

T

required on their federal Form 406 (which must be filed by all systems which receive federal funds). A boarding is an “unlinked” transit trip. In other words, if a patron gets on a bus, rides it to a transfer point and transfers to another bus or a rail car, that journey counts as two “part of a single one-way trip and probably involve only a single fare. The two combined segments, from origin to destination, constitute a single “linked” transit trip.

HART’s Form 406 reports approximately 8.4 million unlinked trips (boardings) for 1996. Transit planners often use a 305-day year to account for lower weekend use. By that standard, HART’s average daily transit boardings were approximately 27,500. HART’s linked trips are somewhat less—20,875 (constituting 0.6 percent of all regional trips).¹² The ratio of linked to unlinked transit trips is approximately 0.75—a figure we will need for subsequent analysis.

Census data show that in 1990 just two percent of Hillsborough County commuters used public transit—the same proportion as walked or worked at home. Some 79 percent of commuters drove alone while 14 percent carpooled.

¹² March 9, 1998 memorandum from Lucilla L. Ayer, Metropolitan Planning Organization Executive Director to MPO Commissioner Chris Hart.