



**Project Number**

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# Methodology for Linking Greenways and Trails with Public Transportation in Florida

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**Current Situation**

Connections between public transportation services and public trails and greenways could extend the transit service area outward and enable pedestrians and bicyclists to access areas to which they might not otherwise travel due to traffic congestion, physical barriers, or safety concerns. In order to accomplish this, the FDOT Transit Office is developing a methodology to evaluate how to provide better intermodal connections between public transportation and trails.

**Research Objectives**

In a series of four tasks, University of South Florida researchers developed a methodology for evaluating existing local public transportation networks for improved connection to the existing trails and greenway system.

**Project Activities**

In tasks 1 and 2, the researchers reviewed the available literature and surveyed case studies in Orlando, Washington, D.C., Portland, OR, and Houston-Galveston, TX. From the literature and case studies, the researchers identified methodologies currently used to implement trail-to-transit connections. In a separate memorandum, the researchers provided details of the case studies, including a description of the transit and trail systems, who initiated the plan or study and their motivation for doing so, and the methodologies and observations about them based upon several criteria. These results were applied in task 4.

In task 3, the researchers focused on the selected study area: Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. Several information sources were used to develop a thorough understanding of existing and planned greenways and trails, sidewalks, and on-street bicycle facilities in the study area. Maps were developed to illustrate the demographic characteristics of existing and potential travelers. The research team interviewed representatives from agencies concerned with bicycle and pedestrian planning, transit planning, parks and recreation, and others.

In task 4, project methodologies were defined based on the results of tasks 1, 2, and 3, and several potential trail-to-transit sites were chosen in the study area for more in-depth analysis. Researchers developed a template to help users identify issues relating to trail-to-transit connections and possible improvements. Together, tasks 3 and 4 form a process that agencies can follow to improve trail-to-transit connections.

**Project Benefits**

Better connections between public transit and trails can enhance Florida communities for citizens and visitors, creating more recreational and economic opportunities throughout the state.

*For more information, please see [dot.state.fl.us/research-center](http://dot.state.fl.us/research-center)*



*Several trails converge near the Rosa Parks bus terminal in Gainesville.*