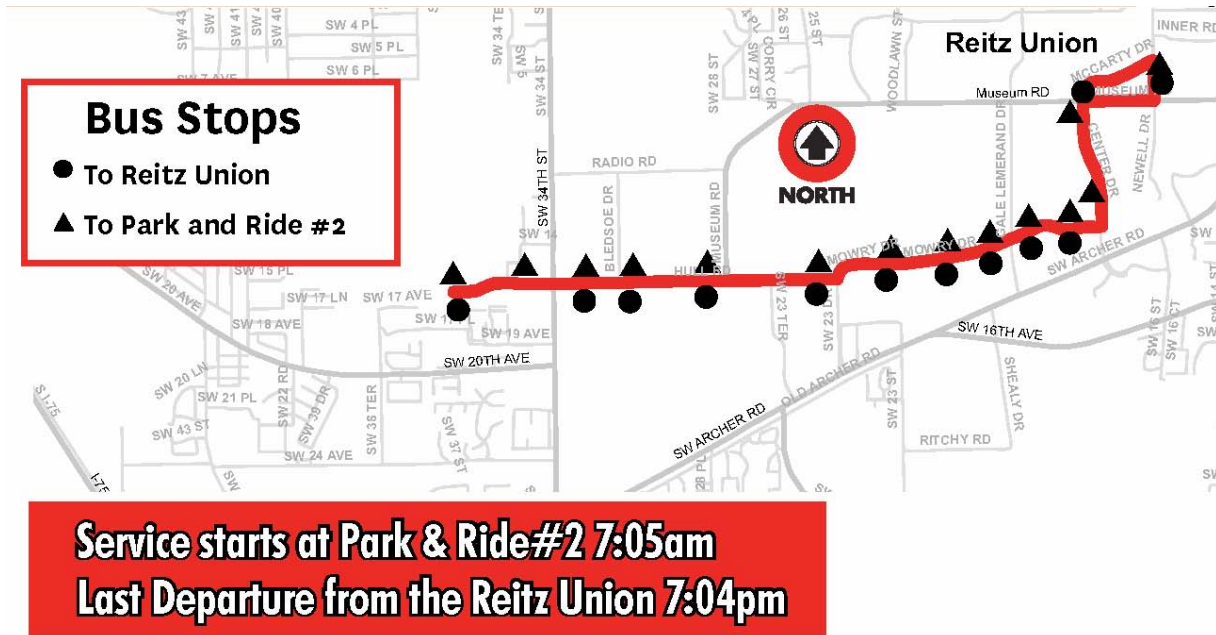
- Route 117 (-70.3 percent);
- Route 118 (-35.9 percent);
- Route 119 (-64.7 percent);
- Route 120 (-57.7 percent);
- Route 121 (-65.1 percent);
- Route 122 (-16.0 percent);
- Route 125 (-48.3 percent);
- Route 126 (-24.1 percent);
- Route 127 (37.8 percent); and
- Route 128 (-69.5 percent).

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.

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 2020



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

Illustration 3.2

Monthly Trend for Route 117 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020

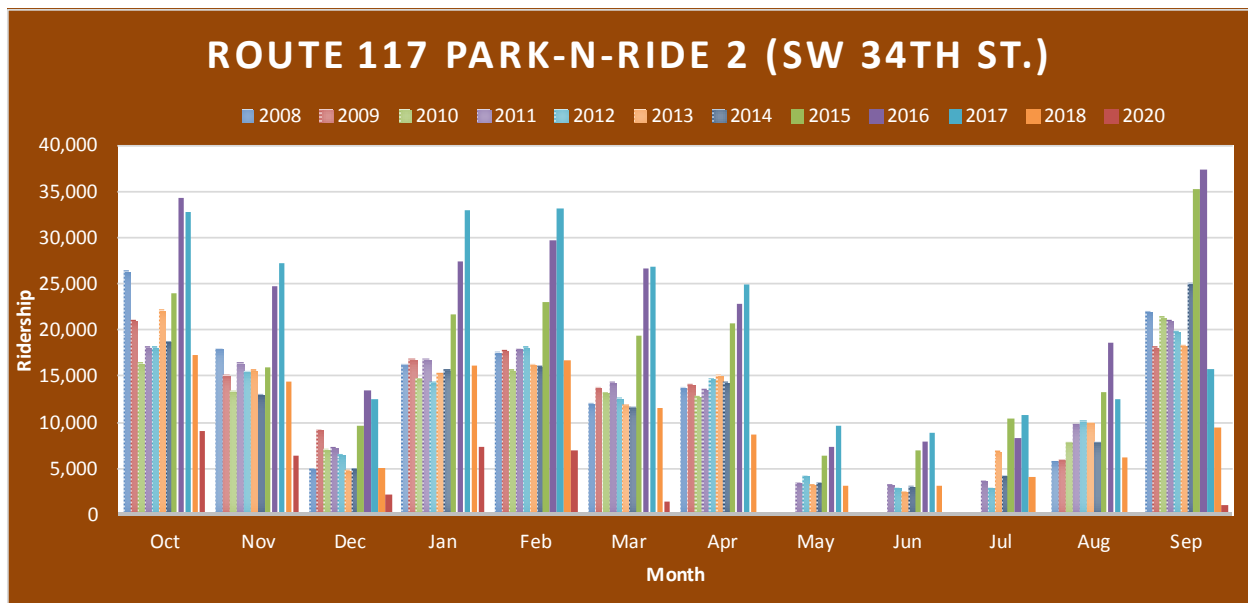
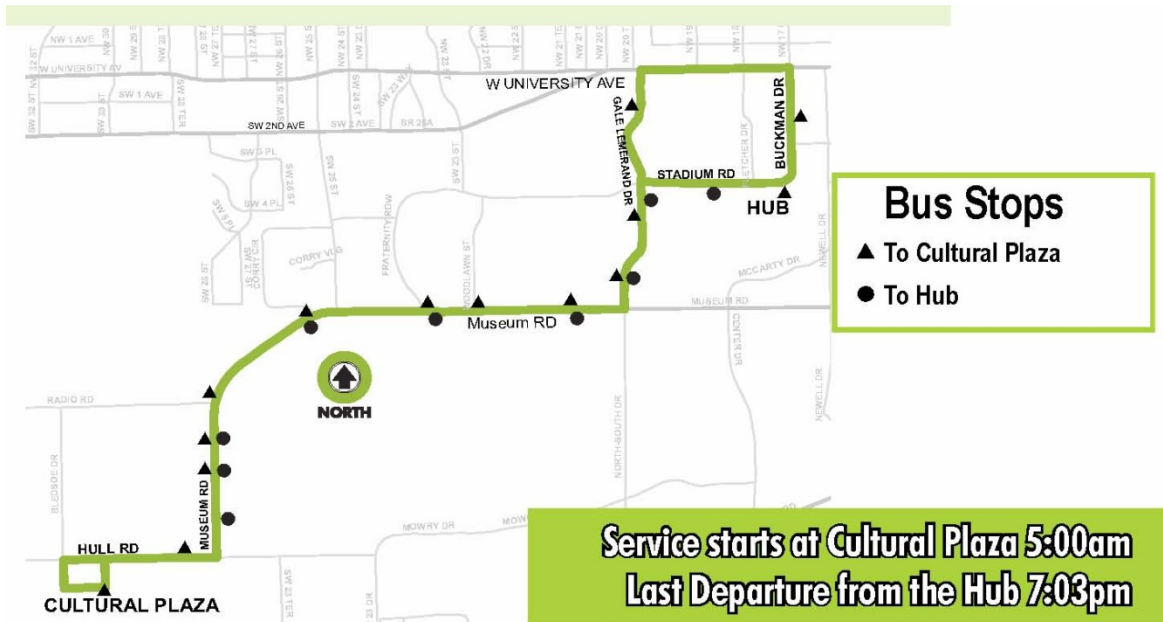


