GADSDEN COUNTY

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2027

Prepared by the

Gadsden County
Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

Big Bend Transit, Inc.
the Community Transportation Coordinator

Apalachee Regional Planning Council
the Designated Official Planning Agency

Approved by the

Gadsden County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
on September 15, 2022
Updated June 15, 2023
Updated June 20, 2024
Updated June 19, 2025
Updated June 18, 2026

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APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
Local Partnerships. Regional Impact.

Gadsden County
Coordinating Board Membership Certification

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council certifies that:

1. The membership of the local coordinating board, established pursuant to rule 41-2.012(3), F. A. C., does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and

2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Representation	Member's Name	Alternate's Name	Term
Chairman	Eric Hinson	Alonzetta Simpkins	
Elderly	Sarah Fields		July 2025 – June 2028
Disabled	(vacant)		
Citizen Advocate	James Hinson		July 2025 – June 2028
Citizen Advocate/User	Bernice Collins		July 2025 – June 2028
Veterans	Mike Jackson	Sonya Solis	July 2023 – June 2026
Community Action	Angela Hicks		July 2024 – June 2027
Public Education	Andy Gay		July 2023 – June 2026
Children at Risk	Joy Anderson	Carmita McCall	July 2024 – June 2027
Workforce Dvp Board	Kevin Harrington		July 2023 – June 2026
Medical	Adrian Cooksey Wilson	Robert "Miley" Kilts	July 2024 – June 2027
FDOT	Debbie "Toni" Prough	Zach Balassone	
FDCF	Byron Wade	Terrence Watts	July 2025 – June 2028
FDOE/VR	Travis Green		July 2025 – June 2028
FDEA	(vacant)		
AHCA	Ashlee Barton	Latarsha Hampton	July 2025 – June 2028
APD	Mariah Evans	Dwayne Jones	July 2025 – June 2028
Private Trans. Industry	*Not Applicable*		
Mass/Public Transit	*Not Applicable*		

Signature:

Ricky D. Jones

Ricky Jones
Date: August 28, 2025

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Update Table

GADSDEN COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN
UPDATE TABLE
June 18, 2026
Updated/amended areas are indicated with a "✓".

LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION ✓
ROLL CALL VOTE PAGE ✓

DEVELOPMENT PLAN	PAGE	UPDATE
I. INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE AREA		✓
A. Background of the TD Program		
B. Community Transportation Coordinator Designation Date/History		
C. Organizational Chart		
D. Consistency Review of Other Plans		
E. Public Participation	**12**	✓
II. SERVICE AREA PROFILE/DEMOGRAPHICS		✓
A. Service Area Description		
B. Demographics		✓
a. Land Use		
b. Population/Composition	**14 – 17**	✓
c. Employment	**17 – 18**	✓
d. Major Trip Generators/Attractors		
e. Inventory of Available Transportation Services		
III. SERVICE ANALYSIS		✓
A. Forecasts of TD Population	**28**	✓
B. Needs Assessment	**30**	✓
C. Barriers to Coordination		
IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES		
V. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE		

SERVICE PLAN	PAGE	UPDATE
VI. OPERATIONS		
A. Types, Hours, and Days of Service		
B. Accessing Services		
C. Transportation Operators and Coordination Contractors		
D. Public Transit Utilization		
E. School Bus Utilization		
F. Vehicle Inventory	**41**	✓
G. System Safety Program Plan Certification	**42**	✓
H. Intercounty Services		
I. Emergency Preparedness and Response		
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K. Acceptable Alternatives		
L. Service Standards		
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P. Coordination Contract Evaluation Criteria		
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QUALITY ASSURANCE		PAGE	UPDATE
VIII.	**QUALITY ASSURANCE**		✓
	A. Coordinator Evaluation Process		
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	C. Coordination Contract Evaluation Criteria		
	D. Planning Agency Evaluation Process	**55**	✓

Adoption of TDSP Roll Call Vote

GADSDEN COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD MEETING
JUNE 19, 2025

ADOPTION OF
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN
FOR THE COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

ROLL CALL VOTE

Representation	Member	Voted For	Voted Against	Absent From Voting
Chairman	Eric Hinson	✓		
Elderly	Sarah Fields			✓
Disabled	(vacant)			
Citizen Advocate	James Hinson			✓
Citizen Advocate/User	Bernice Collins			✓
Veterans	Mike Jackson			✓
Community Action	Angela Hicks			✓
Public Education	Andy Gay			✓
Children at Risk	Joy Anderson ALT 2	✓		
Workforce Dvp Board	Kevin Harrington			✓
Medical	Adrian Cooksey Wilson	✓		
FDOT	Debbie "Toni" Prough ALT 1	✓		
FDCF	Byron Wade	✓		
FDOE/VR	Travis Green			✓
FDEA	(vacant)			
AHCA	Ashlee Barton	✓		
APD	Mariah Evans	✓		
Private Trans. Industry	*Not Applicable*			
Mass/Public Transit	*Not Applicable*			

The Coordinating Board hereby certifies that an annual evaluation of this Community Transportation Coordinator was conducted consistent with the policies of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and all recommendations of that evaluation have been incorporated in this Service Plan. We further certify that the rates contained herein have been thoroughly reviewed, evaluated and approved. This Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan was reviewed in its entirety and approved by this Board at an official meeting held on the 19th day of June, 2025.

Coordinating Board Chairperson Eric Hinson

* * * *

Approved by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

Date

Executive Director

Development Plan

I. Introduction to the Service Area

A. Background of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program

Transportation is often the vital link between not only quality of life, but also, jobs, access to medical care, and other life sustaining needs for some of the most vulnerable citizens. The Florida Legislature created the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (Commission) in 1989 to coordinate the transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The authority of the Commission derives from Chapter 427, Florida Statutes and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code. The Commission is an independent agency located within the Department of Transportation for administrative and fiscal purposes. In all respects, the Commission operates independently, with rule making and budget authority. The Commission employs staff to administer and monitor the statutory requirements for the program.

Florida's transportation disadvantaged are defined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, as those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes was created to promote the delivery of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged in a coordinated manner that is cost effective, efficient, and reduces fragmentation and duplication of services, as well as increase planning for transportation services.

In 1990, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council applied for the designation as the official planning agency for the county. In the application, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council noted its qualifications, experienced personnel, and knowledge of planning. Also, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council demonstrated how it would comply with the duties and responsibilities of the designated official planning agency for various activities.

Once appointed by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged as the designated official planning agency for the county, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council applied for and received funding from the Commission through the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. Since then, the Council has continued to serve as the designated official planning agency for the county.

B. Community Transportation Coordinator Designation Date/History

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council, as the designated official planning agency for the county, initiated a procedure for the selection of a community transportation coordinator in 1990. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council, in consultation with the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board, contacted local public officials and requested them to post information regarding the community transportation coordinator position in public buildings in the county. Staff also contacted current providers of transportation services. There was only one response received from Big Bend Transit, Inc. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council and the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board then evaluated the provider of transportation

services and determined that Big Bend Transit, Inc. was the best source of providing the needed transportation due to its years of experience and its fleet of vehicles to provide the services in a cost competitive fashion. The transportation disadvantaged coordinating board recommended to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council that Big Bend Transit, Inc. serve as the community transportation coordinator on September 5, 1990. Big Bend Transit, Inc. was then designated by the Commission on October 10, 1990, as the community transportation coordinator. Big Bend Transit, Inc. has continued to serve as the community transportation coordinator for Gadsden County since that date. The most recent designation was made by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged on May 24, 2022 for the continuation of Big Bend Transit, Inc. as the community transportation coordinator, effective July 1, 2022 for a five year term.

C. Organizational Chart

The Florida Coordinated Transportation System is made up of many components. The principal participants in the delivery of transportation disadvantaged services in Florida are described below.

Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged was created to accomplish the coordination of transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged. It was created as an independent agency within the Department of Transportation. It administers the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund for the Commission's operations and a statewide local grants program for the delivery of transportation services. The Commission appoints the community transportation coordinators and the designated official planning agency in each service area. The mission statement of the Commission is to "Ensure the availability of efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for transportation disadvantaged persons".

Designated Official Planning Agencies have the responsibility for transportation disadvantaged planning. They recommend to the Commission the community transportation coordinator to serve in the service area. The designated official planning agency also appoints and staffs the local coordinating board.

Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board provides local assistance to the community transportation coordinator. They identify local service needs and provide information, advice, and direction to the coordinator on the coordination of services. Each coordinating board is recognized as an advisory body in its service area and is composed of local representatives from different sectors of the community, such as the elderly, the disabled, the economically disadvantaged, veterans, users, public education, agencies that purchase transportation services, transportation industry/providers, and local government.

Community Transportation Coordinator occupies a highly visible position in the Florida Coordinated Transportation System and must perform its duties in a thoroughly professional manner. The community transportation coordinator is responsible for the actual arrangement and delivery of transportation services for transportation disadvantaged persons in a service area. All agencies and transportation operators that receive federal, state, or local government transportation funds are required to contract with the community transportation coordinator for transportation services. The coordinator may contract with local transportation operators to provide transportation or, if none exists, may provide all the transportation services.

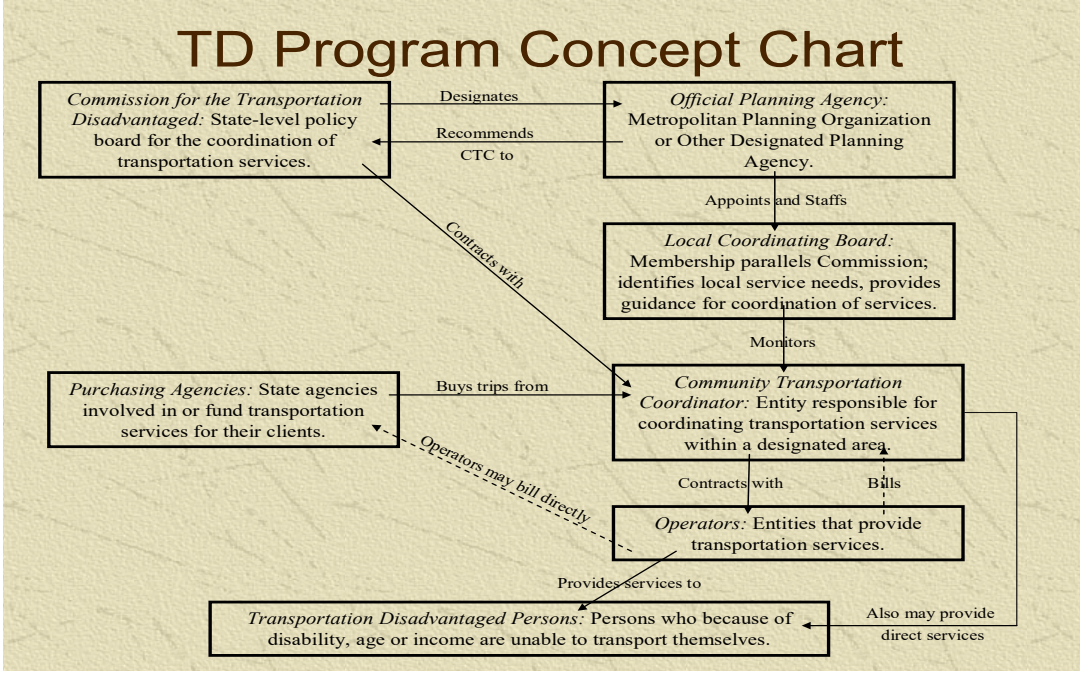
Transportation Operators are the actual providers of transportation services. Any public, private for-profit, or private non-profit provider of transportation services under contract with a community

transportation coordinator is considered a transportation operator. Any social service agency that operates its own vehicles for the delivery of transportation service is also considered a transportation operator if the vehicles are purchased or operated with federal, state, or local government funds, and it must contract with the community transportation coordinator. The community transportation coordinator is itself a transportation operator if it provides some or all of the service.

