

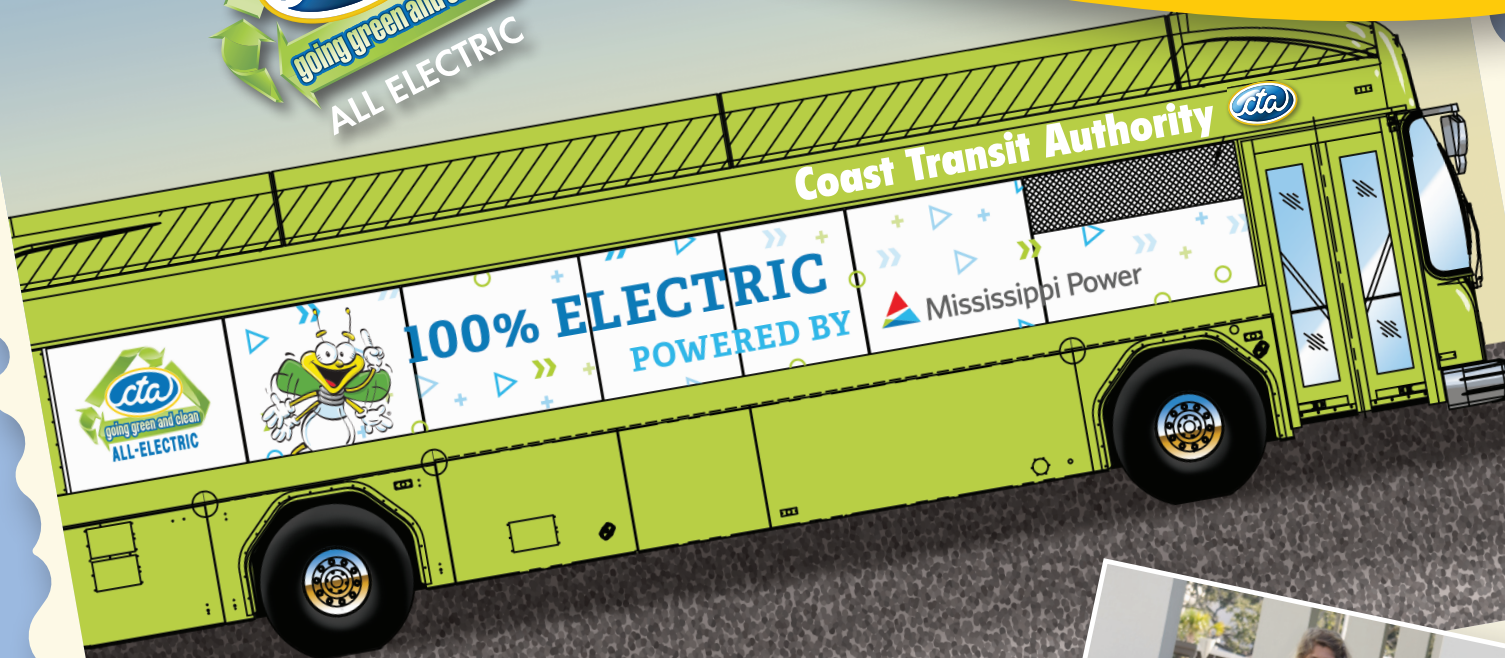


# Coast Transit Authority

*We Keep the Gulf Coast Rolling for You!*

*2021 Semi Annual Newsletter*

**First Transit Battery Electric Bus in MISSISSIPPI!** *page 3*



*"I am so thrilled to know the steppingstones are back safely where they belong,"*  
said **Charlene O'Neil**.



**Love for the Library.** *Charlene's story, see page 6*

## From the Director



### Welcome Aboard,

With the negative impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic, CTA is continually working toward the revitalization of the economy and our coastal community. Coast Transit Authority welcomes new riders and is glad to have returning customers.

CTA is committed to supporting our economy by providing clean, safe, and reliable work transportation. As well as, tourist & attractions transit, and continuing to grow regular ridership. CTA's Gulfport Hub is now open and proud to be part of your daily route to enhancing your transit experience.

Coming soon, CTA will gain a battery electric bus (BEB). The new BEB or electric bus will be the first of its kind in Mississippi's public transit service! Public transportation doesn't only save you money, especially with the current inflation of gas prices, it also helps to reduce your carbon footprint. CTA wants to encourage our coastal community to think green and ride clean.