Illustration 3.3

Campus Route 118 Map 2020



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

Illustration 3.4

Monthly Trend for Route 118 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020

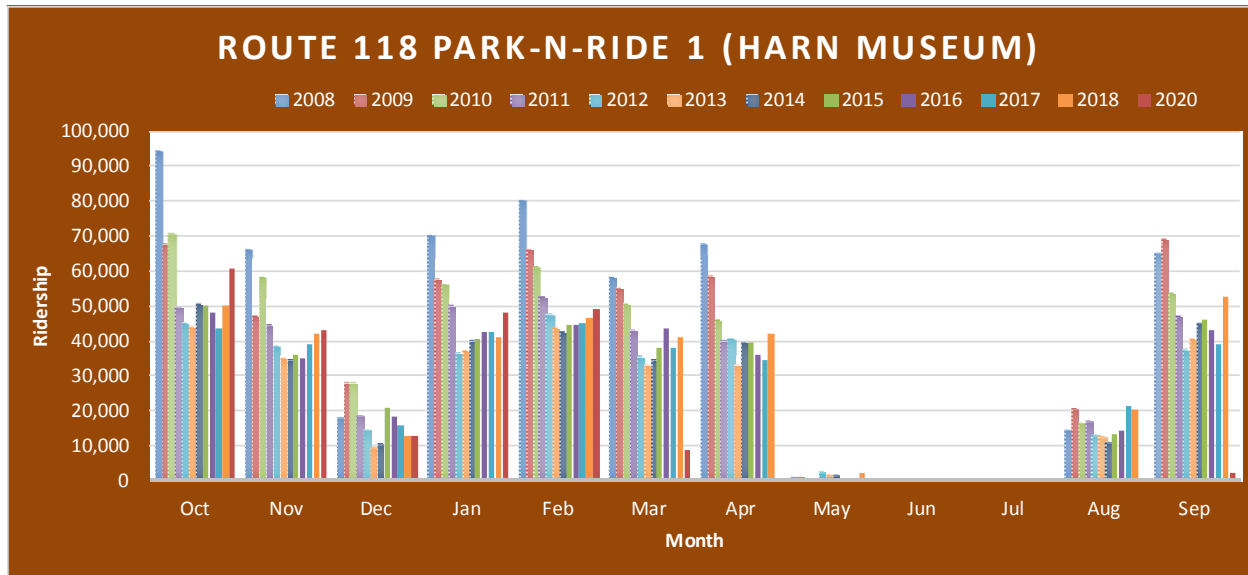


Illustration 3.7

Campus Route 120 Map 2020

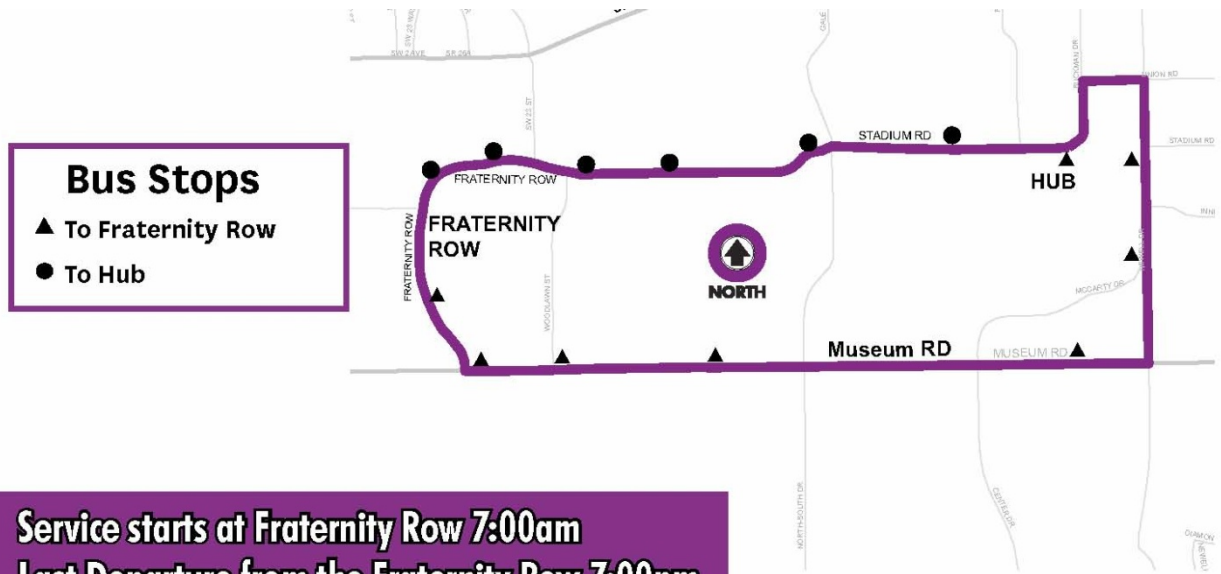


Illustration 3.8

Monthly Trend for Route 120
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020

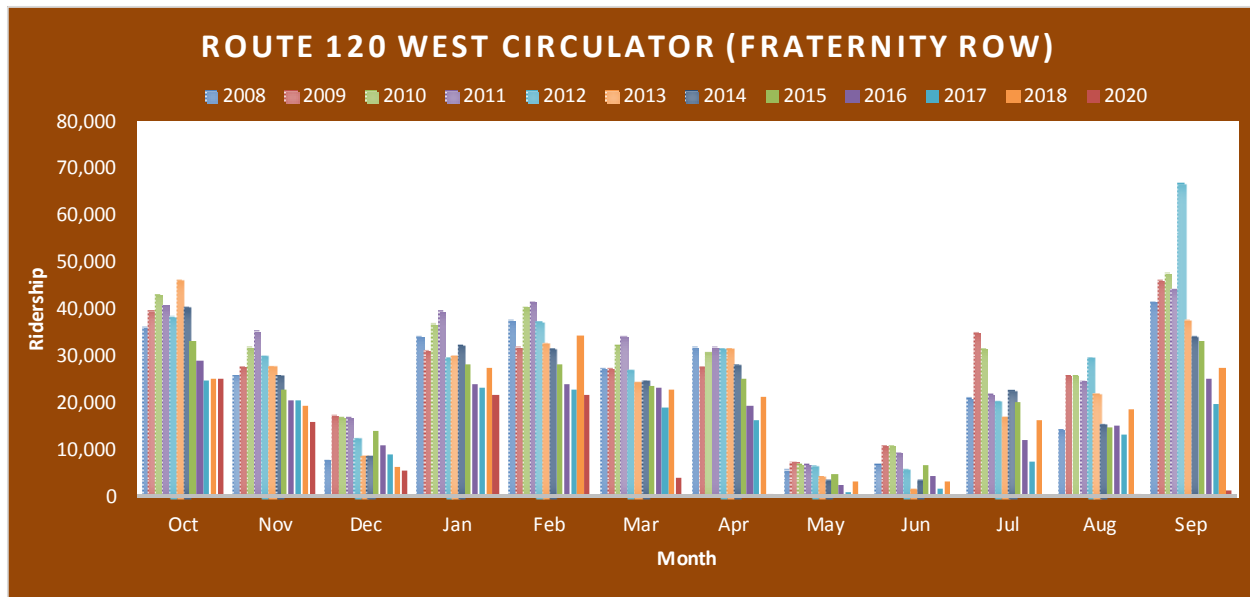
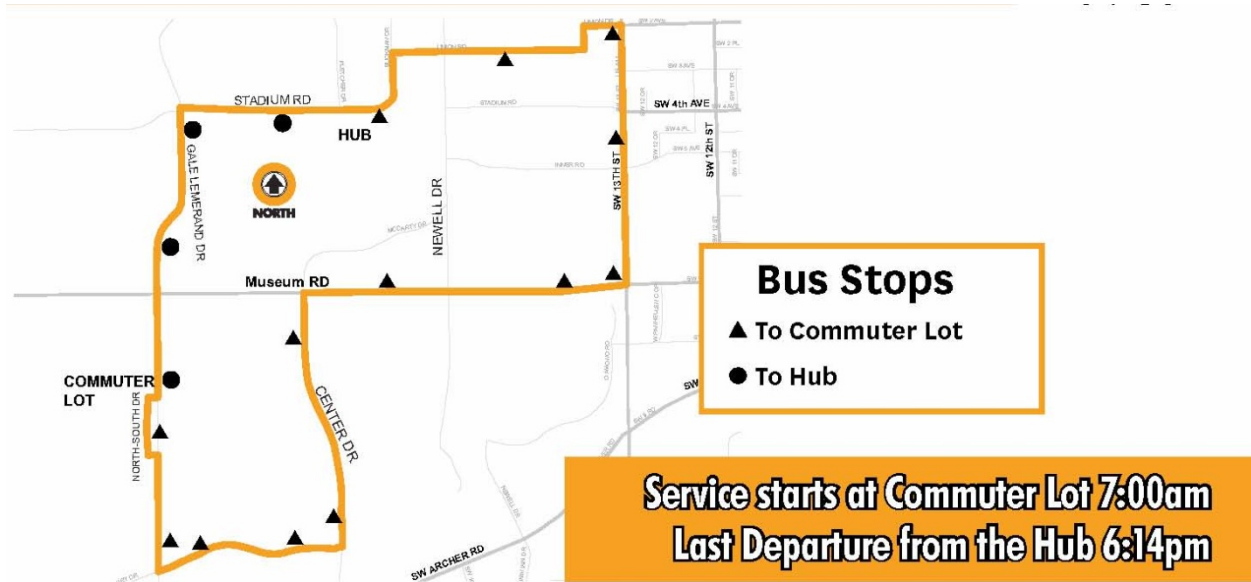


