

Chapter One – Introduction

A Transit Development Plan (TDP) serves as the basis for identifying transit needs in a community, which is a prerequisite for receiving state transit funds. It serves as a strategic policy document, which includes involving the public in exploring community goals, identifying potential enhancements, and developing a plan for implementation. St. Johns County, supported by the St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA), is required by Sections 339.135 and 339.155, Florida Statutes, to produce a TDP on a regular basis. The TDP is most often a document with a ten-year planning horizon, which undergoes annual updates, as well as an overall re-write every five years.

The last full update to the St. Johns County TDP was completed in 2006, with a horizon year of Fiscal Year 2016. Since that time, annual updates have been produced which extended the horizon of the plan through Fiscal Year 2020. On behalf of St. Johns County, Atkins was contracted by the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) to produce a full update of the St. Johns County TDP, extending out ten years through Fiscal Year 2021.

Study Area

St. Johns County is located in northeast Florida along the Atlantic coast. The county is part of the Jacksonville metropolitan area and is also bordered by Flagler County (Palm Coast metropolitan area) to the south. While there are several incorporated communities with St. Johns County, the primary city is St. Augustine. Founded in 1565, the city is the oldest continually occupied settlement in the United States, and much of its development pattern is from the pre-automobile period. This is contrasted by the newly developed, auto-oriented, areas in the northern portion of the county, such as Ponte Vedra and Fruit Cove. The northern portion of the county is also closely associated with Jacksonville, which presents unique opportunities and challenges for transit planning.

Organization of Report

The report is organized into the following sections:

- Chapter Two – Demographic Information
- Chapter Three – Public Involvement
- Chapter Four – Existing Services and Performance Evaluation
- Chapter Five – Situation Appraisal
- Chapter Six – Vision, Mission, Goals & Objectives
- Chapter Seven – Assessment of Transit Demand and Needs
- Chapter Eight – Financial Resources and Plan