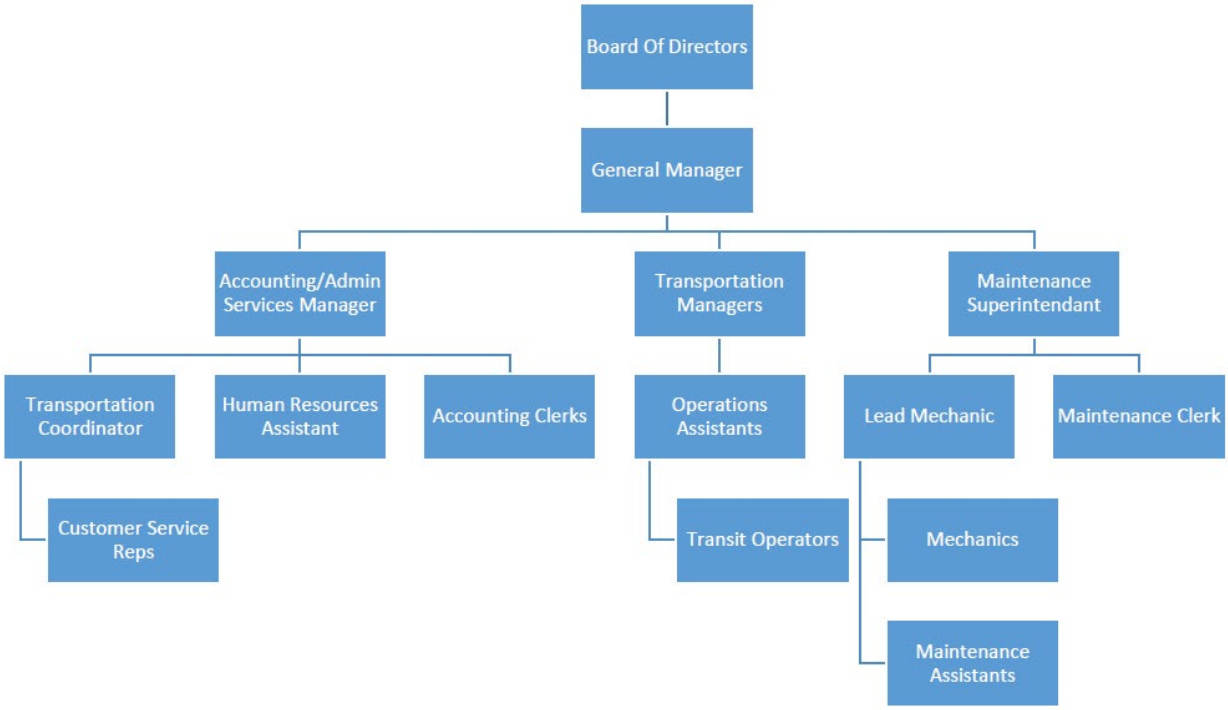
Purchasing and Funding Agencies are those agencies receiving federal, state, or local government funds for transportation. These agencies must purchase service from the community transportation coordinator.

Transportation Disadvantaged Persons are defined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, as those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities. The legislation also includes children who are "high-risk" or "at-risk" of developmental disabilities.

COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



D. Consistency Review of Other Plans

This Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the following approved documents.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan

Pursuant to Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, each local government in Florida must prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan which inventories existing land uses, infrastructure, housing conditions, transportation systems and establishes goals, objectives and policies designed to manage growth during the planning period, which must be, at a minimum, ten years. Local comprehensive plans must contain at least one or more specific objectives which would "coordinate with the plans of any appropriate metropolitan planning organization, any public transportation authority, any appropriate resource planning and management plan prepared pursuant to Chapter 380, Florida Statutes, and approved by the Governor and Cabinet, and the Florida Department of Transportation's 5-Year Transportation Plan".

Apalachee Strategic Regional Policy Plan

The Apalachee Strategic Regional Policy Plan, adopted June 1996, establishes a goal to reduce the number of transportation disadvantaged persons not served by the coordinated system.

Included within this goal are policies and implementation strategies necessary for achieving the goal.

Transit Development Plan

This plan is not applicable to this area.

Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 5 Year/20 Year Plan

The statewide five-year plan, mandated by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes projects the demand for transportation disadvantaged services over the next five years and compares the cost of meeting that demand with the projected availability of funds. The plan also develops goals, objectives, and implementation strategies for meeting the needs of the transportation disadvantaged. The plan is comprised of many sections; among them are descriptions of the transportation disadvantaged services.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Long Range Transportation Plan

The county is located within the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) boundaries. The Year 2040 Regional Mobility Plan (formerly the Long-Range Transportation Plan) is the foundation for transportation improvements in the CRTPA area. The plan is a collaborative effort between the community, elected officials, and professionals from the local, state, and federal government. The plan addresses the transportation needs and funding for the next twenty years for the region and is updated every five years to reflect the changes in community needs, population, economics, employment, and land use. A copy of the Regional Mobility Plan can be obtained on-line, www.crtpa.org.

Transportation Improvement Program

The county is located within the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) boundaries. The Year 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) provides a staged, multi-year listing of regionally significant transportation improvements that will be funded by Title 23 and Title 49 U.S.C. funds within the CRTPA. In addition, the TIP contains all regionally significant projects for which federal action is required, regardless of whether the projects are to be funded with Title 23 and Title 49 funds. The TIP contains major transportation projects as well as transportation systems management, bicycle/pedestrian, public transportation, aviation, resurfacing/repaving, and bridge rehabilitation/replacement projects. State and federally funded projects for areas of the county which

are located within the CRTPA planning boundary are contained in the TIP. A copy of the TIP can be obtained on-line, www.crtpa.org.

E. Public Participation

It is important that stakeholders be included in the development and implementation of the transportation disadvantaged service plan. A public hearing is held annually to allow residents the opportunity to discuss unmet transportation needs, or any other areas that relate to the local transportation services. All board and committee meetings are advertised in the local newspapers. The quarterly meeting agendas include an opportunity for public comments.

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council selects the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board's membership from a cross section of the local community to include representation from (a) transportation partners, (b) passengers and advocates, (c) human service partners and (d) others. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council contacts agencies and community human services programs and requests their nominations to the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board. User group nominations such as the disabled, users and the elderly are received by recommendation from community advocates in the community. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council submits the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board membership certification to the Commission and certifies that the membership of the local coordinating board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), F.A.C., does in fact represent the appropriate parties. The membership varies throughout the year due to term expirations, resignations, and member's inability to attend meetings on a regular basis. Amendments are provided as needed throughout the year.

LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD CERTIFICATION

Representation	Member's Name	Alternate's Name	Term
Chairman	Eric Hinson	Alonzetta Simpkins	
Elderly	Sarah Fields		July 2025 – June 2028
Disabled	(Vacant)		
Citizen Advocate	James Hinson		July 2025 – June 2028
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FDEA	(Vacant)		
AHCA	Ashlee Barton	Latarsha Hampton	July 2025 – June 2028
APD	Mariah Evans	Dwayne Jones	July 2025 – June 2028
Private Trans. Industry	Not Applicable		
Mass/Public Transit	Not Applicable		

Updated June 2026

II. Service Area Profile/Demographics

A. Service Area Description

Gadsden County is located in northwest Florida and is bordered by Grady, Decatur, and Seminole Counties in Georgia and by Jackson, Liberty, and Leon Counties in Florida. The county has 516.33 square miles of land and 12.20 square miles of water for a total area of 528.53 square miles. The county seat is located in Quincy, the largest incorporated municipality. Other incorporated municipalities in Gadsden County are Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana and Midway.

B. Demographics

a. Land Use

The fundamental purpose of any transportation system is to move people between specific points. Therefore, the transportation system has considerable influence on the distribution of land uses, population, and activities. Furthermore, the greater the efficiency of and access to a transportation system, the more vital and productive the economy. An adequate system consists of many different modes, including mass transit, paratransit transportation, and individual travel.

In Florida, the allocation and management of land is governed by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, which is known as the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act. Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, required local governments to prepare a comprehensive plan that allocates land by use (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) and establishes density and intensity standards for development. The amount of land assigned by a local government usually correlates to past development trends, population changes, the available transportation network and other public infrastructure, such as potable water, and centralized sewer, and expectations of future behavior and trends.

The comprehensive plans for the municipalities and towns indicate that residential land within the municipalities occupies the largest percentage of developed land. Future land use maps indicate that moderate residential growth will occur in areas presently designated as residential. Other areas were designated as commercial, industrial, and public which would contain retail opportunities, employment centers, and governmental services. The future land use allocations indicate that origination points may change within the next ten years while destination points remain similar.

The roadways of the county have been classified according to their primary function or use utilizing standards developed by the Florida Department of Transportation. The existing level of service indicates that traffic flow within the county is relatively stable and free flowing. These factors indicate that travel time within the county will be influenced primarily by distance.

A key factor affecting the use of alternative means of travel is land use. Locating housing in close proximity to services, shopping, employment, and other facilities can provide accessibility for those who can't or choose not to drive, reducing vehicle trips and reducing trip lengths for those who do drive. Furthermore, a long-distance drive to work increases the cost to the employee and the transportation system. The reverse, increasing the availability of services, shopping, and employment within the rural county, increases accessibility and reduces traffic impacts in the larger counties.

Staff of the community transportation coordinator has indicated that the majority of inter-county trips are medical trips and has Tallahassee and Panama City as their primary destinations. Based on the existing and adopted Level of Service standards, travel time should be primarily influenced by distance. Within the City of Tallahassee, traffic volumes are higher and may increase the travel time to medical care.

b. Population/Composition

In 2020, the United States Census Bureau's Decennial Census reported the county's population as 43,826. The 2025 Florida Population Studies and the 2025 Florida Estimates of Population, compiled by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR), University of Florida, along with the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), provide quick, comprehensive overviews of current economic and demographic characteristics of the county. The information provided by BEBR and the ACS are the most recent datasets available and may vary from the Decennial Census. An overview of current economic and demographic characteristics of the county is provided in the following tables.

Population Growth

Year	*Total*	*0-14*	*15-24*	*25-44*	*45-64*	*65+*	*18+*
2020	45,787	8,315	5,323	11,484	12,473	8,192	35,840
2024	43,710	7,939	4,989	10,453	11,627	8,702	34,067

SOURCE: *American Community Survey*, 2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table: S0101

Population Composition

Men	21,045
Women	22,665
Veterans	2,423
Disabled	8,609
Median age (years)	42.4
Public School Enrollment	9,249
High School Graduate or Higher	81.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	21.3%

SOURCE: *American Community Survey*, 2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table(s): DP02, DP05

Population Projections

These charts indicate the anticipated county growth in population based on census counts, estimates and projections.