Check out our updated Riders' Guides and Attractions Guide to learn how to ride with CTA and explore the Gulf Coast. Learn the routes and commit to a greener, safer, ride by commuting to work, play, or for every day transportation.

CTA is always working to improve the service and experience for our riders. We work for you, so I encourage you to call us any time to let us know what we can do to improve your individual experience. Reach us by phone at 228-896-8080, visit our website [www.coasttransit.com](http://www.coasttransit.com), or connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Thanks for riding with us.

Kevin Coggin, Executive Director, Coast Transit Authority

*We Keep the Gulf Coast  
Rolling For You!*



## Coast Transit Authority

For more information  
call 866-206-8843  
or go to [www.coasttransit.com](http://www.coasttransit.com).

Para más información, llame  
al 866-206-8843 o visite la página  
[www.coasttransit.com](http://www.coasttransit.com).  
333 DeBuys Rd., Gulfport MS 39507



## CTA Employee of the Year

### The 2020 Employee of the Year is Gwendolyn Toncrey

Gwen has been with CTA since August 1, 2011. She began her career here as a Driver and then moved to be a Dispatcher on December 1, 2019. Gwen received Employee of the Month for November 2020, making her eligible for Employee of the Year.

She earned Employee of the Year 2020 for helping drivers stay on task, being knowledgeable at her job, and for being pleasant to work with.



# FIRST TRANSIT BATTERY ELECTRIC BUS IN MISSISSIPPI!

Arriving to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the first of its kind in the state, will be the Battery Electric Bus (BEB) used for public transit.

Coast Transit Authority is readying the newest addition to its fleet with a pure electric bus. It will be right here on the Mississippi Coast and will allow for less pollution and more energy-efficient rides. Funding to purchase the electric bus was made possible with grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Mississippi Power, and CTA.

Gillig, the 131-year-old American manufacturer of the electric bus, is committed to connecting communities, eliminating congestion, and contributing to a greener environment. The Electric Bus will play a leading role in the operation of low or zero-emission vehicles. Offering city logistics is more than just vehicles, and CTA

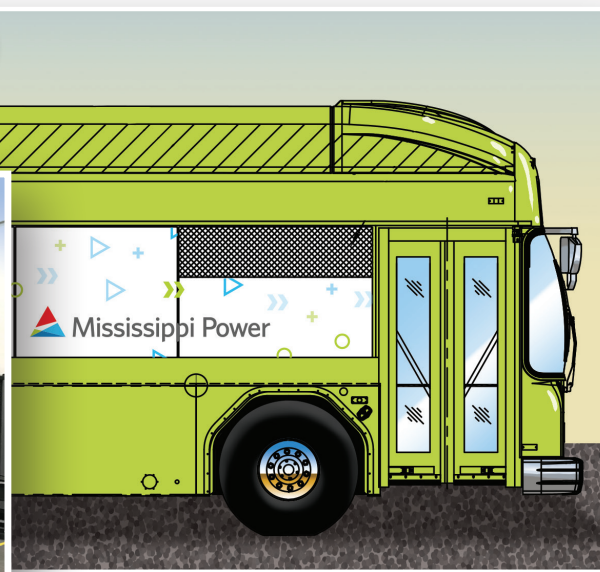
and Mississippi Power are ready to help provide a solution for the community looking to reduce their carbon footprint.

CTA is anticipating delivery and plans to have the Battery Electric Bus on Route 34 Pass Road in January 2022. The 35-foot, electric bus will offer a quieter, smoother ride for its 43 passengers, as there will be no loud engine. A low platform will make it easier for passengers to board. A bike rack will be installed on the electric bus, like other CTA buses allotting for a minimum of two bikes to be stored, inviting greener commuting with the Bike &

Bus program. With an electric green color and “Louie the Lightning Bug” inviting you to hop on, you won’t be able to miss this bus!

CTA has been proactive in promoting a greener environment and has been using alternate energy vehicles since 2003. CTA currently operates with a fleet of propane and Hybrid Electric buses. These buses run on Fixed-Route and Demand Response routes, so we invite you to hop aboard a CTA bus and promote a greener ride.