Illustration 3.9
Campus Route 121 Map 2020



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

Illustration 3.10
Monthly Trend for Route 121
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020

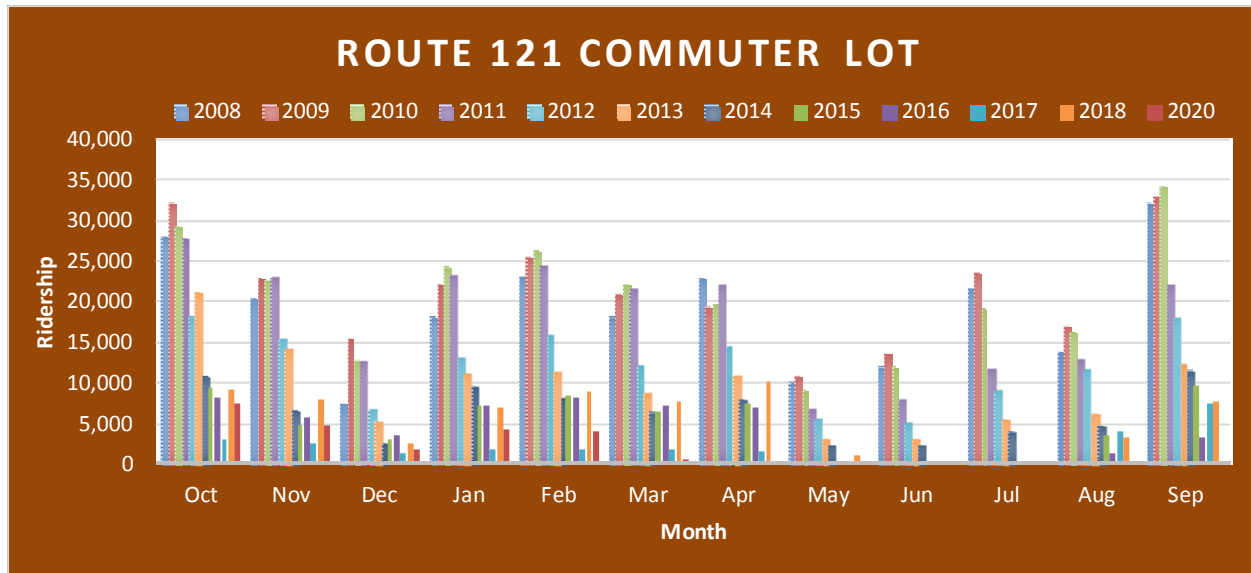
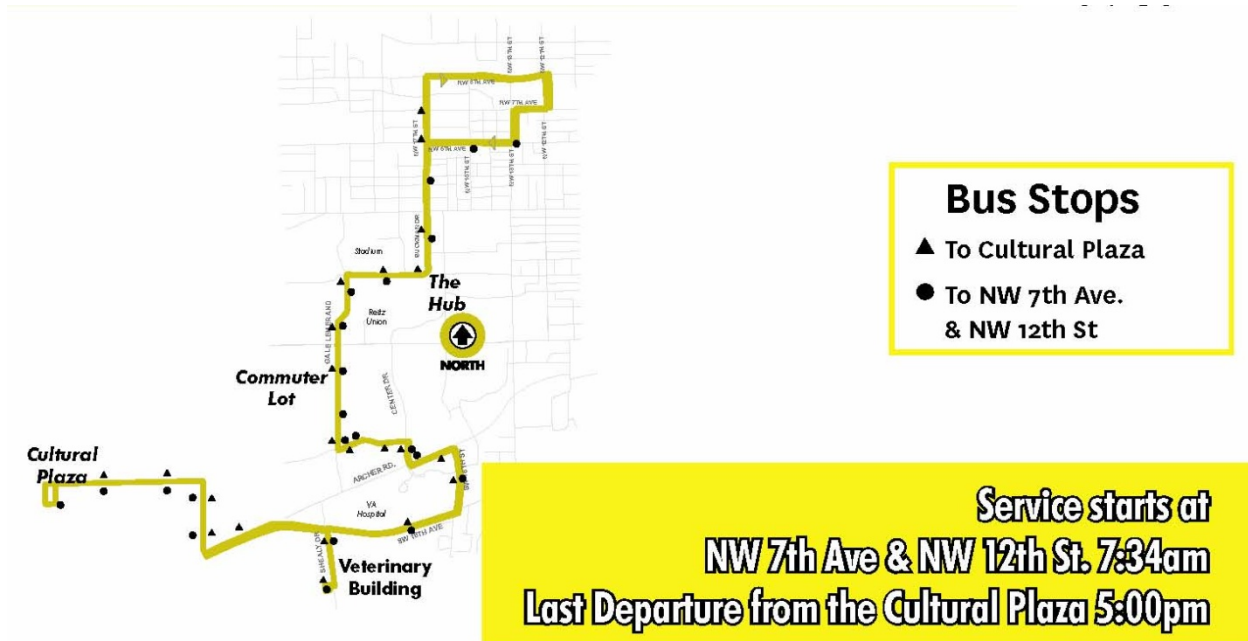


Illustration 3.11

Campus Route 122 Map 2020



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

Illustration 3.12

Monthly Trend for Route 122
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020

