



NEWS RELEASE



Report Released on Need for Better Transit to Attract and Serve Aging Baby Boomers

TALLAHASSEE, FL – June 14, 2011 – Transportation for America released a report today, [Aging in Place, Stuck without Options](#), showing that by 2015, more than 15.5 million Americans 65 and older will live in communities where public transportation service is poor or non-existent. The report highlights the importance of providing public transportation options to seniors.

Wes Watson, Executive Director of the Florida Public Transportation Association said, “Addressing mobility issues involving seniors is especially relevant to Florida’s economy. This report reminds us that seniors who have access to public transportation shop and patronize restaurants about 60% more often than those without mobility options”. He went on to say, “As the cost of owning and fueling a vehicle rises, many older Americans who can still drive nonetheless will be looking for lower-cost options reminding us that investing in public transportation can help Florida attract more retirees and connect them to business and service centers”.

Here are some of the report’s recommendations:

- Increase funding support for communities looking to improve service such as buses, trains, vanpools, paratransit and ridesharing;
- Provide funding and incentives for transit operators, nonprofit organizations, and local communities to engage in innovative practices;
- Encourage state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit operators to involve seniors and the community stakeholders in developing plans for meeting the mobility needs of older adults;
- Ensure that state departments of transportation retain their authority to “flex” a portion of highway funds for transit projects and programs;

The Florida Public Transportation Association is a nonprofit association whose members include every major public transit agency in Florida, as well as interested citizens and businesses. The FPTA acts as a collective voice in promoting the recognition, use, expansion and enhancement of public transportation in the state of Florida. The transit industry in Florida employs thousands of Floridians, transports about 262 million riders a year, and creates billions of dollars per year in annual economic activity.

For more information visit FloridaTransit.org

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