

# Cold hard transportation facts on a cold morning

The main topic at today's TMA meeting is the "Regional Transit Feasibility Plan Study". Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is being considered. The very first question you should ask is: *what is the natural demand for bus service in the TMA area?* To answer that question, consider the latest available data (Q1 of FY2018):

Hillsborough - down 12% from the same period last year, down 24% from 3 years ago. The ridership is plunging, despite the "Mission Max" route realignment last October.

Pinellas - down 8% from last year, down 22% from 3 years ago. No routes were cut.

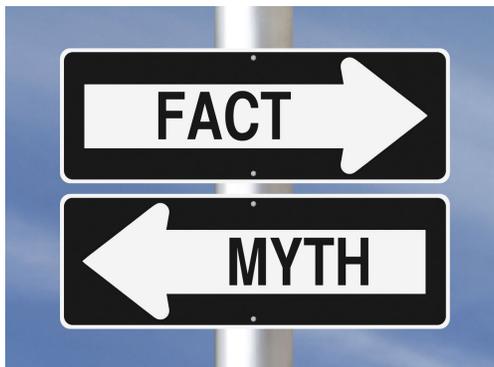
Pasco - the objective of a 2013 plan was to "Double ridership from 1 million in 2013 to 2 million in 2023". Ridership is falling and currently well below 1 million per year.

Some will argue for local rail.

SunRail in Orlando is local rail - it's ridership fell 8% in its first two full years of operation, despite huge giveaways. Ridership now averages a paltry 3,400 passengers per day. That's 1,700 people per day going somewhere using rail, and 1,700 returning home, not enough to make a dent in the congestion on Orlando area roads. The billions being spent on Sunrail should've been used on roads.



Which brings us to today: local leaders must be skeptical of ridership estimates and cost estimates. They should **reject transit myths like "transit reduces traffic congestion"** or "passenger rail is better for the environment". Those myths are simply. Not. True.



**Welcome to the transportation revolution!** Uber and other ridesharing is killing traditional taxi, and greatly reducing the demand for transit. Ridesharing is even reducing the demand for ambulance service.

End the corruption and start meeting transportation demands in a cost-effective manner. Jack Latvala can't hurt you anymore, nor can he deliver pork. Follow the data and take rail off the table for good.

**Question all your assumptions about transportation.** As John Paul Getty once said: in times of rapid change, experience could be your worst enemy.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME !!**