*“Coast Transit Authority is excited to introduce the first Battery Electric Bus in the state,”* said Executive Director Kevin Coggin. *“This bus represents cutting edge technology in the transit industry focused on energy self-sufficiency and a cleaner environment.”*

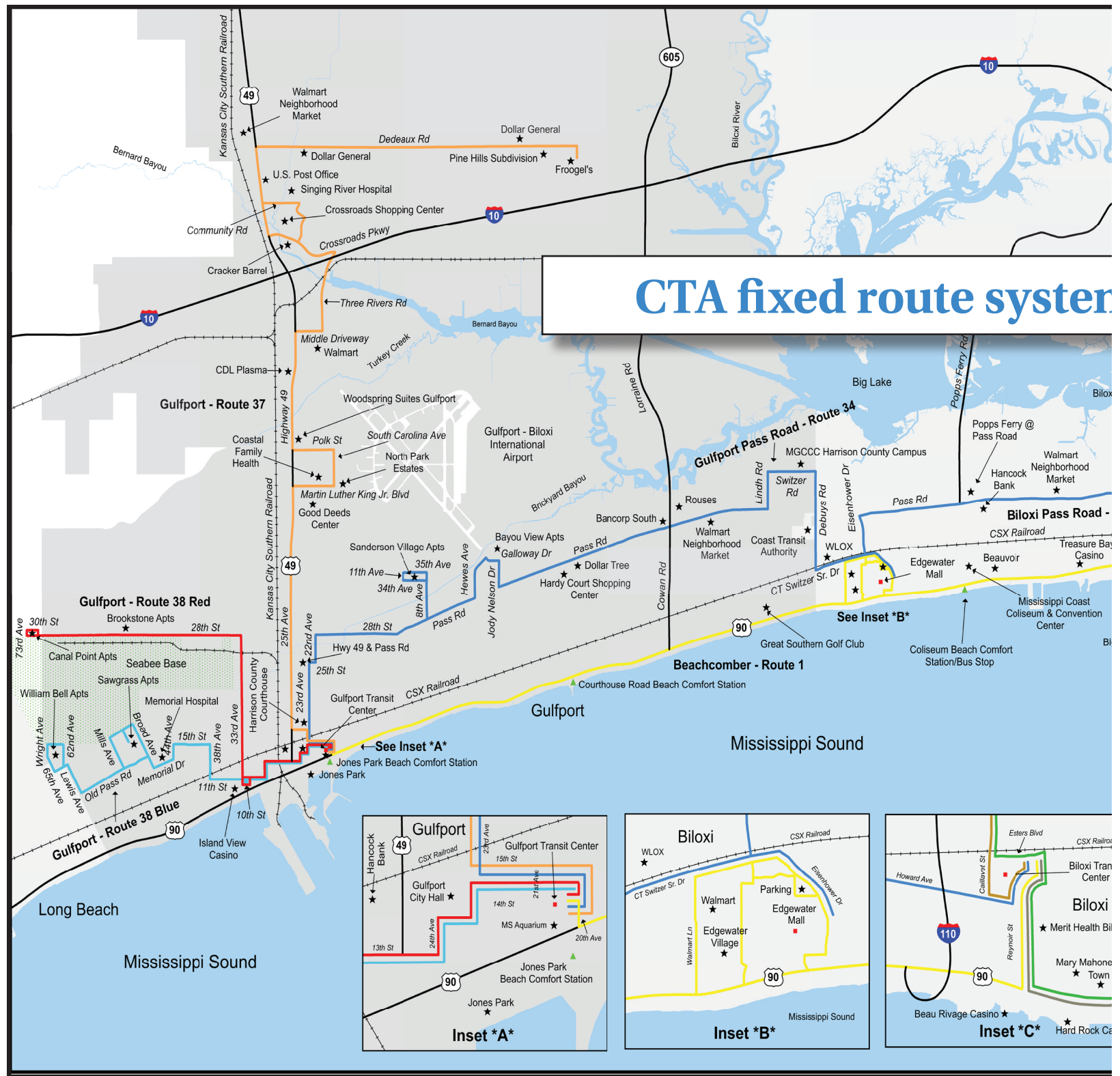


CTA’s Bike & Bus service is geared to give you a better ride! Whether you’re a serious bicycle commuter or a recreational cyclist, these front-mounted bike racks are readily accessible on all fixed route buses,

Beachcomber and Casino Hopper trolleys. Each CTA Bike & Bus rack is equipped to hold a minimum of two bikes.

It’s a healthy, economical and environmentally friendly way to commute

to wherever you need to go. Bikes and buses are both great ways to ride. And, best of all, you can bring your bike with you at no additional cost.