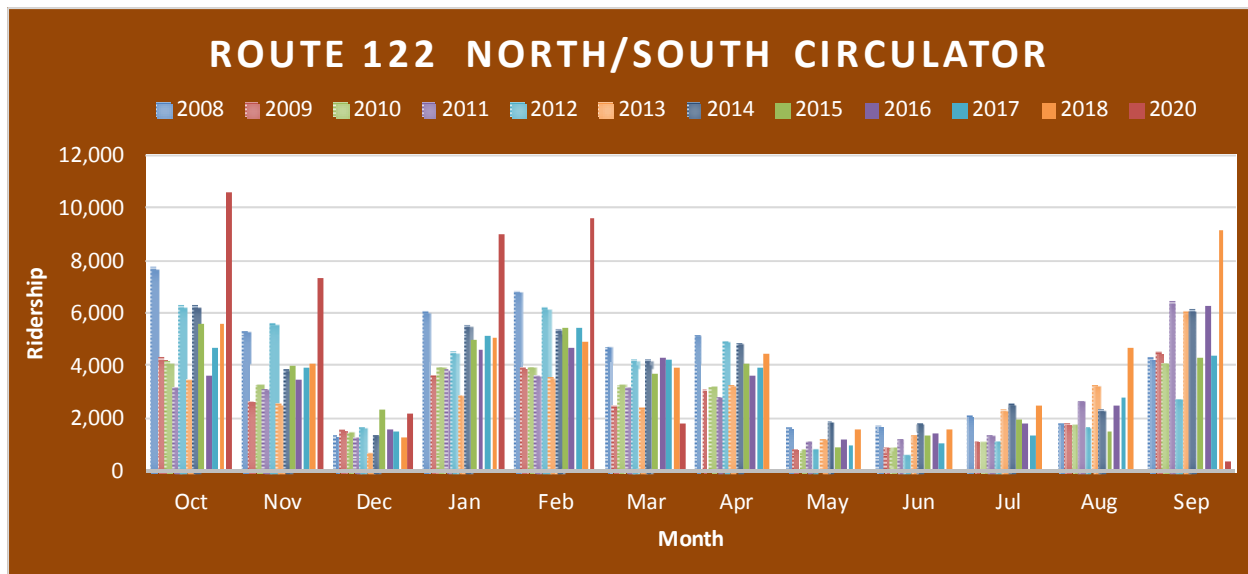
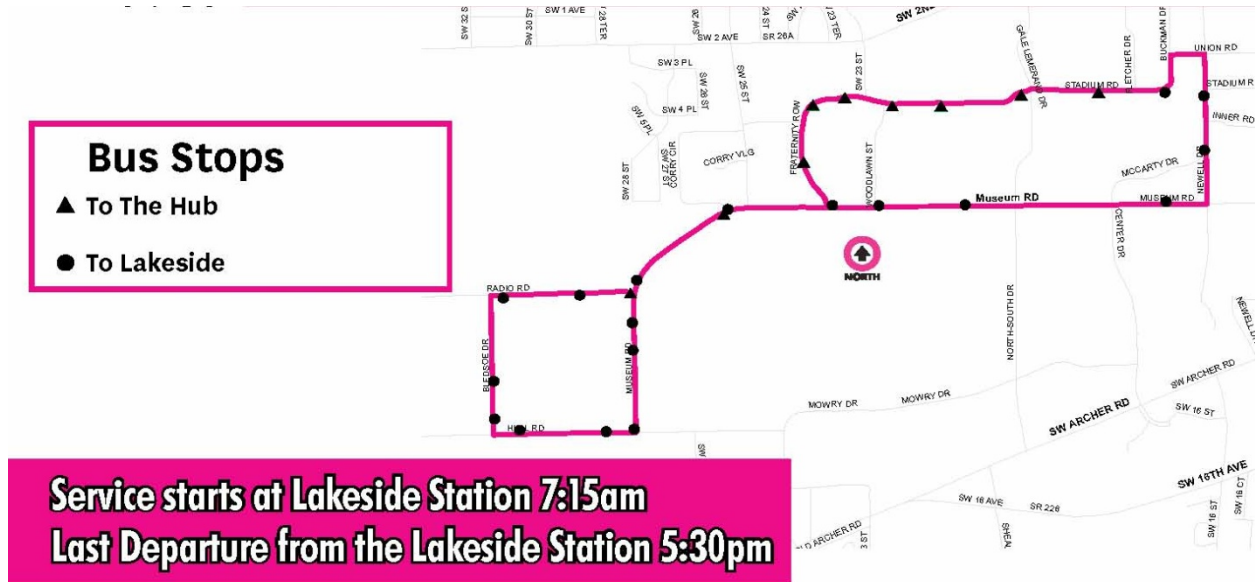


Illustration 3.13
Campus Route 125 Map 2020



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

Illustration 3.14
Monthly Trend for Route 125
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020

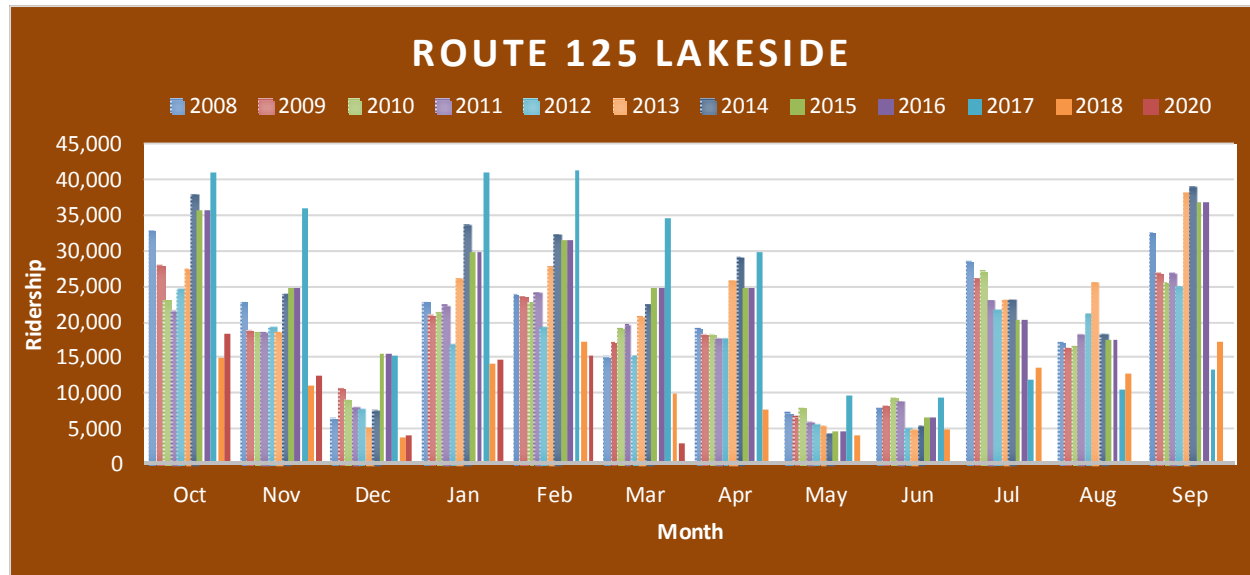
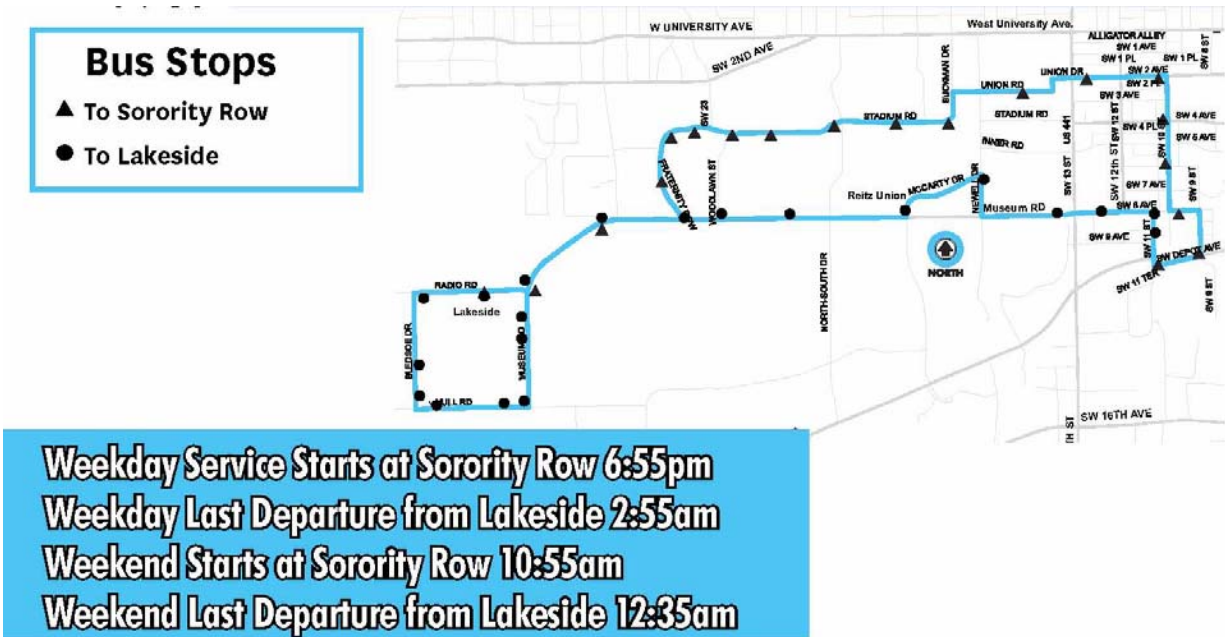