Gadsden	*April 1, 2025 (est) 44,790*	*2030*	*2035*	*2040*	*2045*	*2050*
Low		42,600	41,400	40,200	39,100	38,000
Medium		45,000	45,100	45,200	45,300	45,400
High		47,300	48,800	50,200	51,500	52,700

SOURCE: *2025 Florida Population Studies,* Bureau of Economic & Business Research, Volume 59, Bulletin 203, February 2026

Population Distribution

Location	*2020 Census*	*April 1, 2025 (est)*	*Percentage of Change 2020-2025*
Chattahoochee	2,955	2,833	-4.1%
Greensboro	461	449	-2.6%
Gretna	1,357	1,369	0.9%
Havana	1,753	1,758	0.3%
Midway	3,537	3,664	3.6%
Quincy	7,970	8,131	2%
Unincorporated	25,793	26,586	3.1%
County	43,926	44,790	2%

SOURCE: *2025 Florida Estimates of Population,* Bureau of Economic & Business Research, April 2025

Housing Classifications and Patterns

As the region continues to grow, additional housing will be needed in every county. Where this housing should be located is a major planning issue. Local, state, and federal government regulations can have a major impact on the location of affordable housing. In some instances, there are regulations encouraging the provision of affordable housing, while in other instances they discourage and sometimes prohibit housing in various locations. Government expenditures, for example on roads, schools, and parks, do the same. Nevertheless, local governments are required in their comprehensive plans to ensure the provision of adequate sites for affordable housing for existing residents and anticipated population growth.

Accessibility of facilities such as shopping, schools, mass and paratransit, recreation and employment is a critical issue. The lack of access to these facilities adversely affects independence, costs, and ability to participate as a member of society, especially for individuals who are unable to drive. For many working Floridians, the inaccessibility of affordable housing with respect to their place of employment is a major problem. The longer the distance to work, the higher the cost to the employee, the fewer the transportation choices, and the lower the reliability of available means of transportation. An imbalance

in the location of jobs and housing isolates those without automobiles from new employment opportunities; increases traffic congestion; and artificially inflates the value of housing located near employment centers. The failure to conduct land use planning that is sensitive to affordable housing in the areas of density, jobs-housing balance, and urban mobility is directly contributing to the growing affordable housing shortages.

An additional means of measuring demand for housing is to determine the ratio of existing jobs to existing housing units. According to one study, a mismatch between the location of jobs and the location of affordable housing is forcing employees to reside farther from their workplace than they would otherwise choose. This study states that a "balanced" community has a ratio of jobs to housing units within a range of 0.75-1.50. A high ratio suggests that there is an insufficient supply of available housing within the community so employees must live elsewhere. This analysis has its limits. The jobs must match the workforce skills in that community and the housing costs must generally match the income. Also, there will always be residents who work outside the community, regardless of the jobs/housing ratio. Despite these limits, the ratio does provide a comparative indicator of housing availability.

Household Projections

	2010	*2020*	*Percentage of Change 2010-2020*	*Estimates 2025*	*Percentage of Change 2020-2025*
Households	16,952	16,806	-0.9%	17,373	3.4%
Average Household Size	2.61	2.48	-5%	2.46	-0.8%

SOURCE: *2025 Florida Population Studies,* Bureau of Economic & Business Research, Volume 59, Bulletin 202, December 2025

Automobile Ownership and Use

Historically, automobiles have been used primarily for commuting to work. Not only are the preponderate of American automotive trips employment related, and people in the county do not differ from this norm, the majority of these trips are single occupancy. An analysis of data indicates that a person who is defined as transportation disadvantaged may be underrepresented in the labor market, since this segment of the population does not own transportation or is unable to provide its own transportation. Although the Census data indicates that opportunities exist for the provision of employment related trips through the transportation disadvantaged system, the demand for these trips has not been significant in the county.

Automobile Ownership and Use

2024

Labor force (workers 16 years and over)	15,643
Labor force working outside county of residence	56.1%
Labor force with no vehicle(s) available	5.7%
1 vehicle(s) available	14.5%
2 vehicle(s) available	36.7%
3 or more vehicle(s) available	43.1%

SOURCE: *American Community Survey*, 2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table: S0801

Means of Transportation for Work Related Trips

Eighty-one percent of Gadsden County workers drove to work alone in 2024; 8 percent carpooled; 0 percent took public transportation, and 11 percent used other means. Among those who commuted to work, it took them on average 30.3 minutes to get to work.

Historic Traditions/Cultural Descriptions

Gadsden County is part of the least populous planning region in the State, the Apalachee Region. Although the region has not seen the phenomenal growth experienced by much of the rest of the state, the rate of growth has increased steadily and is projected to continue.

The slower rate of growth in the Apalachee Region has resulted in the preservation of many of the natural, historic, and cultural resources. There are many special features in the region, some of which are unique in the state: wetlands; springs and sinkholes; ridge and ravine systems; and the numerous state and national parks, preserves, and forests. Wetlands cover more than 25 percent of the region's land area and constitute an important natural feature. Wildlife of many species relies on these areas for habitat and cover. In addition, these areas serve as a vital function in the hydrologic cycle by acting as a buffer zone for floodwaters, recharging, and discharging the aquifer, and filtering debris and pollutants from run-off. Freshwater springs and sinks are features that enhance the region. Five of the ten largest first magnitude springs in the state are in the Apalachee Region. These crystal-clear springs and sinkholes are important local recreational and aesthetic resources. Some are open to the public, many are privately owned. The ridge and ravine systems of north Liberty and west Gadsden Counties are unique in the state, and the endangered Torreya tree is found only in this specific local area and in parts of California and China. In addition to numerous local recreational facilities, the Apalachee Region is home to many state parks and recreation areas; the Apalachee National Forest, the largest national forest in the state; two national wildlife refuges and aquatic preserves; and over 80 historic and archaeological sites. These numerous natural features contribute to the maintenance of a quality of life that includes natural resource harvesting (such as agriculture and silviculture), hunting, outdoor recreation, and low-density development.

Government Descriptions

There are seven local governments in Gadsden County --- six incorporated communities and the unincorporated area, which is governed by the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners. Due to the inclusion of the state capital within the Apalachee Region virtually every state agency has an office within the region. Most federal agencies have a state headquarters office in Tallahassee, as well. As is to be expected because of the proximity of the state capital, government is one of the primary employment sectors.

c. Employment

In 2024, for the employed population 16 years and over, the leading industries in Gadsden County were educational services, health care, and social assistance at 24.6 percent; public administration at 14.8 percent; retail trade at 9.2 percent; and construction at 8.6 percent. These employers are dispersed throughout the county making the provision of transportation services for employment difficult. The number of persons employed by the employers is relatively small when commuter ratios are considered.

Employment Statistics
2024

Population 16 years and over	35,176
Labor Force Participation rate	47.6%
Unemployment rate	5%
Percentage of families below the income poverty level	21.7%
Median household income	$48,801

SOURCE: *American Community Survey*, 2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table: DP03

Employment by Industry
2024

Type of Industry	*Percentage of workers 16 years and over*	*Type of Industry*	*Percentage of workers 16 years and over*
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	3.7%	Information, Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	6.1%
Construction	8.6%	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	7.4%
Manufacturing	2.9%	Educational services, health care and social assistance	24.6%
Wholesale trade	2.9%	Arts, entertainment, recreation, and accommodation and food services	7.5%
Retail trade	9.2%	Other Services, except public administration	4.8%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	7.5%	Public administration	14.8%

SOURCE: *American Community Survey*, 2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Table: DP03

Occupations and Types of Employers

Among the most common occupations were management, business, science, and arts occupations at 30.3 percent; service occupations at 24.6 percent; sales and office occupations at 19.7 percent; production, transportation, and material moving occupations at 12.8 percent; and natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations at 12.6 percent. Sixty-seven percent of the people employed were private wage and salary workers; 28 percent were federal, state, or local government workers; and 5 percent were self-employed.

d. Major Trip Generators/Attractors

Trip generators are land use from which trips originate, such as residential areas and group homes, while trip attractors are land uses which serve as the destinations of trips. Types of attractors include

shopping areas, employment centers, medical facilities, educational facilities, governmental offices, and recreational areas.

While many of the trips made by clients occur within the confines of the county, the majority of the trips are located in neighboring counties or even more distant communities such as Gainesville. Since these trips tend to be more costly to provide, careful planning and scheduling is required on the part of the community transportation coordinator in order to deliver these services efficiently.

Trip generators and attractors were identified by the planning agency and the community transportation coordinator and are listed below.

Trip Generators and Attractors

Employment	Big Bend Workforce Center	1140 West Clark Street, Quincy
	Workforce Plus	1140 West Clark Street, Quincy
	United Farm Workers Union	14 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	United Steelworkers Local 174	122 South Duval Street, Quincy
Social Activity	Brehon Institute for Human Services	385 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Catholic Charities Family Services	27 North Shadow Street, Quincy
	Christ Town Ministries	212 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Gadsden Arts Center	13 North Madison Street, Quincy
	Gadsden County Republican Party	97 Kings Road, Havana
	Gadsden Co. Senior Citizens Council, Inc.	
	Golf Club of Quincy, The	2291 Soloman Dairy Road, Quincy
	Investing in our Youth	600 South Adams, Quincy
	Kiwanis Club	Quincy
	Lions Club	
	Pat Thomas Park	949 Hopkins Landing Road, Quincy
	Quincy Music Theatre, The	118 East Washington Street, Quincy
	Quincy Rotary Club	Quincy
	Quincy Women's Club	Quincy
	Ranch House Recreation Center, The	308 William Street, Gretna
	Sawano Country Club	Attapulgus Highway, Quincy
	Thomas Field Post 217	Attapulgus Highway, Quincy
	West Gadsden Historical Society	Greensboro

Housing	Arbor Crest Apartments	62 North Cleveland Street, Quincy
	Gadsden Arms Apartments, Inc.	503 South Stewart Street, Quincy
	Gadsden Assn. Rehabilitation Center, Inc. Group Home	905 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd, Quincy
	Golden Leaf Apartments	122 North Cleveland Street, Quincy
	Green Meadows Apartments	944 Strong Road, Quincy
	Home Trailer Park	2215 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Magnolia House	1125 Strong Road, Quincy
	McClouds Group Home	140 Astor Avenue, Quincy
	Omega Villas Apartments	405-2 Strong Road, Quincy
	Parkview Garden & Manor Apartments	500 South Atlanta Street, Quincy
	Rentz Mobile Home Park	71 Rentz Road, Quincy
	River Chase Care Center	1000 Strong Road, Quincy
	Triple Oaks Apartments	405 Strong Road, Quincy
	Vanguard Village Apartments	33 Church Street, Gretna
	Triple Oaks Apartments	405 Strong Road, Quincy
	Careful Care Personal Home Care	601 East Griffin Avenue, Quincy
	Disc Village	305 West Crawford Street, Quincy
Health Care Facility	Abbey Eye Institute Diabetes Glaucoma & Eye Laser Surgery	23 North Madison Street, Quincy
	Apalachee Center for Human Services	79 LaSalle Path, Quincy
	Assured Care of Florida	385 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Big Bend Hospice	105 North Jackson Street, Quincy
	Buy Rite Drug	35 Jefferson Street, Chattahoochee
	Con-Techs Health & Safety	Havana
	Copeland Therapeutic Massage	104 East Washington Street, Quincy
	Dr. Don Cross, DC	1102 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	CVS Pharmacy	1208 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Emiko, Dr. Chookiert	21 North Love Street, Quincy
	Faith Home Health, Inc.	1633 High Bridge Road, Quincy
	Florida State Hospital	Chattahoochee
	Gadsden Assn. Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	1633 High Bridge Road, Quincy