# CTA fixed route system

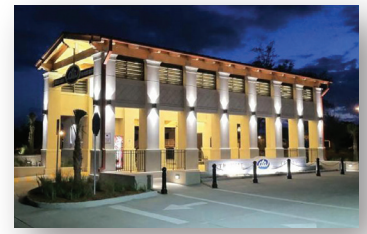
## CTA Transit Centers



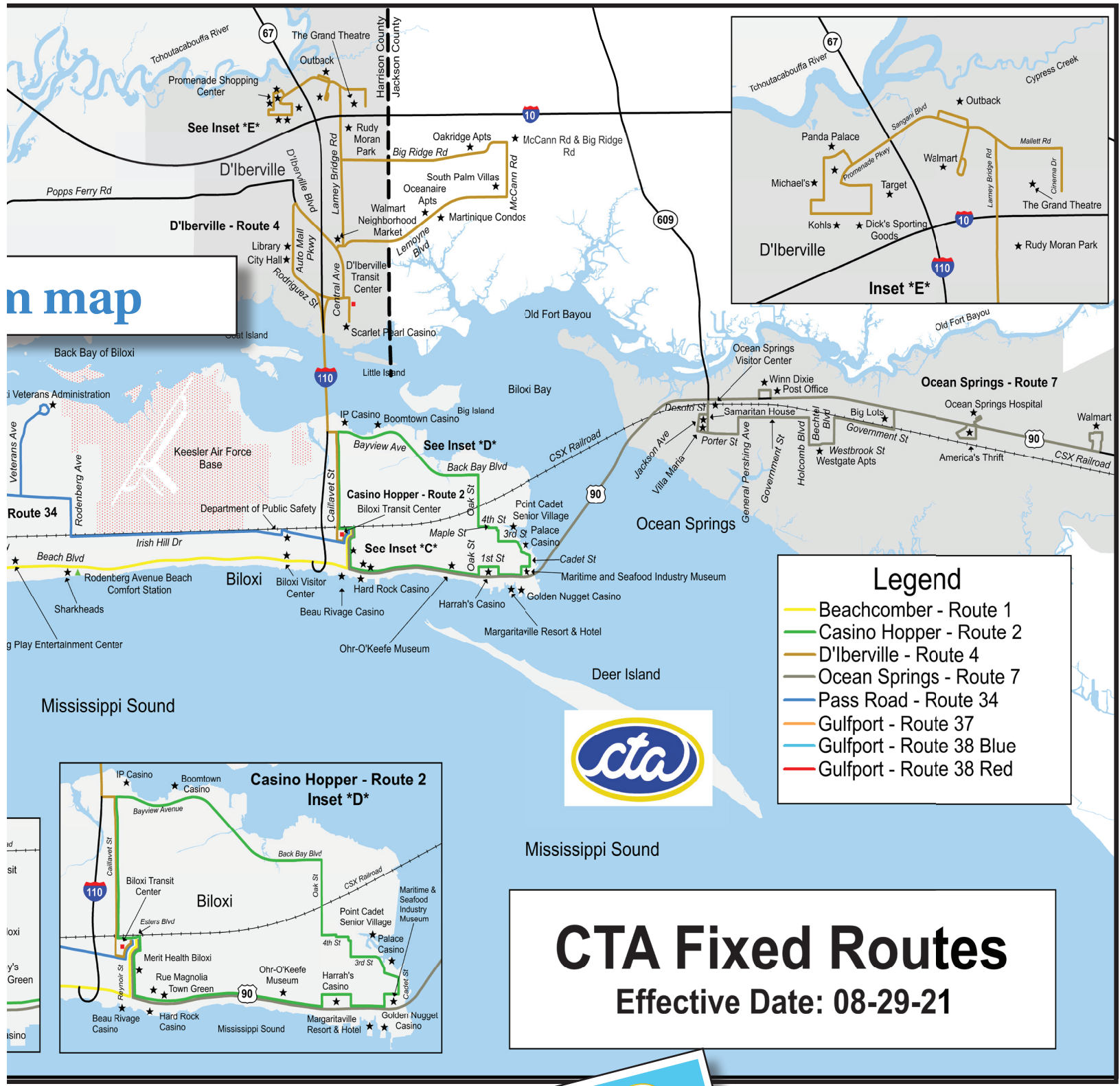
**Biloxi Transit Center**  
 820 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
*Centro de Tránsito de Biloxi*  
 Ubicado el Boulevard Martin Luther King Jr.



**Gulfport Transit Center**  
 1401 20th Street  
*Centro de Tránsito de Gulfport*  
 Ubicado en la Calle No. 15, frente a el edificio de la Corte Federal.



