Jason Harris

Executive Leader | County Level Leader

Dynamic and Visionary Executive with a Decade of Experience in Public Transportation Leadership

Results-Driven Executive Leader with a track record of success in optimizing transportation services for public organizations. Adept at driving operational excellence, designing organizational functions, and implementing transformative strategies in the public transit sector. Excels in enterprise-level impact by delivering guidance that saves time and money, maximizes ROI, builds stakeholder confidence, and improves overall performance.

SKILLS, STRENGTHS, & HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Leadership • Strategic Planning • Budgeting & Financial Planning • Compliance & Risk Management

Stakeholder Relations • Project Management • Process Improvement • Public Policy & Administration • County Planning

TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY: Extensive experience in partnering with county leadership as a peer and mentor to help drive program excellence while vetting new platforms, adding on new services, and developing optimizations for the delivery of service.

EXECUTIVE COLLABORATOR: Having head project teams and worked with cross-functional partners to produce county-wide solutions that address organizational needs in fast-paced, decisive, and deadline-driven environments.

EXCELLENT COMMUNICATOR: Highly skilled at engaging with diverse groups of employees and senior stakeholders by leveraging active listening to effectively understand and conceptualize key organizational topics to drive understanding.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT	Bradenton, FL
TRANSIT DIVISION MANAGER	June 2022 – Present

Exercise direct oversight for the daily operation of the public transit service within Manatee County. Manage, plan, and organize Transportation Department activities, including the actions of 150+ staff, to ensure that the riding public receives safe, reliable, and quality service across the more than 100 vehicles in the county's fleet.

Select Accomplishments & Responsibilities:

- Lead strategies that improve the daily fixed-route and mobility operations, including scheduling, shift bidding, safety concerns, service reliability, facilities' cleanliness, and the overall quality and effectiveness of service.
- Set goals and objectives, as well as performance and financial standards, as measured by the organization's scorecard performance management and benchmarking program.
- Prioritize and assign work, conduct performance evaluations, enforce policies and procedures, make hiring decisions, and determine courses of action or make recommendations for disciplinary actions or adverse work status changes.
- Oversee dispatch, radio room, scheduling, and road supervision activities of the Transportation Supervisors to include distributing workplan procedures and schedules.
- Oversee and coordinate staff training and certifications in conjunction with the Safety, Security, & Training and Human Resources Departments, to include drills and special refresher training or certification courses as needed.
- Ensure all required reporting, documenting, and filing is completed as required by Manatee County Government, state, and federal record-keeping rules, regulations, and procedures.
- Work with internal and external groups including other transit operations divisions, fleet maintenance, facilities maintenance, scheduling, planning, finance, information technology, human resources, customers, and contractors.
- Mitigate high-profile service delivery issues with board members, elected officials, other agencies, and the public with immediate, prompt, and resolute effect.

SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS

DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

June 2019 – May 2022

Sarasota, FL

Managed the operations of the Transportation Department for the county school system. Provided leadership and worked with stakeholders to facilitate, design, and implement county-wide initiatives, projects, and infrastructure needs to meet the operational demands of the Transportation logistics program.

Select Accomplishments & Responsibilities:

- Oversaw a fleet comprised of 325 vehicles and 300+ staff led all aspects of fleet management, transit operations, and the implementation of new Transportation technologies to improve service.
- Leveraged financial acumen to manage an \$18M operating budget, completed all budget planning, review, and presentation; focused efforts on avoiding cost overruns.
- Built out and led a safe driver program that provided additional training that aided drivers in remaining safe on the road and being proactive in the safety of the riders.
- Recognized by both school and county leadership during 1st year in the role with the Rookie County Administrator of the Year award for 2019.

MANATEE COUNTY SCHOOLS	Bradenton, FL
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	October 2015 – June 2019

Provided leadership, management, and guidance to ensure the safe and effective transportation of Manatee County Schools students to and from school and school related activities. Provided direction and leadership to establish operating parameters, ensured sufficient resources, and motivated high performance within the Department of Transportation.

Select Accomplishments & Responsibilities:

- Established a positive work culture in the Department of Transportation by establishing processes and procedures that ensure the department's 350+ employees receive the proper tools and resources needed to successfully execute job duties.
- Drove Strategic planning, completed budget development and planning, led routing software implementations, and created and implemented Transportation procedures and processes.
- Managed Vehicle Maintenance leadership team, oversaw FLDOE and DOT compliance, negotiated with outside vendors of contracts, and built a successful relationship with the local union.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

August 2012 – October 2015

Provided Leadership for Transportation and Vehicle Maintenance services, including leading the routing team to establish efficient school bus routes.

Select Accomplishments & Responsibilities:

• Leveraged data driven decision making and insight to develop the multimillion-dollar budget, create staff incentive programs, and lead School Bus purchasing efforts.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Public Administration, University of West Florida, 2020

Public Administration Leadership Certificate, University of West Florida, 2018

B.S. Business Administration, University of South Florida, 2005

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate, University of South Florida, 2022

Inclusive and Ethical Leadership Certificate, University of South Florida, 2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

President-Elect, Florida Association for Pupil Transportation (FAPT), July 2016 – June 2022

Member, Florida Public Transit Association (FPTA), June 2022 – Present