	Gadsden Family Clinic Dr. Gloria Ramos	304 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Gadsden Health Department	Quincy
	Jessie Furlow Medical Center Dr. Jeffery Wasserman, DO Elaine Larkins, ARNP	1249 Strong Road, Quincy
	Gadsden Community Health Council	79 Lasalle Lefalle Drive, Quincy
	Hart, Dr. Raymond, DDS	209 West Washington Street, Quincy
	James-Wilson, Dr. Eve, DMD	223 East Washington Street, Quincy
	Massey Drugs	105 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	McClaren, Dr. Harry, PHD	412 West Washington Street, Chattahoochee
	Medical Center Pharmacy	306 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Melzer, Melzer & Melzer, DMD	321 West Washington Street, Chattahoochee
	Mick, Dr. Terry Jean	315 North Madison Street, Quincy
	Miller, Dr. Joseph D.	116 East 7th Avenue, Havana
	Mills, Caron Massage Therapy	1780 Attapulgus Highway, Quincy
	NHC Home Care	860 Strong Road, Quincy
	Newberry, Dr. Mark	602 East 5th Avenue, Havana
	Quincy Care Linda Bianco, ARNP	300 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Quincy Family Medicine, Inc. Dr. Carla M Holloman, DO	Quincy
	Lab First, Inc.	215 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Regional Therapy Services, Inc.	108 North Adams Street, Quincy
	Rehab Advantage	1017 Strong Road, Quincy
	South East Eye Specialists Dr. James A. Stephens, OD Dr. W. Stan Peacock, OD Dr. Josua Trafton, OD	21 South Madison Street, Quincy
	Tallahassee Memorial Family Medicine	600 LaSalle Lefall Drive, Quincy
	Tallahassee Memorial Rehab	16 West Washington Street, Quincy
	Cardiology Group of North Florida	230 East Crawford Street, Quincy
	Walgreen Drug Store	1217 West Jefferson Street, Quincy

	Walgreen Drug Store/Winn-Dixie	1632 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Wal-Mart Pharmacy	1940 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy
	Watson, Dr. Sterling, DMD	236 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
Education	ABC Learning Center	305 W.G.F. & A Drive, Quincy
	Carter Parramore Academy	631 South Stewart Street, Quincy
	Chattahoochee Elementary School	335 Maple Street, Chattahoochee
	Children Are Our Future	1006 Fourth Street, Quincy
	Crossroads Academy	635 Strong Road, Quincy
	Diamond Academy	360 East Crawford Street, Quincy
	Early Learning Coalition	233 E. Jefferson Street, Quincy
	East Gadsden High School	27001 Blue Star Highway, Havana
	FAMU Branch	Highway 267, Quincy
	FAMU Teleconference Center	4259 Bainbridge Road, Quincy
	Gadsden Central Academy	655 South Stewart Street, Quincy
	Gadsden County Adult Education	201 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd, Quincy
	North Florida Educational Center	1006 Fourth Street, Quincy
	Gadsden County Bilingual Education	Quincy
	Gadsden Elementary Magnet School	500 West King Street, Quincy
	Gadsden Technical Institute	201 Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd, Quincy
	George Munroe Elementary School	1830 West King Street, Quincy
	Golden Wings 3 E's Academy, Inc.	1003 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Greensboro Elementary School	Highway 12, Greensboro
	Gretna Elementary School	706 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Gretna
	Havana Elementary School	705 US 27 South, Havana
	Havana Middle School	1210 Kemp Road, Havana
	James A. Shanks Middle School	1400 West King Street, Quincy
	Keith Kids Christian Academy	Quincy
	Literacy Volunteers	732 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy
	Little Successful Angels Development Center	16 Earnest Street, Quincy

	North Florida Education Development Corporation	38 Beech Avenue, Gretna
	PAEC Migrant Education Program	315 N. Key Street, Quincy
	Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy	75 College Drive, Havana
	Precious Gems Daycare/Learning Center	803 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Pre-K-Headstart	500West King Street, Quincy
	Pride & Joy Child Development Center	405 South Shelfer Street, Quincy
	Robert F. Munroe Day School	91 Old Mount Pleaseant Road, Quincy
	St. John Elementary School	4463 Bainbridge Highway, Quincy
	Small World Learning Center of Quincy, Inc.	512 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Quincy
	Stewart Street Elementary School	749 South Stewart Street, Quincy
	Tallahassee Community College Center - The Quincy House	216 North Adams Street, Quincy
	West Gadsden High School	200 Providence Road, Quincy
Shopping	Kelly's 24 Hour	1320 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Fred's	1323 Crawford Street, Quincy
	Brown's Grocery	4694 High Bridge Road, Quincy
	Family Dollar	1105 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Dollar General Store	100 East 10th Street, Greensboro
	Dollar General Store	315 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Dollar General Store	Highway 90 East, Midway
	Country Store, The	5667 Bainbridge Highway, Quincy
	Golden Falcon Deli & Convenience Store	640 Pat Thomas Highway, Quincy
	Greensboro Supermarket	119 Green Avenue, Greensboro
	Gretna Market	14681 Main Street, Gretna
	Goodwil	1105 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Jay Food Store	120 Green Avenue, Greensboro
	Kelly's	519 West Crawford Street, Quincy
	Ken's Country Store	3780 Attapulgus Highway, Quincy

	Magnolia's	410 West Washington Street, Quincy
	Pat's Grocery	4091 Bainbridge Road, Quincy
	Piggly Wiggly	Blue Star Highway, Quincy
	Quality Discount Meats, Inc.	1125 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Quincy Shell	830 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Salem Grocery	State Road 12 & County Road 159, Havana
	Sunset Mart	650 South Adams Street, Quincy
	Supervalu Quincy Division	1797 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy
	Sykes Fine Foods	113 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Thompson Grocery	14953 Main Street, Gretna
	Wal-Mart	1940 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy
	ALDI	1600 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Quality Discount Meat	1125 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
Other Life Sustaining Activities	Advance America Cash Advance	1982 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy
	Bank of America	1321 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Capital City Bank	102 South Main Street, Havana
	Capital City Bank	4 East Washington Street, Quincy
	Capital City Bank	316 West Washington Street, Chattahoochee
	Chattahoochee City Hall	Chattahoochee
	Citifinancial	1962 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy
	Cumberland Animal Clinic	5902 Shady Rest Road, Havana
	Envision Credit Union	517 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Focus Credit Union	639 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy
	Gadsden Co. Sheriff's Department	Quincy
	Goodwill	303 First Street, Havana
	Greensboro City Hall	150 East 11th Street, Greensboro
	Gretna City Hall	14615 Main Street, Gretna
	Havana City Hall	121 East 7th Avenue, Havana
	Kids First Care	809 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Lawrence Animal Hospital	43 North Cleveland Street, Quincy

	Legal Services of North Florida	8 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Midway City Hall	Midway
	Quincy Animal Hospital	1750 West Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Quincy City Hall	121 East Jefferson Street, Quincy
	Refuge House, Inc., The	Quincy
	Tiny Tot Nursery	104 East Davis Street, Quincy
	Tops Kreative Kidds	200 Vanguard Circle, Gretna
	United Way Gadsden County Service Center	303 North Adams Street, Quincy
	William A. McGill Library	732 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy

e. Inventory of Available Transportation Services

The following is a list of all identifiable transportation services that are currently available in the service area. This includes public, private, non-profit, and local commuter service providers.

Name:	*Big Bend Transit, Inc.*	*Gadsden County School Board*
Telephone Number:	850-574-6266 (Tallahassee) 850-627-9958 (Quincy)	850-627-6858
Contact Person & Title:	Shawn Mitchell, General Manager Jason Terry, Transportation Manager	Andy Gay, Transportation Director
Number Vehicles:	20	98
Provider Type:	Private, Not For Profit	Government
Does the provider receive public funds and transport individuals in connection with the funds?	Yes	Yes
Does the provider provide transportation services to the general public?	Yes	No
What are the criteria for passenger eligibility?	Program participants and general public	School children
Is the provider part of the coordinated transportation program?	Yes, CTC	No

III. Service Analysis

In order to ensure service availability, an estimate of the total transportation disadvantaged population and the estimated total demand for trips for the service area must be known. In the coordinated system, the population eligible for program-sponsored trips is larger than the population eligible for trips funded by the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. Separate population and demand estimates are needed for each of these categories.

This section attempts to estimate the need and demand for transportation services by the various transportation disadvantaged populations. It will provide a quantitative transportation needs profile for the various transportation disadvantaged population segments and will estimate the unmet need for transportation in the service area.

Potential Transportation Disadvantaged Population and the Transportation Disadvantaged Population (formerly referred to as "Category I" and "Category II")

The Potential Transportation Disadvantaged Population (Category I) refers to the total population of persons who are eligible for trips through the coordinated transportation program (i.e., persons who have a disability, are elderly, children-at-risk, and/or are low income). This population is eligible for trips purchased by social service agencies.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Population (Category II) is a subset of the Potential Transportation Disadvantaged Population and includes those persons who, because of their disability, income status, or age, are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation, and children who are "high-risk" or "at risk". Persons who are included in the Transportation Disadvantaged Population are eligible for trips funded through the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. This population is eligible for trips purchased through the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund as well as for trips purchased by social service agencies.

Program and General Trips

Program trips are trips made by clients of social service agencies for the purpose of participating in programs of the agencies. Examples of program trips are trips to congregate dining facilities, sheltered workshops, job training facilities, and sponsored agency services. Generally, these trips are purchased by the agencies for their clients. Members of both Transportation Disadvantaged populations are eligible for program trips.

General trips are trips made by transportation disadvantaged persons to destinations of their choice, not to agency programs. Examples of general trips are trips to work or grocery stores, and non-Medicaid medical trips. Most general trips are purchased through the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund, although social service agencies purchase some general trips for their clients. Only persons in the transportation disadvantaged population are eligible for general trips purchased through the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.

Sponsored and Non-Sponsored

In the transportation disadvantaged system, trips are commonly referred to as either sponsored or non-sponsored. These terms should not be confused with program and general. "Sponsored" and "non-sponsored" refer to the funding source for the trip. Sponsored trips are subsidized by social service agencies, while non-sponsored trips are subsidized with the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. "Program" and "general" refer to the purpose of a trip. All program trips are sponsored because they

are trips funded by social service agencies for transportation to agency programs. General trips can be either sponsored or non-sponsored.

