

About the RTS Bus Stop Optimization

Why did RTS conduct a bus stop optimization analysis?

Our goal is to make it easy for our customers to enjoy their ride. In Monroe County, we have about 3,400 RTS bus stops. Over time, the usage of some bus stops has changed, and some bus stop locations aren't in ideal locations nor convenient for customers.

We also know that in comparison to other communities of similar size, RTS has more stops per mile. While this may sound beneficial, too many stops can mean longer rides and delays for our customers.

How was the analysis conducted?

RTS partnered with engineering firms Passero Associates and Kimely-Horn to conduct an in-depth review of our bus stops, which lead to suggestions for improvement. We conducted the analysis from January to July 2014 by:

- Taking inventory of all of our stops, paying special attention to the condition of the bus stops.
- Mapping the number of bus stops per mile on each bus route and in each direction of travel.
- Considering key factors, such as customer use statistics, distance between stops, and if stops headed to or from the city were paired with one another.
- Reviewing transit industry best practices and guidelines.

What did RTS learn?

After conducting our analysis, we found:

- On some routes, stops are placed too close together, which can slow down travel time.
- The conditions of some bus stops are not ideal for our customers, especially in bad weather. For example, if a stop isn't paved, it may become muddy or snow covered, and customers may wait in the road.