Illustration 3.15

Campus Route 126 Map 2020



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

Illustration 3.16

Monthly Trend for Route 126
University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020

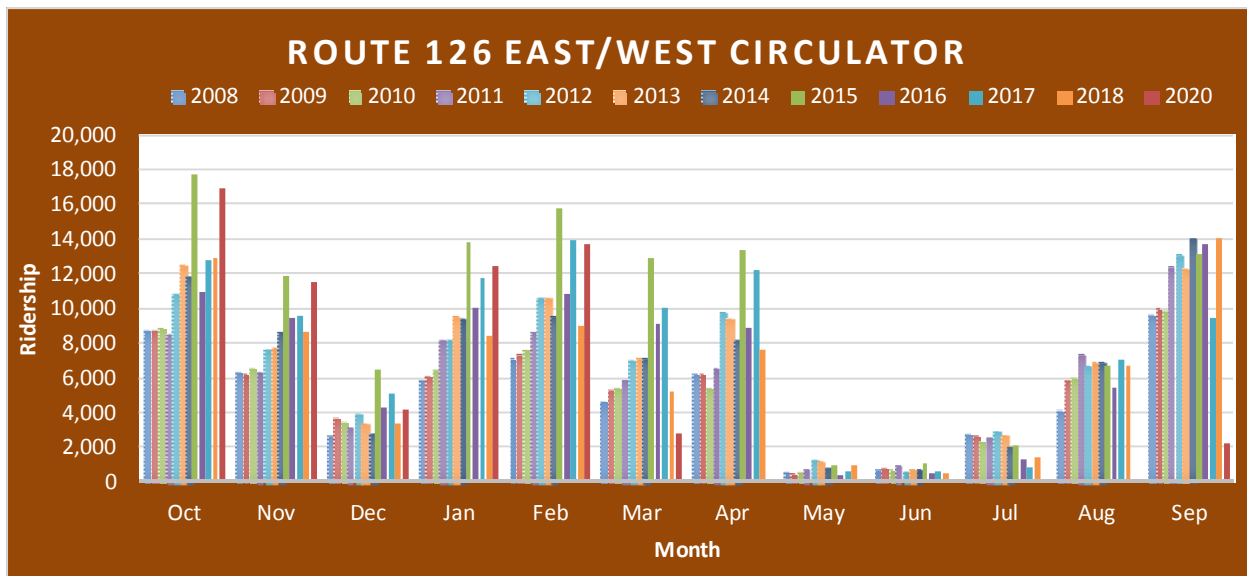
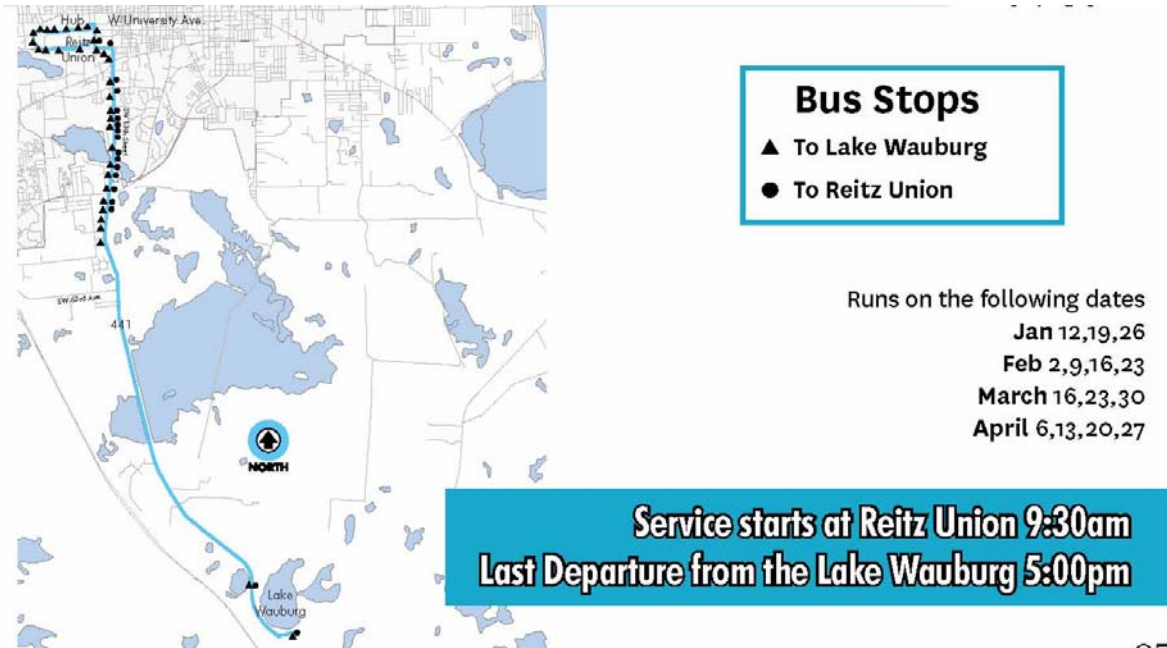


Illustration 3.19

Campus Route 128 Map 2020



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

Illustration 3.20

Monthly Trend for Route 128 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020