A. Forecasts of TD Population

General TD Population Forecast	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Overlapping Circle Component					
E - Estimate non-elderly/disabled/ low income	1,727	1,729	1,730	1,732	1,733
B - Estimate non-elderly/ disabled/not low income	4,327	4,331	4,335	4,339	4,343
G - Estimate elderly/disabled/low income	697	698	698	699	700
D- Estimate elderly/ disabled/not low income	2,912	2,915	2,917	2,920	2,923
F - Estimate elderly/non-disabled/low income	591	592	592	593	593
A - Estimate elderly/non-disabled/not low income	5,255	5,260	5,265	5,270	5,275
C - Estimate low income/not elderly/not disabled	4,232	4,236	4,240	4,244	4,248
TOTAL GENERAL TD POPULATION	**19,741**	**19,760**	**19,778**	**19,797**	**19,815**
TOTAL POPULATION	**43,710**	**43,751**	**43,792**	**43,833**	**43,874**

SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2024: PUMA, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), Florida Statewide Transportation Disadvantaged Plan Population and Demand Forecasts

B. Needs Assessment

The need for transportation is not the same as the demand for transportation. Travel need is the amount of travel necessary to provide an adequate standard of living, a quantity not affected by the price of travel. People may have a need to travel independent of their ability or willingness to pay. On the other hand, demand is based on economic willingness to pay and is related to users' income levels. Demand can be measured by the number of people who will use a service at a given price. Need and demand exist in proportion to each other. High levels of need and low levels of demand more typically characterize rural areas.

Techniques to estimate need are not completely successful, particularly when used in rural areas. The Center for Urban Transportation Research has used an approach that estimates demand based on a correlation between ridership and market characteristics of similar services provided in other areas. The approach uses trip rates derived in a study of paratransit demand in San Francisco, California. This approach was chosen because the trip rates are based on actual experiences of paratransit systems that are meeting most or all of the trip demand in their service areas. The Federal Transit Administration also has recommended this approach for use in estimating demand for Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for complementary paratransit services.

Program trips and general trips will be supplied by operators within the coordinated transportation disadvantaged system and by operators currently outside of the coordinated system. The demand for program trips is a derived demand -- the demand depends on the existence of social service programs. Therefore, assuming that these programs provide sufficient funding to transport their clients to their programs, the supply of program trips will equal the demand for the trips. It is assumed that the demand and supply of program trips within the coordinated system and outside of it will increase at the same rate of growth as the potential transportation disadvantaged population.

General trips will be purchased through the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund, through local subsidies, and by local service agencies. Within the coordinated system, it is assumed that the supply of

general trips purchased through the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund will increase at the same rate as the transportation disadvantaged population and that the supply of general trips purchased through local subsidies and by social service agencies will increase at the same rate as the potential transportation disadvantaged population.

The forecasted unmet demand for transportation disadvantaged trips is the difference between the demand and the supply of these trips. All of the unmet demand consists of demand for general trips.

Since virtually all program trips are sponsored, all demand for "program" trips should be able to be met. A primary objective for the community transportation coordinator is to meet as much demand as possible, although the supply of general trips is dependent on funding from the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund established for non-sponsored trips and other sources.

To solicit concerns and comments regarding the transportation needs and the program, a public hearing is held annually. Concerns can be expressed verbally or written. All concerns are noted in the minutes of the public hearing and responded to in a timely manner.

During the annual evaluation of the community transportation coordinator, the local coordinating board will survey riders of the system. The survey evaluates the transportation program and the services it provides, but it also addresses unmet needs of the users. Rider surveys may be conducted by telephone or on-board during a scheduled trip during a designated period of time.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Improvement Program identifies transportation improvements (such as capital purchases, renovations to buildings), indicates the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board's priorities, groups improvements into staging periods, and includes realistic estimates of costs and revenues for the program period.

New vehicles will be needed to replace old vehicles and to allow for the service expansion that is necessary to provide the increasing number of transportation disadvantaged trips that are forecast during the study period. Transportation disadvantaged trips are provided by a variety of vehicles including automobiles, buses, and vans. Each type of vehicle has unique operating characteristics and replacement cycles. The number of new vehicles required to replace old vehicles was forecasted based on the assumption of the average useful life, increase in vehicle miles required to supply the additional trips forecasted during the period, current average trip lengths and current average service efficiency.

Five-Year Transportation Disadvantaged Improvement Plan

	Project	*Improvement*	*Estimated Cost*	*Estimated Revenue Source*
1	Purchase replacement and/or expansion paratransit vehicle to provide transportation for the elderly and disabled.	23' cutaway buses with lift equipment 21' cutaway buses with lift equipment 5-passenger minivans	$375,000	U.S.C. Section 5310, FDOT, CTC
2	Provide paratransit transportation service to the elderly, handicapped and disadvantaged citizen residing in the county.	Operational Assistance	$900,000	U.S.C. Section 5311, Non-Government
3	Purchase miscellaneous equipment for operations and/or maintenance.	Miscellaneous Equipment	$750,000	U.S.C. Section 5339 FDOT, CTC

Updated June 2026

C. Barriers to Coordination

The community transportation coordinator and the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board have worked together to address and eliminate known barrier to coordination of transportation disadvantaged trips within their control.

Known Barriers

The need to transport out of the service area is the primary barrier. The need for specialized medical services, medical services for veterans, and employment opportunities are not as available in the rural counties as in the urban areas. Transportation to neighboring urban areas to supply these needs is increasing at a remarkable rate. Grouping trips and purposes is difficult and becomes more intricate when going out of the service area.

The lack of funding continues to be a barrier to coordination. Additional funds are needed to increase the availability of core transportation needs such as employment and shopping trips for the non-sponsored.

Local Efforts to Eliminate Barriers

The community transportation coordinator and the local transportation disadvantaged coordinating board will:

- communicate to the public the various routes and schedules. Information about transportation services will continually be provided through brochures, public service announcements, public speaking engagements, interagency affiliations, and attendance at County Commission and Regional Planning Council meetings;
- monitor the performance of the system;
- continue to educate the public about the Voluntary Dollar Program when purchasing and renewing automobile tags so that these donations can be used to increase local revenues for expanded services;

- continue to advocate for transportation disadvantaged persons with local and state government leaders regarding the need for additional funds;
- monitor spending of the non-sponsored funds and work with agencies to include transportation when developing its budget;
- reach out to non-traditional partners that have a desire to improve transportation in the county;
- work cooperatively with local WAGES coalitions to provide assistance in the development of innovative transportation services for WAGES participants; and
- continue coordinating out-of-service-area trips to destinations such as Gainesville, Lake City, Dothan, Pensacola, etc.

IV. Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goals, objectives, and strategies are critical to the implementation of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan and each component. They are important policy statements that have been carefully considered by the community transportation coordinator, the designated official planning council with the direction and support of the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board. They represent a statement of local policy that will be used to manage the future transportation disadvantaged program within the service area.

The goals and objectives are based on requirements of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, and those of the Commission, but are adapted to the local planning area. It should also be noted the goals and objectives would be used, in conjunction with findings of the needs/demands analysis, to develop strategies for goal attainment.

The goals and objectives will be evaluated annually with the required Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged evaluation elements, noting deficiencies and corrective actions, service improvements and expansions. The information will be based on the most recent annual operating report.

GOAL: Increase the number of transportation disadvantaged persons served by the coordinated system.

Objective 1: Improve the availability of transportation service to persons who are transportation disadvantaged.

- Increase the number of sponsored and non-sponsored trips
- Maintain and expand the client database relating to the clients' needs and capabilities
- Utilize Purchase of Service Agreements or rate agreements with all agencies that purchase transportation services with public funds
- Prepare a user's guide and update when needed
- Provide announcements to local newspapers announcing public hearings

Measures:

- Percentage of change in the number of sponsored and non-sponsored trips provided
- Percentage of change in the number of passengers
- Availability of the user's guide in the community
- Number of persons in attendance at public hearings

Objective 2: Ensure that service is delivered in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

- Maintain an operational fleet of vehicles to meet all needs
- Evaluate and revise routes and schedules when needed
- Develop a workable budget and keep within budget expectations
- Review driver logs for areas of inefficient use of time, drivers, and miles
- Review driver non-revenue hours and reduce when possible
- Review routes, schedules and type of services being provided
- Contract with an adequate number of operators to meet the needs

Measures:

- Operating cost/passenger trip

- Operating cost/vehicle mile
- Operating cost/driver hour
- Reduced average trip length
- Passenger trips/vehicle
- Passenger trips/driver hour
- Passenger trips/vehicle mile
- Miles/trip
- Miles/passengers

Objective 3: Ensure that safe and quality service is provided.

- Provide training on customer satisfaction
- Provide training on passenger assistance techniques
- Maintain an operational fleet of vehicles to meet all needs
- Review routes, schedules and type of services being provided
- Report accidents and roadcalls to the LCB
- Review operator contracts for compliance with safety requirements
- Annually review SSPP and amend as needed
- Provide opportunities for riders to express concerns and suggestions on service delivery
- Sponsor at least one public hearing each year for public comment
- Schedule an opportunity for public comments on all LCB agendas
- Address public organizations and agencies regarding services

Measures:

- Completion of training programs
- Number of grievances filed
- Complaints/trips
- Number of Ombudsman calls recorded regarding service
- Percent of on-time pick-ups to meet or exceed standard
- Percent of on-time to destinations to meet or exceed standard
- Accidents/vehicle miles
- Vehicle miles between roadcalls
- Satisfactory review of operator contracts
- Proof of an annual review of SSPP and updated as needed
- Percent of trip requests denied/unmet
- Satisfactory rider survey results (80% or better)
- Number of persons attending the public hearing

Objective 4: Secure necessary funding to support the TD program.

- Address public organizations and agencies on the need of local financial support
- Promote the Voluntary Dollar Program

Measures:

- Percent of local funds are of total operating revenue
- Increase in voluntary dollars donated
- Increase in funding from new sponsors/sources

Objective 5: Ensure program accountability.

- Provide copies of reports to the LCB for review

- Provide, at least quarterly, operational, and financial information to the LCB
- Provide a copy of audit or annual financial report to LCB
- Provide copies of purchasing agency evaluation/monitoring reports to LCB
- Perform annual evaluation of CTC

Measures:

- Submittal of accurate AOR
- Submittal of on-time MOA
- Submittal of on-time TDSP
- Submittal of TDTF Trip/Equipment grant application
- Submittal of accurate reports to LCB
- Satisfactory audit or annual financial report
- Compliance with annual evaluation findings and recommendations
- Compliance with sponsoring agency's monitoring/evaluations findings and recommendations

V. Implementation Schedule

The Implementation Schedule reiterates the goals and objectives discussed previously. Each goal and objective will be reviewed annually at the time of the community transportation coordinator's evaluation to determine progress made in each area. A determination will be made in each area as to whether the component was met satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily. Unsatisfactory responses will be followed with a corrective action plan.

Objective 1: Improve the availability of transportation service to persons who are transportation disadvantaged.

