

Express Bus in Tampa Bay Express Lanes

Purpose

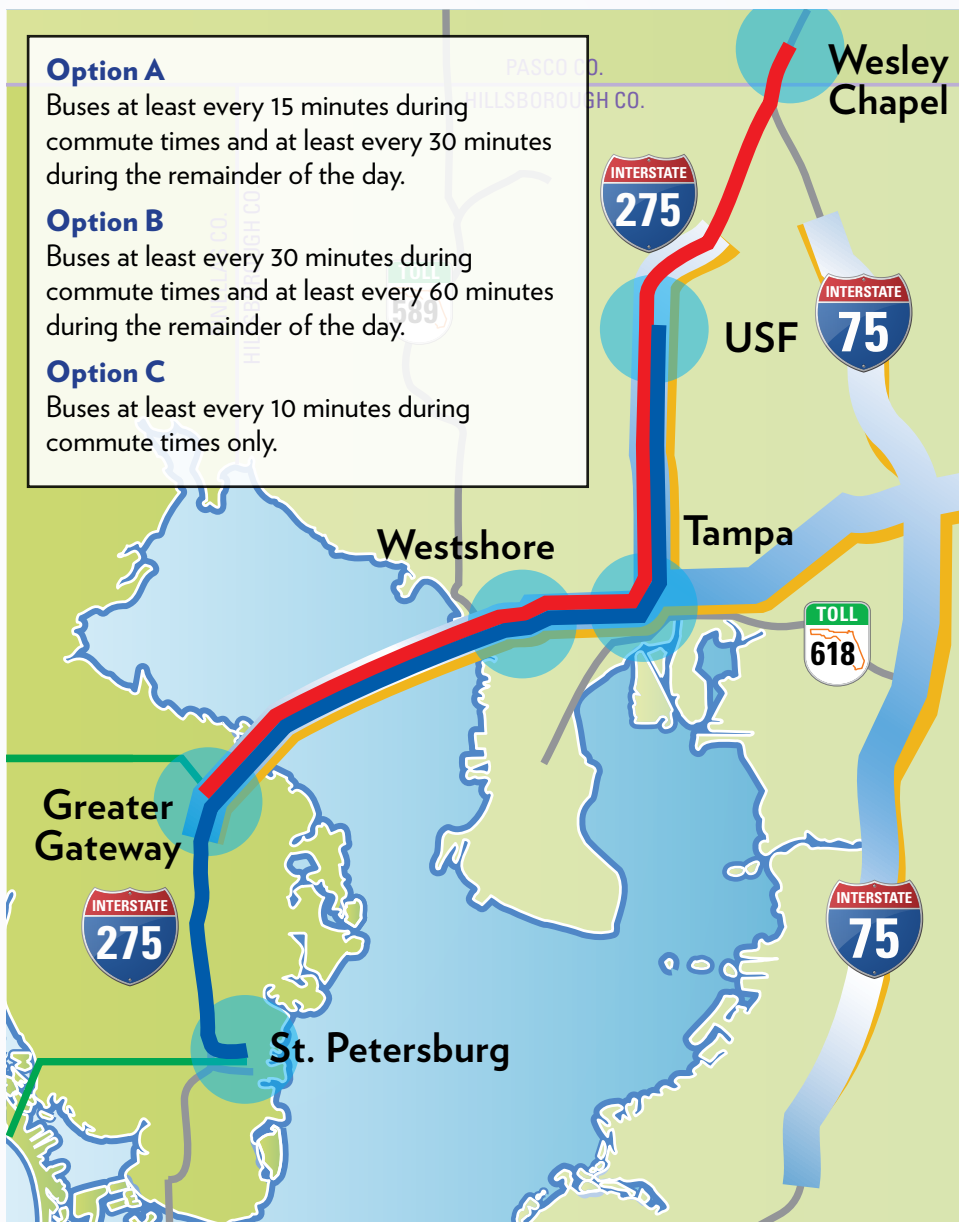
The Express Bus in Tampa Bay Express Lanes Study evaluated potential premium express bus service operating within proposed tolled interstate express lanes. The study goals include providing regional, long-distance service that quickly moves commuters between key destinations, and increasing the overall capacity of the interstate. This study also looked at the feasibility of providing regional transit service to beaches, business districts, and multimodal centers in Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties.

Corridor Description

The proposed corridor includes I-275 and I-75 express lanes, connecting Wesley Chapel, the University of South Florida, Downtown Tampa, Westshore, the Greater Gateway area, and Downtown St. Petersburg. The express bus will operate on the proposed tolled express lanes once they are completed.

Recommendation

The Study recommendation (shown to the right) was identified following several rounds of technical analysis and direction from agency leaders. Riders will access the bus at six stations (shown as light blue circles). The recommendation also includes overlapping service (shown as the red and blue alignments) in the areas with the most riders. Local transit connections to Pinellas County beaches are shown in green. Three service options (Options A, B, and C described in inset).



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What is Premium Express Bus service?

Premium express bus is a regional, long-distance commuter service that would use the proposed tolled express lanes, once they are constructed, to avoid traffic congestion. Express buses would access park-and-ride lots and transit stations with ticket vendors and seamless connections to local buses.

What amenities will the Express Bus have?

Premium express bus service will use the latest in bus technology and design. Buses will be equipped with internet access and comfortable seating for longer trips.

How often will it run?

There are three options. Buses will run during peak commute times and pick up riders between every 10 to 30 minutes. During the remainder of the day, two options recommend running buses every 30 to 60 minutes with evening and limited weekend service.

How would I get to it?

Riders will be able to use Pasco County Public Transit (PCPT), Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART), and Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) and transfer to the Express Bus, or drive to the nearest station and park.

What are the benefits?

Premium express bus provides regional, long-distance service that moves commuters quickly between key regional destinations. Benefits are realized through the use of the proposed tolled express lanes, once they are constructed, to avoid traffic congestion.

How was the study accomplished?

This study identified the recommended express bus options through a three-step technical screening process which looked at the following:

- Fastest routes between key destinations
- Best station locations
- General cost and feasibility to construct
- General cost to operate the service
- Opportunities for partnerships

Who has been involved?

This study was conducted through a funding partnership between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Tampa Bay Express

Lanes, and the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Additional direction is provided by the Pinellas and Pasco County MPOs. Throughout the study process, the team also coordinated with a variety of stakeholders such as PCPT, HART, PSTA, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority, and community leaders.

CONTACT

Lee Royal, AICP
Government Liaison Administrator
FDOT, District 7

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, Florida 33612
Phone: 813.975.6427
Email: lee.royal@dot.state.fl.us

