



NEWS RELEASE



Florida Public Transportation Association Elects New Board and Names Executive Committee

TALLAHASSEE, FL – November 7, 2011 – The Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) is very pleased to announce that the following individuals have been newly elected to serve leadership roles on its Board of Directors.

Chair: Ron Garrison, Executive Director of the award winning StarMetro transit agency in Tallahassee, was unanimously elected as Chair of the Board of Directors. Mr. Garrison has worked in both the public and private mass transit sectors for the past 22 years after serving his country as a naval intelligence officer. His leadership since 2005 at StarMetro has been highly regarded by his peers on the board of the FPTA, whose members include every transit agency in Florida

Vice-Chair: Tim Garling was named Vice-Chair. Mr. Garling currently directs Broward County Transit, an agency of the Broward County Commission with a fleet of 300 buses, an operating budget of \$115 million and a workforce of nearly 1,000 employees. Garling brings close to 30 years of experience in the transportation industry and a wealth of bus and rail operations experience to the board.

Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Deigl is President/CEO at the Senior Resource Association of Indian River County which operates GoLine, the county's public transit system. Under Ms. Deigl's leadership, GoLine has increased ridership by over 300% in just the last three years providing 900,000 trips in a community of only 140,000. Ms. Deigl has recently helped lead FPTA efforts to rebrand itself and communicate the many benefits of public transportation to Floridians.

Past Chair: Anthony Beckford, Executive Director of Sarasota County Area Transit, steps down as Chair, but remains an integral part of the FPTA Executive Committee. Under Mr. Beckford's leadership, the FPTA has become even more well known in Florida and has won the active support of tens of thousands of Floridians with the IM4Transit.org campaign.

Public Transportation benefits all Floridians because it creates jobs, gets people to work, it's green, important to our Florida's tourism industry, provides an alternative to traffic congestion, and helps America's energy independence. Most trips on transit are taken to and from jobs.

The Florida Public Transportation Association is a nonprofit association whose members include all 31 public transit agencies in Florida, as well as interested citizens and businesses. The FPTA acts as a collective voice in promoting the recognition, use, expansion and enhancement of public transportation in the state of Florida. The transit industry in Florida employs tens of thousands of Floridians, transports almost 300 million riders a year, and creates billions of dollars per year in annual economic activity.

For more information visit FloridaTransit.org

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