Strategies	*Responsible Party for Accomplishment*	*Anticipated Beginning & Ending Dates*
Increase the number of sponsored and non-sponsored trips	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Maintain and expand the client database relating to the clients' needs and capabilities	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Utilize Purchase of Service Agreements or rate agreements with all agencies that purchase transportation services with public funds	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Prepare a user's guide and update when needed	CTC, LCB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Provide announcements to local newspapers announcing public hearings	PA	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027

Objective 2: Ensure that service is delivered in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Strategies	*Responsible Party for Accomplishment*	*Anticipated Beginning & Ending Dates*
Maintain an operational fleet of vehicles to meet all needs	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Evaluate and revise routes and schedules when needed	CTC, LCB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Develop a workable budget and keep within budget expectations	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Review driver logs for areas of inefficient use of time, drivers, and miles	CTC, LCB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027

Review driver non-revenue hours and reduce when possible	CTC, LCB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Review routes, schedules and type of services being provided	CTC, LCB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Contract with an adequate number of operators to meet the needs	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027

Objective 3: Ensure that safe and quality service is provided.

Strategies	*Responsible Party for Accomplishment*	*Anticipated Beginning & Ending Dates*
Provide training on customer satisfaction	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Provide training on passenger assistance techniques	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Maintain an operational fleet of vehicles to meet all needs	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Review routes, schedules and type of services being provided	CTC, LCB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Report accidents and roadcalls to the LCB	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Review operator contracts for compliance with safety requirements	CTC, LCB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Annually review SSPP and amend as needed	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Provide opportunities for riders to express concerns and suggestions on service delivery	CTC, LCB	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Sponsor at least one public hearing each year for public comment	PA	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Schedule an opportunity for public comments on all LCB agendas	PA	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Address public organizations and agencies regarding services	CTC, LCB, PA	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027

Objective 4: Secure necessary funding to support the TD program.

Strategies	*Responsible Party for Accomplishment*	*Anticipated Beginning & Ending Dates*
Address public organizations and agencies on the need of local financial support	CTC, LCB, PA	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Promote the Voluntary Dollar Program	CTC, LCB, PA	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027

Objective 5: Ensure program accountability.

Strategies	*Responsible Party for Accomplishment*	*Anticipated Beginning & Ending Dates*
Provide copies of reports to the LCB for review.	CTC, PA	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Provide, at least quarterly, operational, and financial information to the LCB	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Provide a copy of audit or annual financial report to LCB	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Provide copies of purchasing agency evaluation/monitoring reports to LCB	CTC	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027
Perform annual evaluation of CTC	LCB, PA	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027

(CTC/Community Transportation Coordinator, LCB/Local Coordinating Board, PA/Planning Agency)

Service Plan

VI. Operations

A. Types, Hours, and Days of Service

Types of Service:

- Advance Reservation, Intra-County Service – Curb-to-curb (on exception, door-to-door), ambulatory/wheelchair, and non-emergency transportation service, within Gadsden County.
- Advance Reservation, Inter-County Service – Curb-to-curb (on exception, door-to-door), ambulatory/wheelchair, non-emergency transportation service, between Gadsden County and other Florida (and, on occasion, South Georgia) Counties.
- Demand Response Service – Curb-to-curb (on exception, door-to-door), ambulatory/wheelchair, non-emergency transportation service that is provided: 1) outside the specific areas of service, and/or 2) outside the specific periods of regular service, and/or 3) without proper advance notification.
- Evacuation Service – Door-to-door, ambulatory/ wheelchair, transportation service, only to the extent of availability per agreement.

Bariatric Transportation:

Transportation Disadvantaged Program: Big Bend Transit is required to transport all "common wheelchairs. A common wheelchair is defined as a device which does not exceed 30 inches in width and 48 inches in length measured two inches above the ground and does not weigh more than 600 pounds when occupied. Wheelchairs that exceed these dimensions and weight may not to be transported.

Hours and Days of Service:

- Intra-county service for the general public is available Monday through Saturday, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.
- Intra-county service for Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund (TDTF) non-sponsored persons is available Monday through Saturday, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.
- Intra-county service for other federal, state and/or local government agency(s) is provided as negotiated.

B. Accessing Services

Office Hours:

Big Bend Transit's office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Phone Number:

Transportation Disadvantaged Program: (850) 627-9958 or Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8711 for TDD access.

- Advance Reservation Service – When requesting advanced reservation service, the name and origin/destination of the passenger to be transported will be placed with the CTC by 2:00 PM the day before the day of travel and no more than 14 days in advance of the day of travel.

- Evacuation Service – When requesting evacuation service, the Purchaser will place with the CTC the number and type of vehicle required and the time period(s) during which the vehicle(s) will be required. A vehicle service hour begins with the start of the purchaser's requested period of availability and ends with the purchaser's release of vehicle(s).

Hours of the CTC for scheduling all transportation services are Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Trip Cancellation Process:

Hours of the Community Transportation Coordinator for cancelling all transportation services are 24 hours, 7 days a week. Trip cancellations shall be made to Big Bend Transit a minimum of two (2) hours prior to the earliest pick-up time. A "No-Show" will be charged to passengers who do not cancel trips a minimum of two (2) hours prior to their pick-up time.

No-Show Policies:

Transportation Disadvantaged Program – Trips must be cancelled a minimum of two hours before the scheduled pick-up time. If trips are not cancelled at least two hours in advance, the passenger will be considered a no-show. Cancellations at the door will be considered no-shows. If an individual is charged with frequent no-shows, they may be temporarily suspended from service.

On the first "no-show," the driver will leave a "no-show" notice on the client's door. On the second "no-show" occurrence, a letter of warning will be sent from the Community Transportation Coordinator. If a third infraction occurs within 60 days, the Community Transportation Coordinator will send a letter notifying the client that they have been suspended from service for a 30-day period. When the client is again reinstated to the program, and if three (3) infractions occur within 60 days, the suspension will be 45 days. When the client is again reinstated to the program and if three (3) infractions occur within 60 days, the suspension will be 60 days.

Transportation Disadvantaged Program Eligibility:

Big Bend Transit will determine through an eligibility application process whether an individual is unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation. Individuals who do not have an operational vehicle in the household; the ability to operate a vehicle; or the ability to find transportation from other sources are considered eligible for Transportation Disadvantaged Program services. Individuals who are unable to purchase transportation will also be considered for Transportation Disadvantaged Program eligibility.

Transportation Disadvantaged Program sponsored services are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Service sponsored by the Transportation Disadvantaged Program may be denied if there are insufficient funds to provide that service.

Transportation Disadvantaged Program Trip Priorities:

Big Bend Transit, in cooperation with the Coordinating Board, has established the following trip priorities for the use of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds:

- Life Sustaining Medical Trips
- Employment Trips
- Essential Business Trips
- Education/Training Trips

- Nutrition/Mealsite Trips
- Recreational/Social Trips

C. Transportation Operators and Coordination Contractors

Solicitation for contracted Transportation Operators is need driven and is accomplished through a competitive RFQ process.

D. Public Transit Utilization

The combination of the Gadsden Express, Gadsden Connector, Quincy Shuttle and Havana Express help provide a more cost-effective way to transport people around the county and shuttle folks into neighboring Leon County.

E. School Bus Utilization

Currently, there is no need to use school buses at this time. If Big Bend Transit determines a need to use school buses in the future, the Gadsden County School Board will be contacted for assistance.

F. Vehicle Inventory

The Vehicle Inventory of the Gadsden County Coordinated System is as follows:

Fac	Fac Abbreviation	Fac Name	Asset	Dept	Year	Make	Model	LIC PLT	VIN	Reg #	Class	Unit X-Ref	Operator	Asset Status
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	2801	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2009	INL HYB 31105	3200 7.6DSL	YQ958	1HVBTAAL09H082366		CUTA	DOT31105		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	2208	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2022	CRYSTLR 30093	VOYAGER	X7942E	2C4RC1CG3NR172324	2022	A	2208		Available, not needed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1909	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2019	FTLNR C 30019	M2 ISB13 ENG	X1318E	4UZADRFD2KCLG1407		CUTA	1909		Available, not needed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	2403	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2025	FORD 30129	E450	X2533F	1FDFE4FN2SDD00801		CUTA	2403		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	2402	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2025	FORD	E450--	X2537F	1FDFE4FN9SDD05669		CUTA	2402		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	2002	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2020	FORD C 30044		X5054E	1FDFE4FS2KDC73010		CUTA	2002		Available, not needed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1501	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2015	DODGE 93315	GRCAR-363-5333	X4625E	2C7WDGBG6FR614182		A	1501		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1805	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2018	FTLNR C 93394	M2 ISB13 ENG	X5957D	4UZADRFD5JCJW2600		CUTA	1805		Available, not needed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1601	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2016	FTLNR C 93327	M2 ISB13 ENG	X4627E	1FVACWDT7GHGU3788		CUTA	1601		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1913	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2019	FORD C 30025		X2177E	1FDFE4FS7KDC35689		CUTA	1913		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	2106	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2021	FORD C TDTF	E450--7.3L V-8	X7055E	1FDFE4FN3MDC41695		CUTA	2106		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1901	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2019	FORD C 94312	E450--	X9070D	1FDFE4FS3KDC02169		CUTA	1901		Available, not needed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	2001	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2020	FORD C 30045	E450--	X5055E	1FDFE4FS9KDC73005		CUTA	2001		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1704	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2016	FDTRST 93374		X5963C	1FBVU4XG0GKB25183		SCUTA	1704		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1707	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2016	FDTRST 93369	3.5LTT	X1450D	1FBVU4XG2GKB32989		SCUTA	1707		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1808	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2017	FORD C 93397	E450--	X6054D	1FDFE4FS5HDC70627		CUTA	1808		Available, not needed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1708	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2016	FDTNST 93370	3.5LTT	X4504A	1FBVU4XG9GKB32990		SCUTA	1708		Available, not needed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1507	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2015	DODGE	CARAVAN	X8812E	2C7WDGBG0FR642799		DEFAULT	1507		Available, not needed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	1709	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2017	FTLNR C 93367		X3093D	4UZADRDU4HCJE1648		CUTA	1709		Available, now completed
1	001	BIG BEND TRANSIT INC.	2209	(0003) BBT GADSDEN	2022	CRYSTLR 30090	VOYAGER	X7622E	2C4RC1CG5NR172325		A	2209		Available, not needed

Updated June 2026

G. System Safety Program Plan Certification

Bus Transit System Annual Safety and Security Certification

Certifying Compliance with Rule 14-90, FAC to the
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Certification Date (Current): 2026
Certification Year: (Previous): 2025
Name and Address of Bus Transit System: Big Bend Transit, Inc.

The Bus Transit System (Agency) named above hereby certifies the following:

1. *The Agency has adopted a System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) and a Security Program Plan (SPP) or PTASP pursuant to the standards set forth in Rule Chapter 14-90, Florida Administrative Code.*

2. *The Agency is in compliance with its adopted SSPP and SPP.*

3. *The Agency has performed annual safety inspections on all operational vehicles in accordance with Rule Chapter 14-90, Florida Administrative Code.*

4. *The Agency has conducted reviews of SSPP and SPP or PTASP and the plans are up to date.*

Blue Ink Signature:_____ ***Date:***_2/16/2026_____
(Individual Responsible for Assurance of Compliance)

Name: ***Shawn Mitchell*** ***Title:*** ***General Manager***

Name and address of entity(ies) which has (have) performed bus safety inspections and security assessments:

Name: *Domingo Ortiz*

Address: *2201 Eisenhower Street, Tallahassee, FL*

Name of Qualified Mechanic who Performed Annual Inspections: *Domingo Ortiz*

** Note: Please do not edit or otherwise change this form.*

H. Intercounty Services

BBT provides regular scheduled and non-scheduled inter-county transportation service(s). BBT participates, when operationally- and cost-effective, in inter-county service routes operated by adjacent CTCs.

I. Emergency Preparedness and Response

Upon request, and on a capacity available basis, the CTC enters into disaster/emergency transportation assistance agreements with residential facilities to provide ambulatory and non-ambulatory (wheelchair) transportation services.

J. Education Efforts/Marketing

The availability of Big Bend Transit transportation services will continue to be promoted through general and specific distribution of informational materials at locations which concentrate eligible population activity.

K. Acceptable Alternatives

There have been no acceptable alternatives for the provision of transportation service identified in Gadsden County.

L. Service Standards

The Community Transportation Coordinator and any transportation operator from whom service is purchased or arranged by the Community Transportation Coordinator shall adhere to Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged approved standards. These standards include:

Commission Service Standards

Drug and Alcohol Policy…..41-2.006(4)(a)

Drug and alcohol testing for safety sensitive job positions within the coordinated system regarding pre-employment, randomization, post-accident, and reasonable suspicion as required by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Local Policy: Big Bend Transit shall comply with this standard.

Escorts and Children…..41-2.006(4)(b)

An escort of a passenger and dependent children are to be transported as locally negotiated and identified in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: Children under age 12 will be required to be accompanied by an escort. Escorts must be provided by the passenger. Escorts must be able to provide the necessary assistance to the passenger. Escorts will be transported at the regular rate.

Child Restraint Devices…..41-2.006(4)(c)

Use of child restraint devices shall be determined locally as to their responsibility, and cost of such device in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: All passengers under the age of 4 and/or under 50 pounds will be required to use a child restraint device. This device will be provided by the passenger.

Passenger Property…..41-2.006(4)(d)

Passenger property that can be carried by the passenger and/or driver in one trip and can safely be stowed on the vehicle, shall be allowed to be transported with the passenger at no additional charge. Additional requirements may be negotiated for carrying and loading rider property beyond this amount. Passenger property does not include wheelchairs, child seats, stretchers, secured oxygen, personal assistive devices, or intravenous devices.

Local Policy: Passengers shall be allowed to have two pieces of personal property which they can place in their lap. Passengers must be able to independently carry all items brought onto the vehicle.

Vehicle Transfer Points…..41-2.006(4)(e)

Vehicle transfer points shall provide shelter, security, and safety of passengers.

Local Toll Free Telephone Number For Consumer Comment…..41-2.006(4)(f)

A local toll-free telephone number for complaints or grievances shall be posted inside the vehicles. The TD Helpline phone number (1-800-983-2435) also be posted inside all vehicles of the coordinated system. The local complaint process shall be outlined as a section in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan including advising the dissatisfied person about the Commission's Ombudsman Program as a step within the process as approved by the local coordinating board. All rider information/materials (brochures, user's guides, etc.) will include the TD Helpline phone number.

Out-of-Service Area Trips…..41-2.006(4)(g)

Out-of-service area trips shall be provided when determined locally and approved by the local coordinating board, except in instances where local ordinances prohibit such trips.

Local Policy: Inter-county services between Gadsden and Leon Counties are available weekly. Other inter-county services are provided when available.

Vehicle Cleanliness…..41-2.006(4)(h)

Interior of all vehicles shall be free from dirt, grime, oil, trash, torn upholstery, damaged or broken seats, protruding metal or other objects or materials which could soil items placed in the vehicle or provide discomfort for the passenger.

Local Policy: All vehicles shall be cleaned (interior and exterior) on a regular schedule (minimum once a week).

Billing Requirements to Contracted Operators…..41-2.006(4)(i)

Billing requirements of the community transportation coordinator to subcontractors shall be determined locally by the local coordinating board and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. All bills shall be paid within 7 working days to subcontractors, after receipt of said payment by the community transportation coordinator, in accordance with Section 287.0585, F.S.

Local Policy: Big Bend Transit shall comply with this standard.

Passenger/Trip Data Base….. 41-2.006(4)(j)

Passenger/trip database must be maintained or accessible by the community transportation coordinator on each rider being transported within the system.

Local Policy: Big Bend Transit shall comply with this standard.

Adequate Seating…..41-2.006(4)(k)

Adequate seating for paratransit services shall be provided to each rider and escort, child, or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time. For transit services provided by transit vehicles, adequate seating or standing space will be provided to each rider and escort, child, or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating or standing capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time.

Local Policy: Big Bend Transit shall comply with this standard.

Driver Identification…..41-2.006(4)(l)

Drivers for paratransit services, including coordination contractors, shall be required to announce and identify themselves by name and company in a manner that is conducive to communications with the specific passenger, upon pickup of each rider, group of riders, or representative, guardian, or associate of the rider, except in situations where the driver regularly transports the rider on a recurring basis. Each driver must have photo identification that is in view of the passenger. Name patches, inscriptions or badges that affix to driver clothing are acceptable. For transit services, the driver photo identification shall be in a conspicuous location in the vehicle.

Local Policy: Big Bend Transit shall comply with this standard.

Passenger Assistance…..41-2.006(4)(m)

The paratransit drivers shall provide the passenger with boarding assistance, if necessary or requested, to the seating portion of the vehicle. The boarding assistance shall include opening the vehicle door, fastening the seat belt or utilization of wheelchair securement devices, storage of mobility assistive devices, and closing the vehicle door. In the door-through-door paratransit service category, the driver shall be required to open and close doors to buildings, except in situations in which assistance in opening/closing building doors would not be safe for passengers remaining on the vehicle. Assisted access must be in a dignified manner. Drivers may not assist wheelchair up or down more than one step, unless it can be performed safely as determined by the passenger, guardian, and driver.

Local Policy: Drivers are not permitted individually to assist persons in wheelchairs up or down more than one step, through grass or sand or an include of more than 8.33% (1:12 slope).

Smoking, Eating, and Drinking On Vehicles…..41-2.006(4)(n)

Smoking is prohibited in any vehicle. Requirements for drinking and eating on board the vehicle will be addressed in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: The use of tobacco products on vehicles is prohibited. Eating and drinking on board the vehicle is also prohibited.

No-Show Policy…..41-2.006(4)(o)

The community transportation coordinator and the local coordinating board shall jointly develop a policy on passenger no-shows. Assessing fines to passengers for no-shows is acceptable but such policy and process shall be identified in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy - Passenger no-shows are defined as trips not cancelled a minimum of two (2) hours prior to the scheduled pick-up time. Passengers shall be notified if they are considered a no-show.
No-Shows will not exceed 1% of the requested trips.

Two-Way Communication Equipment…..41-2.006(4)(p)

All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system shall be equipped with two-way communications in good working order and audible to the driver at all times to the base.

Local Policy: All vehicles shall have two-way radios.

Vehicle Air Conditioning and Heating Equipment….. 41-2.006(4)(q)

All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system shall have working air conditioners and heaters in each vehicle. Vehicles that do not have a working air conditioner or heater will be scheduled for repair or replacement as soon as possible.

Local Policy: Big Bend Transit shall comply with this standard.

First Aid Policy…..41-2.006(4)(r)

First Aid policy shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: All drivers shall be certified in First Aid.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Policy…..41-2.006(4)(s)

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation policy shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: All drivers shall be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Driver Background Screening…..41-2.006(4)(t)

Driver background screening shall be determined locally, dependent upon purchasing agencies' requirements, and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: All drivers in the coordinated system shall meet Level 2 criminal background screening requirements in accordance with Chapter 435, Florida Statutes.

Public Transit Ridership…..41-2.006(4)(u)

In areas where fixed route transportation is available, the community transportation coordinator should jointly establish with the local coordinating board a percentage of total trips that will be placed on the fixed route system.

Local Policy: Big Bend Transit shall comply with this standard.

Passenger Pick-Up Window…..41-2.006(4)(v)

The community transportation coordinator should establish and address the passenger pick-up windows in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This policy should also be communicated to contracted operators, drivers, purchasing agencies and passengers.

Local Policy: There is a ninety (90) minute pick-up window in place for all intra-county trips based on the arrival time of the passenger. There is sixty (60) minute pick-up window in place for all intra-county trips based on the departure time of the passenger.

On-Time Performance…..41-2.006(4)(w)

The community transportation coordinator and the local coordinating board should jointly establish and address the percentage of trips that will be on time in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This performance measure should be communicated to contracted operators, drivers, purchasing agencies, and passengers. This measure should also be included as a part of the community transportation coordinator's evaluation of its contracted operators, and the local coordinating board's evaluation of the community transportation coordinator.

Local Policy: Big Bend Transit will have a 90 percent on-time performance rate for all completed trips. On-time performance will be measured by random sampling of trips.

Advanced Reservation Requirements…..41-2.006(4)(x)

The community transportation coordinator should establish and address in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan a minimum 24-hour advanced notification time to obtain services. This policy should be communicated to contracted operators, purchasing agencies and passengers.

Local Policy: There shall be a 24-hour notice requirement for all other trips scheduled within the coordinated system, except under special circumstances.

Safety (Accidents)…..41-2.006(4)(y)

The community transportation coordinator and the local coordinating board should jointly establish and address in the service plan a performance measure to evaluate the safety of the coordinated system. This measure should be used in the community transportation coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators, and the local coordinating board's evaluation of the community transportation coordinator.

Local Policy: There shall be no more than 1.2 chargeable accidents per 100,000 miles during the evaluation period.

Reliability (Roadcalls)…..41-2.006(4)(z)

The community transportation coordinator and the local coordinating board should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the reliability of the vehicles utilized in the coordinated system. This measure should be used in the community transportation coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators, and the local coordinating board's evaluation of the community transportation coordinator.

Local Policy: There should be no less than 10,000 miles between each road call.

Accessibility (Call Hold Time)…..41-2.006(4)(aa)

This performance measure can be used to address the accessibility of the service. The community transportation coordinator and the local coordinating board should jointly determine if a standard for a call hold time is needed in the coordinated system and address this in the local service plan. If determined to be necessary, this standard should be included in the local coordinating board's evaluation of the community transportation coordinator.

Local Policy: 90% of all incoming calls will be answered within an average of three (3) minutes.

Quality (Complaints).....41-2.006(4)(bb)

The community transportation coordinator and the local coordinating board should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the quality of service provided within the coordinated system. The measure should be used in the community transportation coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators, and the local coordinating board's evaluation of the community transportation coordinator.

Local Policy: 1 complaint for 100,000 miles shall be the maximum number of complaints for the evaluation period.

a. Passenger Code of Conduct

For everyone's safety, drivers and riders of the system are expected to act in an appropriate manner at all times and abide by the policies of Big Bend Transit.

- Riders shall be ready to board the vehicle within 5 minutes of its arrival.
- Riders shall be prepared to share their ride with other passengers.
- No person may eat, drink or smoke on board any vehicle.
- No passenger may operate or tamper with any equipment on board any vehicle.
- Riders may not have radios, cassette tape players, CD players or other sound generating devices in operation while on board a vehicle, UNLESS it is connected to a headset.
- Disruptive behavior, which results in a distraction to the driver is deemed a safety hazard. Such behavior will not be tolerated and shall be grounds for suspension of transportation privileges.

Verbal Abuse:

Verbal abuse by a rider against staff, drivers or other clients will not be tolerated. Verbal abuse includes but is not limited to use of profanity, obscene gestures, yelling or screaming. Riders who verbally abuse staff, drivers or other clients may be suspended from service.

Physical Abuse:

Physical abuse of either a rider to another rider or rider to a driver will not be tolerated. Physical abuse includes but is not limited to grabbing, hitting, or touching. Such abuse shall be deemed as assault. In such cases, the local police shall be notified, and the rider shall be issued a notice of suspension from service.

Substance Abuse:

No passenger who is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will be transported. If a passenger is scheduled to be returned home and they are under the influence, they will be required to find alternative means of transportation. If a pattern of such behavior exists, a suspension of transportation privileges shall be invoked.

b. Penalties

The following penalties shall apply to service sponsored by Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

Verbal Abuse:

- First offense – written warning
- Second offense – one week suspension of services

- Third offense – 30-day suspension of services
- Fourth offense – 90-day suspension of services
- Fifth offense – permanently removed from service

Physical Abuse:

- First offense - Big Bend Transit will issue a written notice of suspension for 90 days by certified mail. The notice will advise the rider that Big Bend Transit intends to suspend his or her riding privileges and the reason for such action.
- Second offense – 180-day suspension of services
- Third offense - permanently removed from service

c. Appeals

A rider has ten (10) calendar days from the date of issuance of suspension notice to request a reconsideration hearing on the suspension. If a reconsideration hearing is requested, the hearing will be held by the Gadsden County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee if the suspension involves transportation provided under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

All requests for reconsideration must be in writing and delivered to:

Big Bend Transit, Inc.
P.O Box 1721
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

The written request must include the name and address of the person who is requesting the hearing and a statement as to why his or her riding privileges should not be suspended. If the request is not received within ten (10) calendar days from the issue date of the suspension, then the suspension becomes effective ten (10) calendar days from the date of issue. Upon receipt of letter requesting the reconsideration hearing, a hearing shall be held within 10 working days. Gadsden County Board of Commissioners staff will advise the person requesting the reconsideration hearing by return correspondence of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

The person will be given the opportunity to present the reasons why they believe the suspension should not take place. The Gadsden County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee will make a recommendation whether or not to uphold the suspension. A written statement of the recommendation shall be forwarded to the person requesting the hearing within two (2) working days after the hearing by the Grievance Committee. A written statement of the decision whether or not to uphold the suspension shall be forwarded by certified mail within two (2) working days by Big Bend Transit to the person requesting the hearing.

M. Service Animal Policy

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act {ADA), all transit passengers will be permitted to travel with a service animal trained to assist them. ADA regulations at 49 C.F.R. Section 37.3 define a service animal as "any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items."

Please notify Big Bend Transit, Inc. in advance if you intend to bring a service animal with you.

Animals that are not trained to do work or perform tasks are not considered to be service animals (49 C.F.R. Section 37.167(d). For example, emotional support animals, which provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to an individual with disabilities, but are not trained to do work or perform tasks, are not considered to be service animals.

If you are planning on riding on Big Bent Transit, Inc. with a service animal, please follow these guidelines:

- Service animals are to be properly leashed and/or harnessed and under the control of their handlers at all times.
- The service animal must remain at your feet or on your lap. The service animal may not sit on a vehicle seat.
- The service animal must not be aggressive toward people or other animals.
- You are responsible for any damages or soiling caused by the service animal.
- The rider may be asked to remove his/her service animal from the vehicle if:
    - The animal is out of control and the rider does not take effective action to control it.
    - The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

You are responsible for the care and supervision of your service animal while on board the vehicle.

N. Local Complaint and Grievance Procedure/Process

a. The aggrieved person is to present a formal (written) grievance to the Community Transportation Coordinator within 10 working days of the incident.

b. The Community Transportation Coordinator will have 10 working days from the date of receipt of the grievance to respond in writing to the aggrieved person. The response will include the right to appeal to the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee. The Community Transportation Coordinator shall submit a copy of the grievance and the response to the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee.

c. The aggrieved person, dissatisfied with the response from the Community Transportation Coordinator, has 5 working days of the received response to request in writing a hearing with the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee.

d. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee has 10 working days from the date of receipt of the request to hear the grievance and recommend to the Community Transportation Coordinator in writing any actions that may assist in dealing with the stated grievance. The Grievance Committee will report to the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board at the next regular meeting.

e. The aggrieved person, dissatisfied with the advice of the Grievance Committee, has 10 working days from the date of receipt of the response to request in writing a hearing before the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

f. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board will hear the grievance within 60 calendar days, either at its next regular meeting or special called meeting as requested by the Grievance Committee Chairman, based on severity of the issue. The findings, explanations and

recommendations of the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board will be in written form, recorded and transmitted to the aggrieved person and the Community Transportation Coordinator within 10 working days following the hearing. The determination of the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board is final.

g. The Community Transportation Coordinator will have 10 working days from receipt of the recommendations to address in writing the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board's recommendations.

h. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board will review the Community Transportation Coordinator's response to the recommendations at the next meeting of the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. A record of the grievances, their status (i.e., resolved, unresolved) and the response to the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board's recommendations will be included in the Community Transportation Coordinator's annual evaluation. The grievance record will also be reviewed during the development of the Community Transportation Coordinator's service plan.

i. The customer, dissatisfied with the advice of the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, can file a formal grievance with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. The customer may begin this process by contacting the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, 605 Suwannee Street, MS-49, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450 or through the TD Helpline (1-800-983-2435), or by email (CTDOmbudsman@dot.state.fl.us). Upon request of the customer, the Commission will provide the customer with an accessible copy of the Commission's Grievance Procedures.

j. If the Commission is unable to resolve the grievance, the customer will be referred to the Office of Administrative Appeals or other legal venues appropriate to the specific nature of the grievance.

Aggrieved persons with proper standing may also have recourse through the Chapter 120, Florida Statutes' administrative hearing process. Nothing in this process is intended to preclude the aggrieved person from pursuing legal action. Aggrieved persons may contact the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Ombudsman Hotline at 1-800-983-2435.

O. CTC Monitoring Procedures for Operators and Coordination Contractors

Not applicable.

P. Coordination Contract Evaluation Criteria

The Community Transportation Coordinator enters into a Coordination Contract with those agencies who, as stated in Chapter 41-2.008, F.A.C., receive transportation disadvantaged funds and who, from a total system approach, can perform more effectively and more efficiently their own transportation under those conditions not covered in Rule 41-2.015, F.A.C. The Coordination Contract shall include the requirements of reporting, insurance, safety, and other terms that apply equally to any transportation operator. The Coordination Contract may include information regarding joint utilization and cost arrangements for the provision of transportation services to and from the Community Transportation Coordinator.

VII. Cost/Revenue Allocation & Rate Structure Justification

A. Service Rates Summary & Rate Calculation Worksheets

The Cost Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure are determined by The Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged Rate Calculation Model. The Rate Calculation Model Worksheets are reviewed annually to determine Rate adjustments. Rate changes are calculated annually by changes to the level of service, expenditures, and revenues. The Rate Calculation Model Worksheets are included.

SERVICE RATES SUMMARY

Big Bend Transit Inc,

Gadsden County Coordinated Transportation System

Effective: July 1, 2026

TYPE OF SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED	UNIT (Passenger Mile or Trip)	COST PER UNIT
Ambulatory	Passenger Trip	$32.29
Wheelchair	Passenger Trip	$55.35

Quality Assurance

VIII. Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance Element contains the steps the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board will take to monitor and evaluate the services provided by or coordinated through the community transportation coordinator, based on the locally established service standards consistent with those of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Service standards are integral to the development and implementation of a quality transportation program and are intended to bring about uniform service provision in the coordinated system. The transportation disadvantaged coordinating board will annually evaluate the community transportation coordinator's compliance with the established service standards. The community transportation coordinator and any transportation operator from whom service is purchased or arranged by the community transportation coordinator shall adhere to Commission approved standards.

A. Coordinator Evaluation Process

Annually, the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board evaluates the community transportation coordinator to ensure quality of service is being obtained and that it is being provided in the most cost effective, efficient, unduplicated and unfragmented manner. The transportation disadvantaged coordinating board makes a recommendation to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. The Apalachee Regional Planning Council reviews the evaluation and the recommendation of the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board and recommends to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged the designation of the community transportation coordinator for the next fiscal year.

The evaluation of the coordinator is conducted utilizing the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged approved format. A copy of the most recent coordinator evaluation follows.

The transportation disadvantaged coordinating board has agreed to not evaluate any area of service delivery that was recently evaluated by a purchasing/sponsoring agency or the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. The board will appraise the results of the reviews and, if satisfactory, the coordinating board will incorporate the results into their evaluation.

B. Coordinator Monitoring Procedures of Operators and Coordination Contractors

The coordinator is responsible for evaluating its operators and coordination contractors to ensure contractual compliance. The evaluation is done on a periodic basis depending on the needs and requirements of the coordinator. A comprehensive annual evaluation is to include compliance with the System Safety Program Plan, locally approved standards, Commission standards, annual operating data, and insurance requirements. The same criteria used to evaluate the coordinator will be used annually to evaluate the operators.

C. Coordination Contract Evaluation Criteria

The same criteria used to evaluate the coordinator will be used annually to evaluate the coordination contractors. The evaluation results will be provided to the transportation disadvantaged coordinating board to determine whether the issuance or continuation of a coordination contract will be the most cost-effective and efficient utilization of local state, or federal dollars.

D. Planning Agency Evaluation Process

The transportation disadvantaged coordinating board will participate and assist the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in its quality assurance review of the planning agency.

LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD ANNUAL REVIEW
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
REVIEW PERIOD: FY 25-26

CTC Being Reviewed Big Bend Transit, Inc.

Review Date 03/19/26

General Information

Big Bend Transit, Inc was designated as the CTC for Gadsden County for Fiscal Years July 1, 2022-June 30, 2027. The CTC is a private non-profit organization, operating as a sole source provider in a rural area.

Findings and Recommendations

Compliance with Chapter 427, F.S.	Area of Noncompliance: None
Compliance with Rule 41-2, F.A.C.	Area of Noncompliance: None Suggestion: Continue to improve on reducing the number of no-shows. No shows are between 1.5% - 2%, an improvement from 2% – 2.5% the previous year, and an even greater improvement from 2.5% – 3% the year prior to the previous year.
Commission Standards and Local Standards	Area of Noncompliance: None
On-Site Observation of the System	Area of Noncompliance: None
Rider/Beneficiary Survey Summary	Area of Noncompliance: None
Contractor Survey Summary	Area of Noncompliance: None
Purchasing Agency Survey Summary	Area of Noncompliance: None
Level of Cost – Worksheet 1	Area of Noncompliance: None
Level of Competition – Worksheet 2	Area of Noncompliance: None
Level of Coordination – Worksheet 3	Area of Noncompliance: None
Status Report Follow-Up From Last Review	Area of Noncompliance: None

Report completed by: Austin Britt, LCB/ARPC staff

Approved by the LCB: March 19, 2026