**D'Iberville Transit Center**  
 10045 Gorenflo Road  
*Centro de Tránsito de D'Iberville*  
 Ubicado en la Calle Gorenflo.



n map

**Legend**

- Beachcomber - Route 1
- Casino Hopper - Route 2
- D'Iberville - Route 4
- Ocean Springs - Route 7
- Pass Road - Route 34
- Gulfport - Route 37
- Gulfport - Route 38 Blue
- Gulfport - Route 38 Red

**CTA Fixed Routes**  
Effective Date: 08-29-21

**Beach Bus Stations**



CTA has five Beach Bus Stations and are located along Hwy 90 in Harrison County. These comfort stations house restroom facilities, bike racks and bus shelters.



Pick up a **FREE** copy of the *Riders' Guide* at any CTA Transit Center, on any CTA bus, or view online at [CoastTransit.com](http://CoastTransit.com).

# The NEW Gulfport Transit Center Welcomes You!



Jones Park, and surrounding businesses and attractions.

CTA is still improving areas, such as re-establishing the koi ponds, leasing the restaurant or retail spaces, and decorating. CTA is also working to bring back some of the library's iconic memories, with plans of incorporating bookshelves, displays, and artwork.



to use while enjoying the scenery of Jones Park and the beach. Want to host a meeting? The conference room is fully equipped

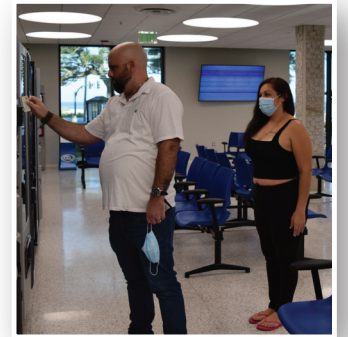
Renovations to the old Gulfport Library into the new Gulfport Transit Center Hub are complete. This \$10 million-dollar project is now on the historical registry. The CTA Gulfport Hub is a transfer point for all CTA buses and trolleys. The Hub supports the transportation needs of visitors to the Mississippi Aquarium,

Welcoming, a friendly-family environment, there is currently a play area for small children sponsored by Lynn Meadows, vending machines, a seating area, and a service desk. The Transit Center also offers free Wi-Fi for visitors



and ready for business. CTA invites you to park in the garage and use the Hub for your eating, reading, and meeting needs.

**For leasing or meeting information email [CTAinfo@coasttransit.com](mailto:CTAinfo@coasttransit.com).**



## LOVE FOR THE LIBRARY- Property Returned After 16 Years

Charlene Thomas O'Neil saved a piece of history for CTA's Gulfport Transit Center for 16 years. Juanita Press, Charlene's Aunt, created beautiful childhood memories of the Gulfport Library for Charlene. O'Neil shared how she remembered playing on the grand staircase and going to reading programs at the library. Aunt Niter (Juanita Press) taught Charlene to care for books and learn the Dewey Decimal Classification. Aunt Niter passed away in August 2021 from breast cancer.

"The library was my most favorite building in Downton Gulfport. . . it was the most beautiful building," Charlene remembers.

Like many, Hurricane Katrina devastated Charlene. The destruction of her memories and her favorite place in Gulfport led her to walk the property. With a hope that the library would also be restored, she salvaged three concrete, sand dollar-shaped steppingstones.



Hope finally turned into a vision when Coast Transit Authority invested \$10 million for the renovation of the building and preserving historic architecture. CTA working with Eley, Guild, Hardy Architects brought the building back to its grand stature.

Coast Transit Authority has repurposed the building as the new Transit Center. All these efforts resulted in the building now being recognized on the National Register of Historic Places.

Walking into the CTA Gulfport Transit Center, she was overcome with emotions. She remembered her aunt and all the time they spent together at the library. Charlene was impressed by the restoration after Hurricane Katrina and saw how the building looked after 16 years.

It was the serendipitous timing, with Charlene's Aunt being sick and the opening of the CTA Gulfport Transit Center, that moved her to visit the restored building. She connected with the Coast Transit Authority Office and arranged a pickup of the steppingstones. The sand dollar stones are now at home by the old koi ponds. CTA is bringing back the beautiful koi fish and envisions people using the steppingstones to peer into the ponds before walking into the Gulfport Transit Center.

Special thanks to Charlene Thomas O'Neil, for having hope and thinking of her community. . . especially, in times of destruction and again when grieving the loss of a loved one.