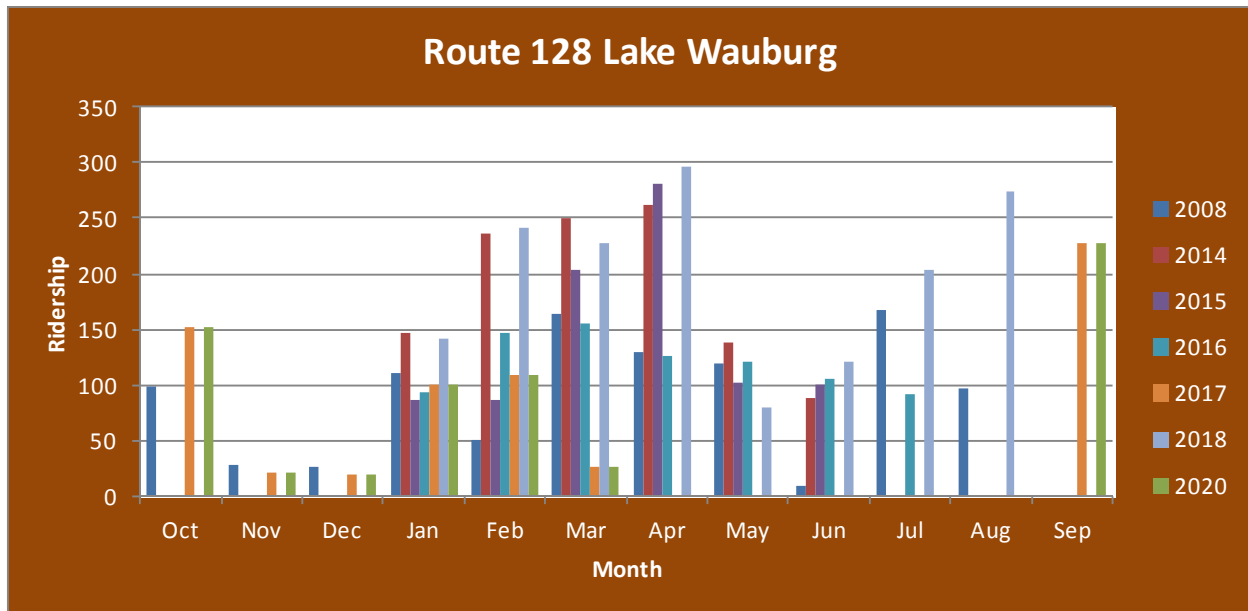
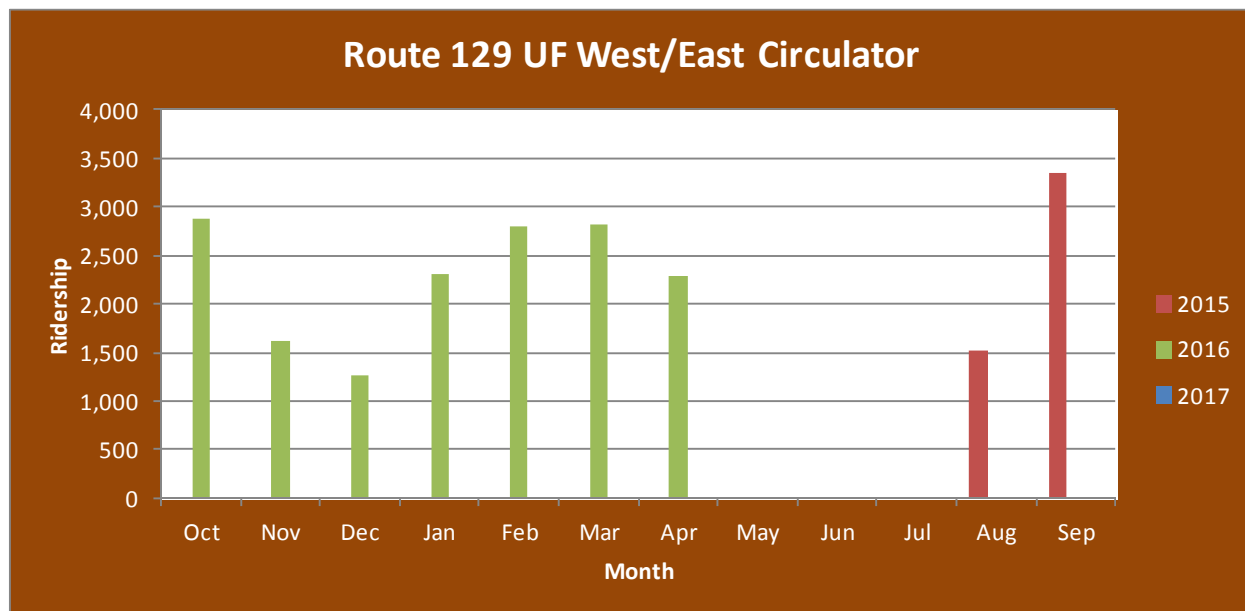


Illustration 3.21

Monthly Trend for Route 129 University of Florida Campus Routes, 2008-2020



Route 129 has been suspended.

Table 3.1

Total Ridership - Campus Routes Fiscal Year 2019-20

Route Number	Route Name	Fiscal Year 2019-20 Total
117	Park-N-Ride 2 (SW 34th Street)	34,342
118	Park-N-Ride 1 (Harn Museum)	224,502
119	Family Housing	24,624
120	West Circulator (Fraternity Row)	95,258
121	Commuter Lot	22,864
122	University of Florida North/South Circulator	40,918
125	Lakeside	67,978
126	University of Florida East/West Circulator (Evening)	62,036
127	East Circulator (Sorority Row)	153,490
128	Lake Wauburg	484
129	West/East Circulator	0
150	Haile Plantation to Campus	14,921

Illustration 3.22

Total Ridership - University of Florida Campus Routes Fiscal Year 2019-20

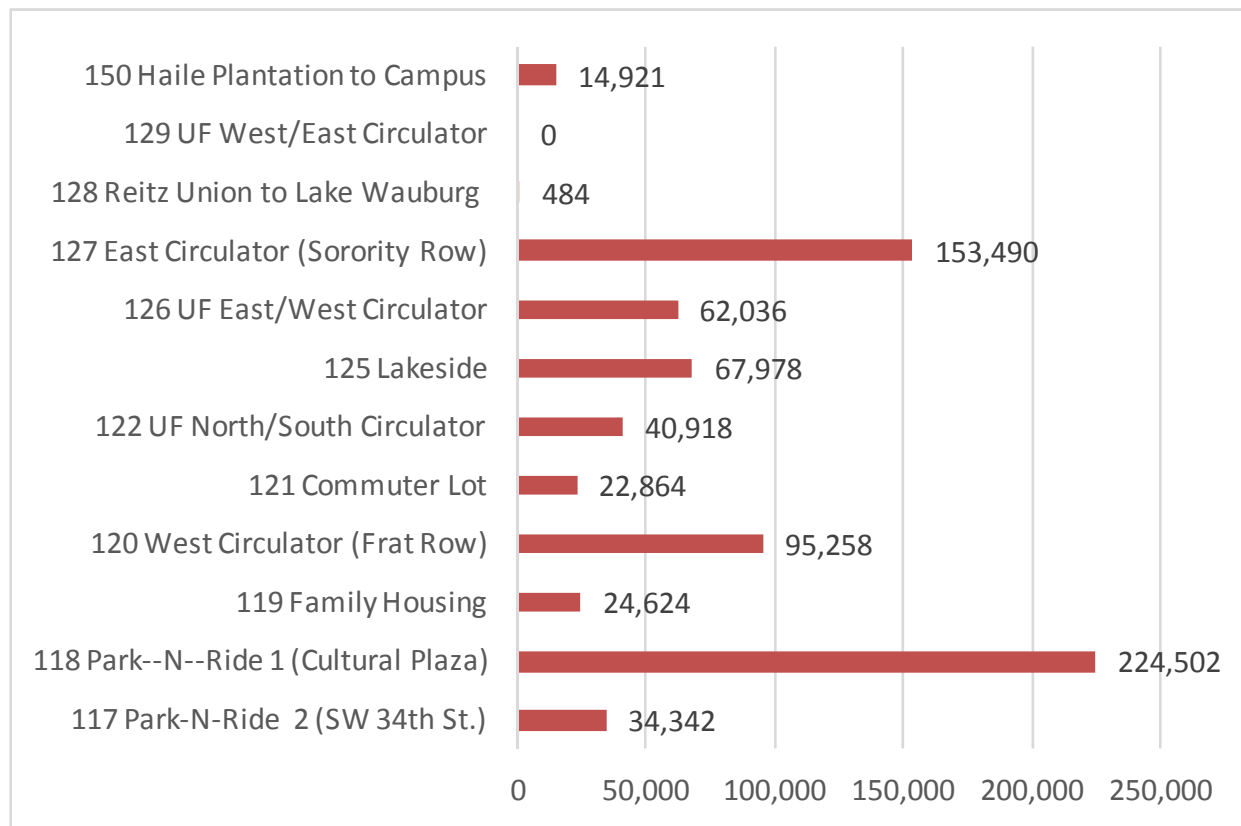


Illustration 3.22 provides a summary of the annual total ridership for University of Florida campus routes for Fiscal Year 2019-20. It indicates that Route 118 and Route 127 had the highest annual ridership among campus routes in Fiscal Year 2019-20.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Appendix A

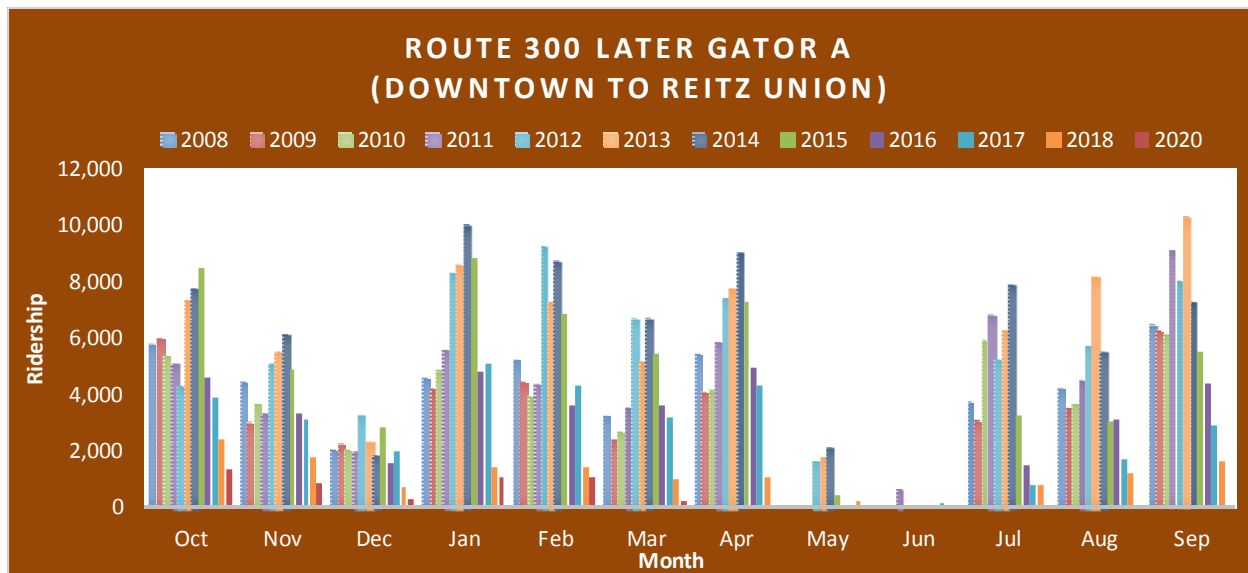
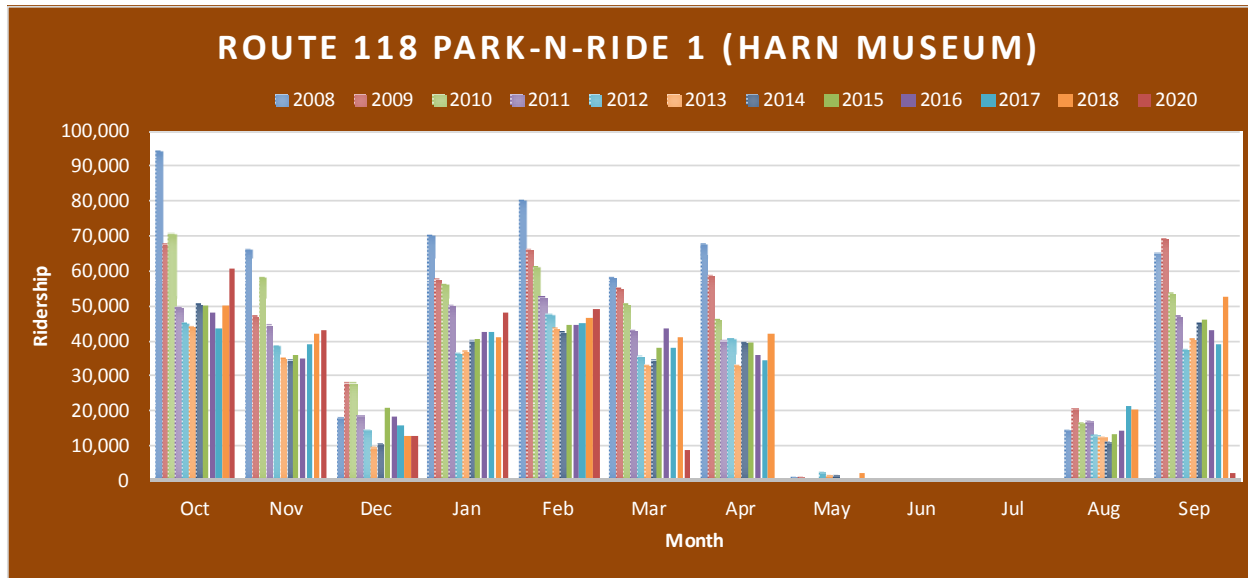
Monthly Ridership Trends