*\*Dedicated to Junita Press for sharing her love of the library and the community.*



# Let's Go Hopping!



## Take the Loop on the Casino Hopper Trolley

**Fare only \$1.50**

Monday thru Saturday, 5:30 AM–9:23 PM —  
Sunday, 8:30 AM–7:08 PM

The Coast Transit Casino Hopper provides scheduled bus service every 25 minutes, 7-days a week. Ride in comfort to casinos, attractions and businesses along Highway 90, Caillavet Street and Bayview Avenue. Connect with other routes at the Biloxi Transit Center.

**Just look for the green nostalgic trolley and hop aboard!**



For more information visit [www.CoastTransit.com](http://www.CoastTransit.com), call 866-206-8843 toll free, or come by our office at 333 Debuys Rd. in Gulfport.



### How to Hop to the Scarlet Pearl Casino

Take the D'Iberville Route 4 bus from the Biloxi Transit Center to the Scarlet Pearl Casino.

## Roll With Us and Move Your Message



Are you a business owner looking for a unique and effective way to get your message out? Coast Transit has several opportunities to market your business, and it's economical too! From rolling billboards on 29-ft hybrid bus, utilizing applied graphics, to exterior framed signs on fixed route buses and solar panel bus shelters, your message

will be seen by thousands of customers on a daily basis.

You can even advertise inside the buses with interior banner ads, rack cards and video ads. Your message will be seen by first-time riders, frequent riders and the local community as our buses roll along the Coast.

For more information about our advertising options, call our Advertising Representative at 228.896.8080 ext. 225 or visit [coasttransit.com/advertise-with-us](http://coasttransit.com/advertise-with-us).

## Looking for Your Bus? Yes, we have an app for that!



### 1 Download the FREE RouteShout app.

Use your favorite application store or visit us at [coasttransit.com](http://coasttransit.com) for a direct link.

### 2 Open your new app.

Under agency, scroll to 'Mississippi' and select 'Coast Transit Authority' as your transit agency.

### 3 Select your Route and Bus Stop.

Check arrival times... and you are on your way!

RouteShout is a free mobile app that gives you the current routes and real-time arrival information of every bus.

Use RouteShout to quickly and easily find your bus stops, routes and arrival times using your smart phone or other electronic device. Browse by location or search for stops by street name to see when the next bus will arrive. Frequently used stops may be saved as favorites for quick access later. Use this convenient information to plan trips and stay ahead of schedule changes or service disruptions.



Need more info? We'll be glad to help. Ask any driver, call 866-206-8843 or visit us at [coasttransit.com](http://coasttransit.com) to view our instructional video.



# Operating the Driving Forces for our Coastal Economy

## Coast Commuter

Vans bring people from four states to jobs right here on the Gulf Coast.



## Fixed Route

Our blue and white Clean Air Hybrid Electric buses connect the Gulf Coast community with seven convenient routes.



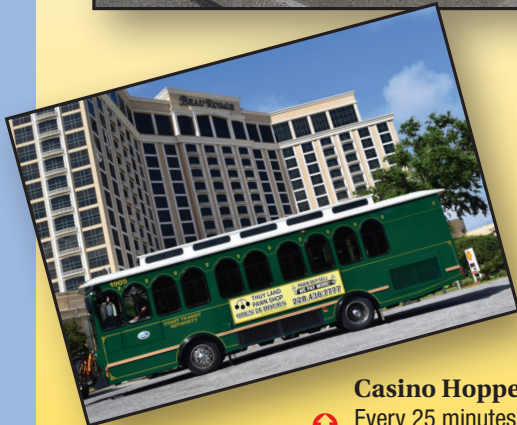
## Bike & Bus

Over 1,500 riders a month now take their bikes with them using our bike racks on the front of each CTA bus at no additional cost.



## Festival Hopper

This service provides transportation to the entertainment events scheduled for Jones Park in Gulfport when attendees park at the convenient CTA parking garage.



## Casino Hopper

Every 25 minutes, 7-days a week, the Casino Hopper stops at casinos, hotels and attractions along the Biloxi loop.



## Demand Response Service

ADA Paratransit PLUS is a non-emergency, curb-to-curb, countywide transportation service for people with disabilities.



## Beachcomber

Our high visibility trolley is the best way to view our beautiful Gulf Coast and enjoy the attractions it offers.



For more information call 866-206-8843 or go to [www.coasttransit.com](http://www.coasttransit.com).  
Para más información, llame al 866-206-8843 o visite la página [www.coasttransit.com](http://www.coasttransit.com).  
333 DeBuys Rd., Gulfport MS 39507



Like, follow, and keep up with us on social media



## Coast Transit Authority

We Keep the Gulf Coast Rolling for You!