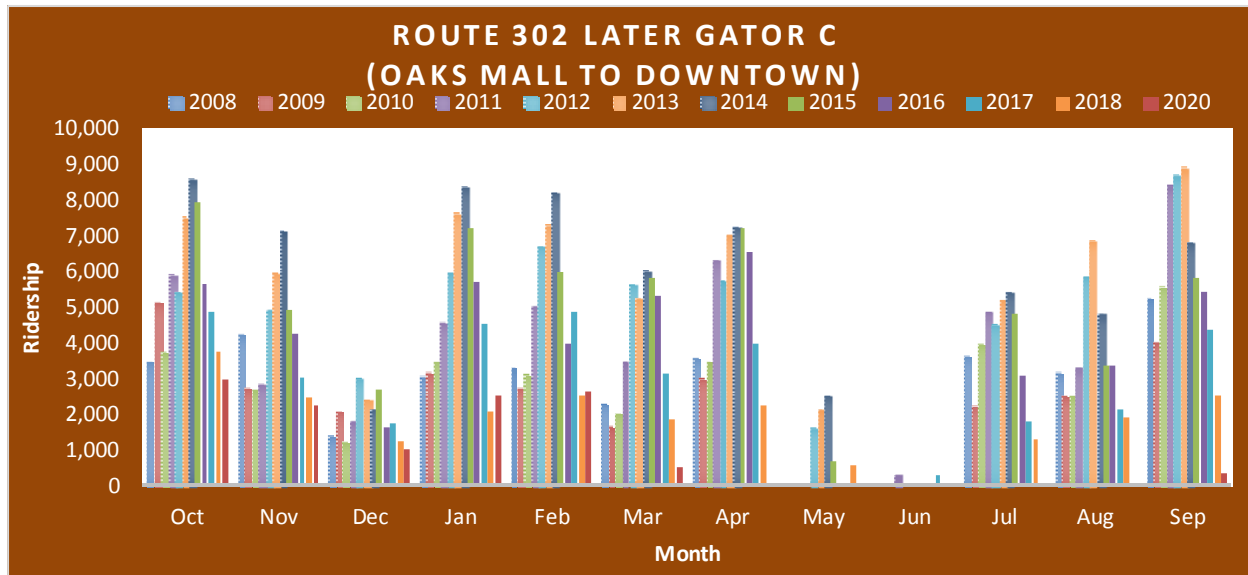
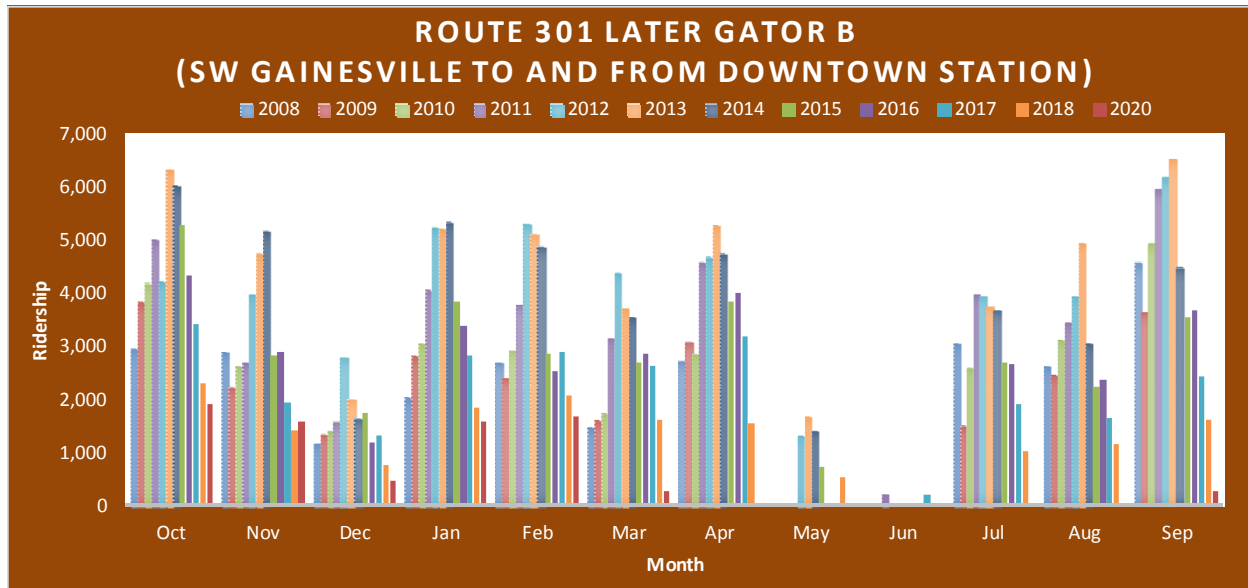
Seasonal Routes, 2008-2020

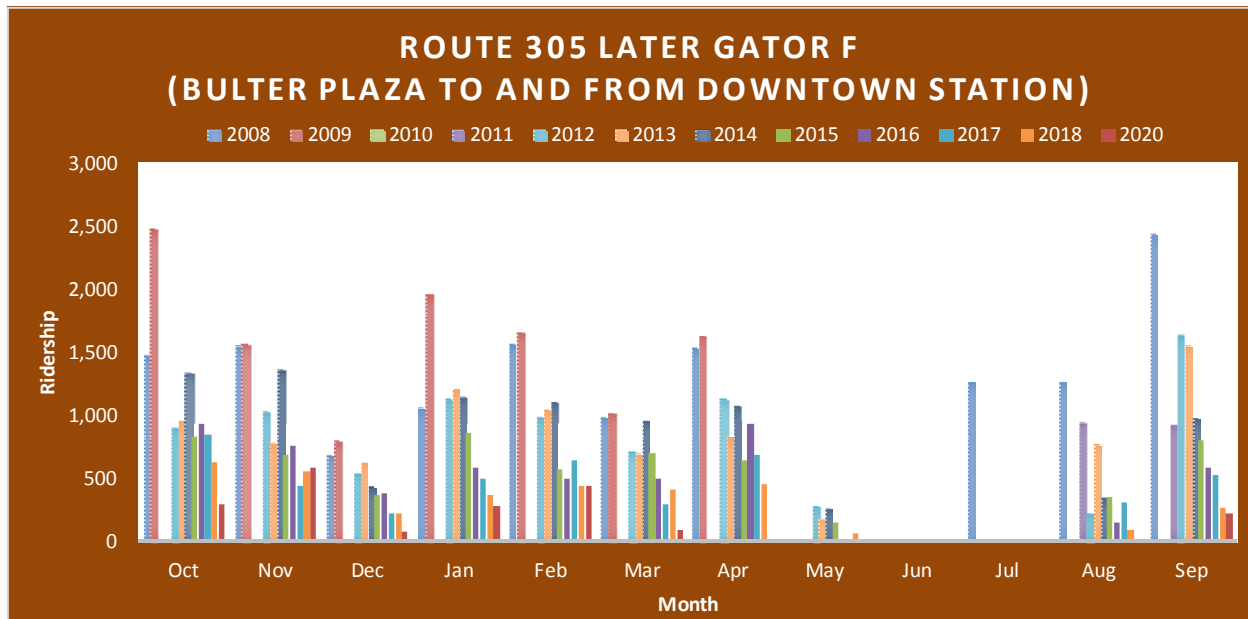
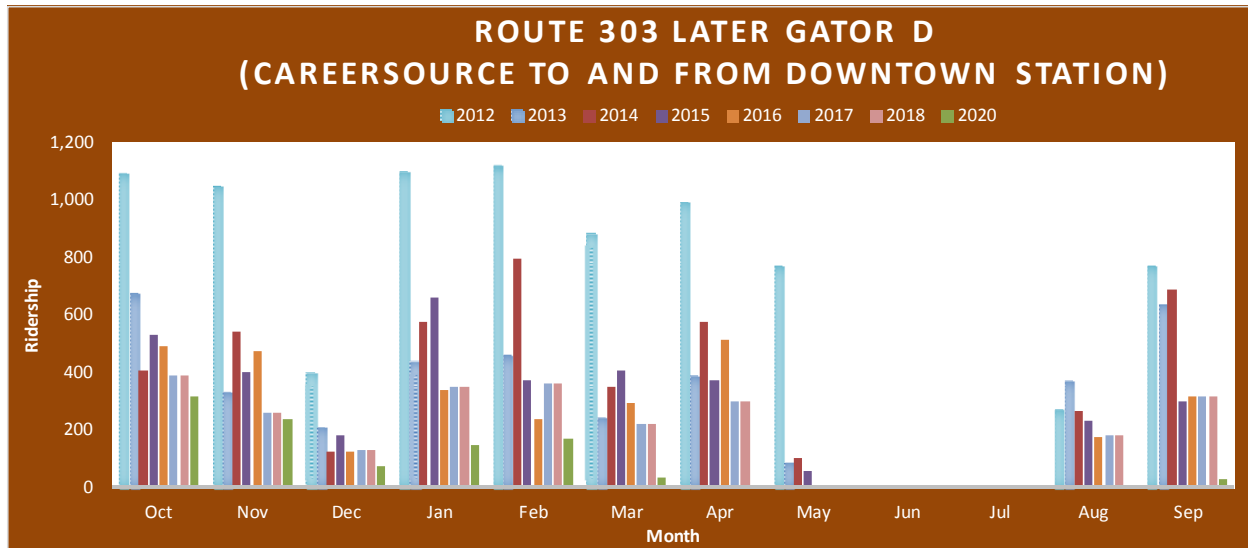
THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Appendix A: Monthly Ridership Trends Seasonal Routes, 2008-2020

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







t:\suwan\transit ridership report\transit ridership report 2020\transit_ridership_monitoring_report_2020a.docx

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

Annual Transit Ridership Monitoring Report Team

Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

* Michael Escalante, Senior Planner

* Primary Responsibility
** Secondary Responsibility



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area

2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
352.955.2200

www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo