BRATS 2.0



Lifestyle

The Independent, Wednesday, August 3, 1988 Page 1B

BRATS is important service to Baldwin County citizens

by Morgan Little

For some senior citizens, it's the only contact they have with others. And some have no other way to visit relatives, a doctor or

do vital shopping. It's the BRATS (Baldwin Rural Area Transportation System) bus service, which also has allowed some people to hold jobs who otherwise have no reliable way to get to work.

The state and county - funded bus service is now operating in Central Baldwin two days a week, Wednesdays and Fridays offering transportation and the "magic carpet"- almost private taxi is as near as a telephone.

Folks in Robertsdale, Loxley, Summerdale, Silverhill, Elsanor and Seminole may telephone the Robertsdale Senior Citizens Center-947-2360- to arrange to visit a relative, go to a beauty or barber shop, the courthouse or ci-

ty hall, grocery shopping or anywhere in the county from Lit-roof. tle River to Gulf Shores.

"We would like to know 24 hours in advance so we can plan the routes," states Rosie Broadus, transporation coordinator for Baldwin County

Mrs. Anna Belle Beverly, director of the Senior Center in Robertsdale, will arrange for those calling in a transportation need to be scheduled for pick-up and return home. The center also has a shortwave radio to communicate with the bus driver at all times.

At present, BRATS has seven buses operating in Baldwin from centers in Foley, Fairhope, Bay. Minette and Robertsdale.

The door-to-door service is funded by the Alabama State Highway Department and the Baldwin County Commission.

Actually the buses are large custom vans fitted with tops high

Robertsdale participates finanat the senior center with personnel to handle the telephone and

Ms. Broadus hopes that a fund drive in September will provide enough funds to expand the service.

Some of the elderly freely offer statements such as this, "Most of the time. I never see another living soul until I see you," says BRATS driver Elaine Gill, who adds there are many older persons who have no one to take them places where they both need and just want to go.

Mrs. Gill says she often hears conversations among the passengers telling of the lonliness they experience between trips on the bus." The bus gives them a enough that riders can stand up chance to get out, eat out, get

around town and visit a while."

Then there are the ones who use cially by providing a headquarters the service on a regular basisthose who have no other reliable way to travel-to get to a job to earn a living.

"We have at least 10 people right now who could not work because no transportation was available to them," Mrs. Gill said.

people who need a way to work and then back home," Ms.

working but have poor and unreliable transportation. "Some miss whole and parts of days just because they can't get there," she

"Having this service available makes productive citizens out of persons who otherwise couldn't be because of lack of transportation," states Robertsdale Mayor George "And we have a waiting list for Pervy Thames.

He pointed out that the BRATS service has given dozens

without their heads hitting the medical attention or just walk Broadus added. Some are already of elderly folks a renewed feeling of independence." They don't have to feel guilty about their children having to take off from work to take them to the doctor or any other place they need or want to go," Thames said.

Oh, yes, Ms. Broadus and Mrs. Gill say they've taken a lot of kidding about the "BRATS Bus Stop" signs around the county, mostly from folks who want to know why the "mean kids" have their own bus service.



Expanded bus service

(BRATS) has expanded in central Baldwin, operating out of the Robertsdale Senior Citizens Center Wednesday and Friday, Robertsdale Mayor George Pervy Thames, left, cooperated with

The Baldwin Rural Area Transportation system BRATS by providing space, telephones and personel for scheduling door-to-door transportation. Others from left are county BRATS coordinator Rosie Brodus: driver Elaine Gill; and center director Anna Belle Be rerly. (Photo by Morgan Little)



THE CRITICAL QUESTION:

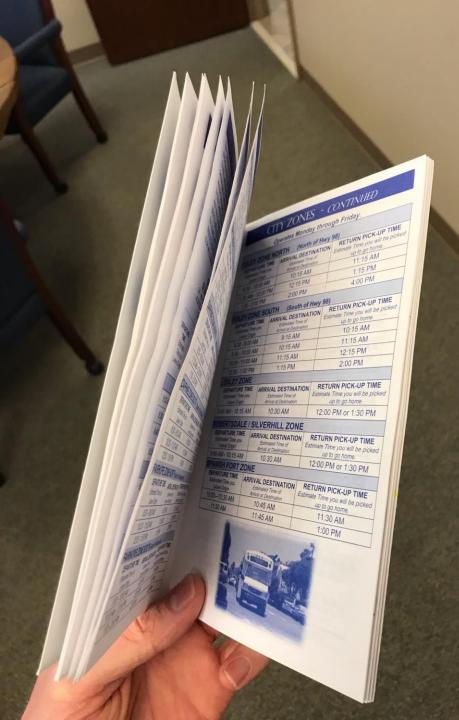
DO WE STILL HAVE A SERVICE THAT PEOPLE WANT TO USE?

AS CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS CHANGE, SO MUST OUR SERVICE.

BRATS 1.0



Can BRATS take me there?



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BRATS 1.0



Can BRATS take me there?







24 HOURS

























2020 EXPECTATIONS:

GRUBHUB











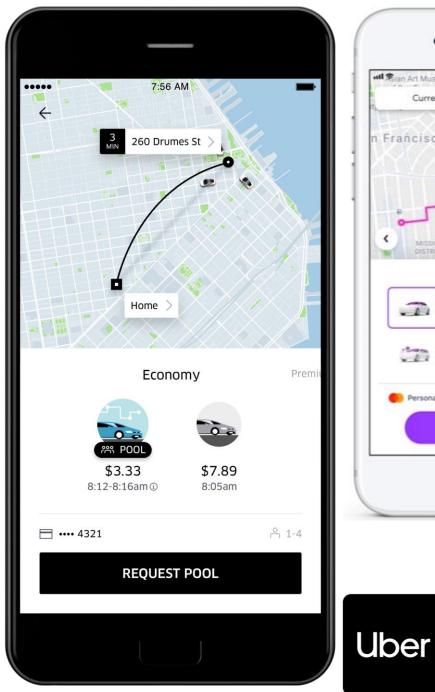


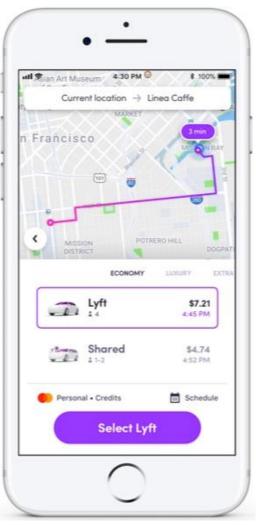


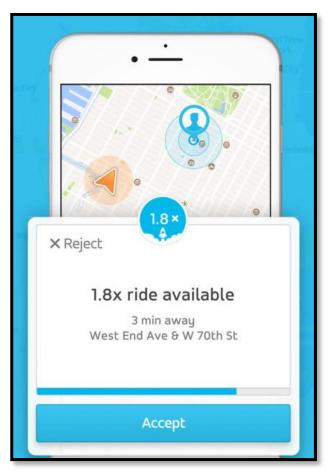
















Ride-Hailing Companies

BRATS 2.0



Objectives:

- 1. Serve existing passengers
- 2. Expand to new passengers

The future of public transit in Baldwin County

The world's first rural mobility on demand (MOD) deployment

Fully replacing current fixed routes and pre-scheduled zone service with more flexible options for riders



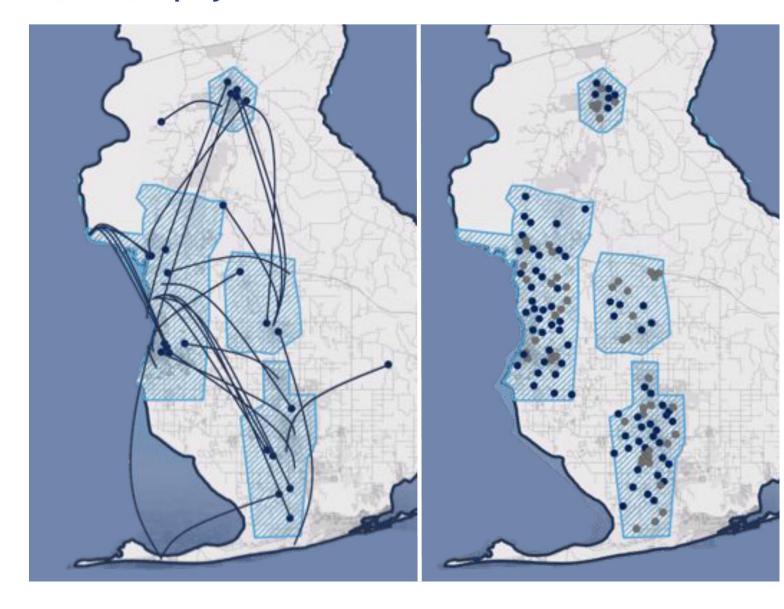
Trips within primary zones can be on-demand



Trips between primary zones can be prescheduled in as little as 3 hours in advance



Trips between outer zones can be prescheduled in as little as 12 hours in advance



Service zone.

Within Primary zone: Book on-demand

Between Primary zones:

Book 3 hours in advance

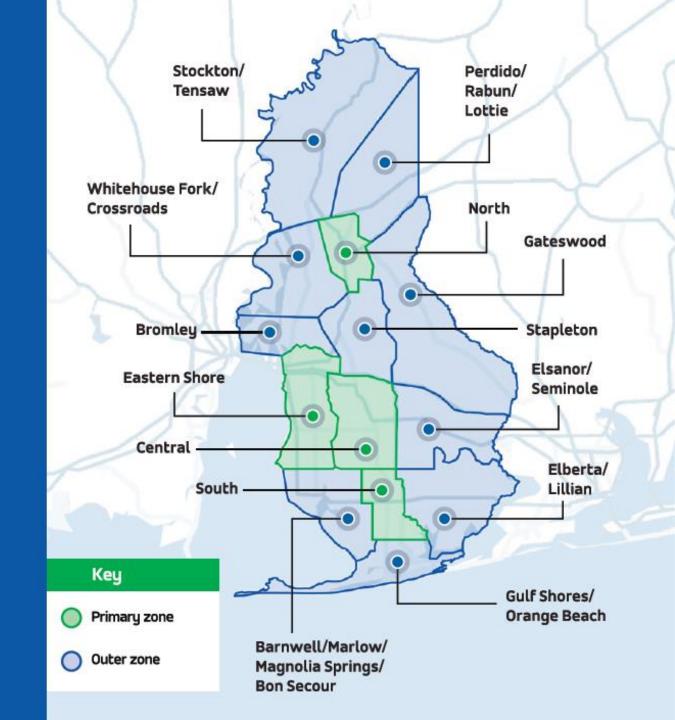
Outer zones:

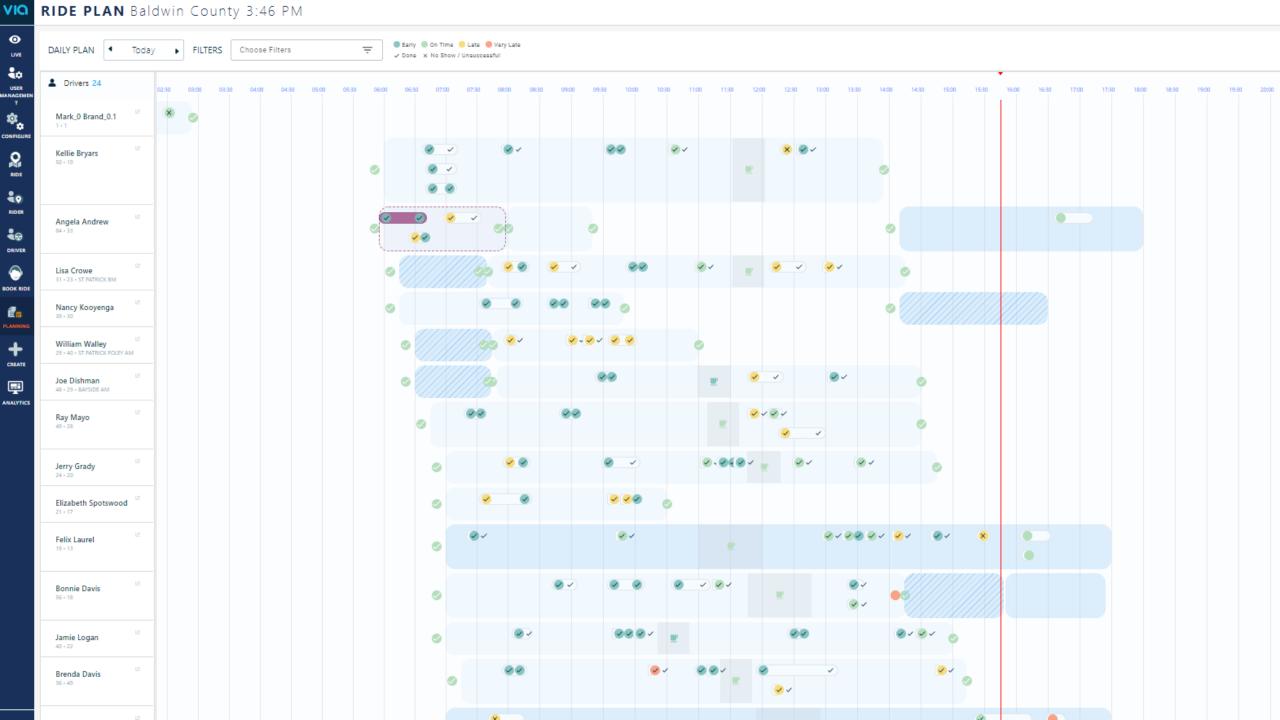
Book 12 hours in advance

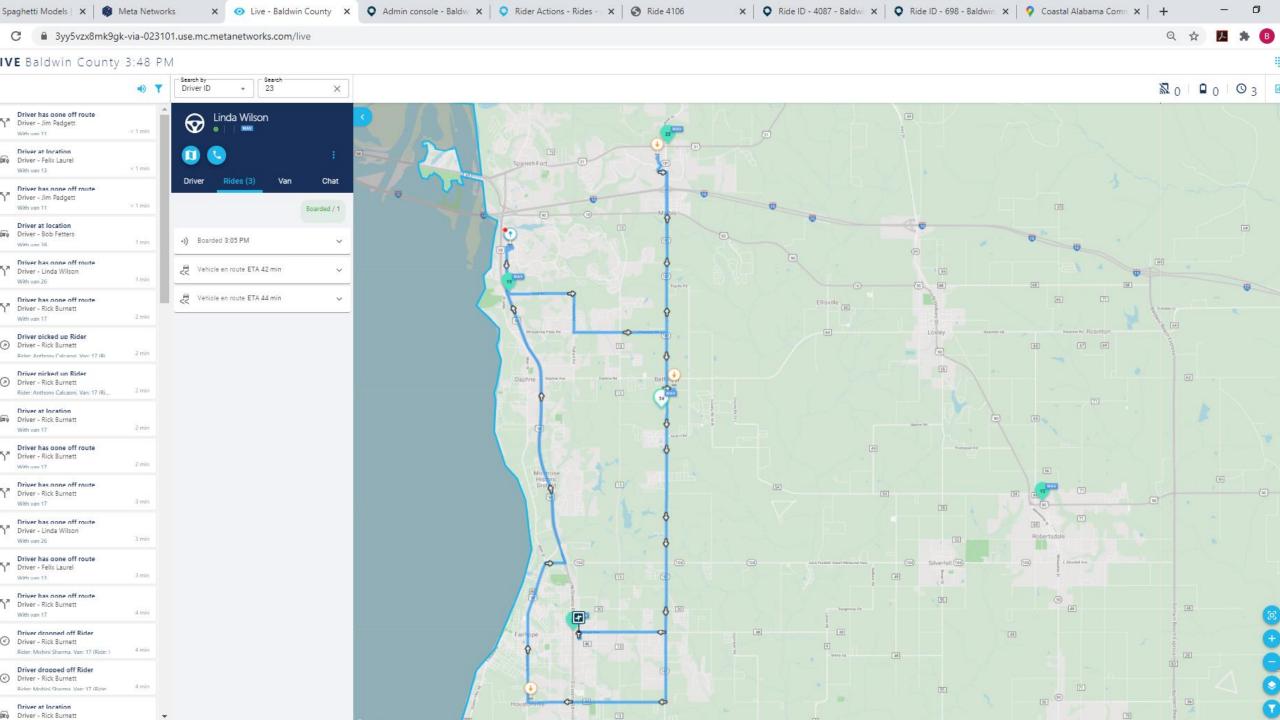
One-way ride pricing.

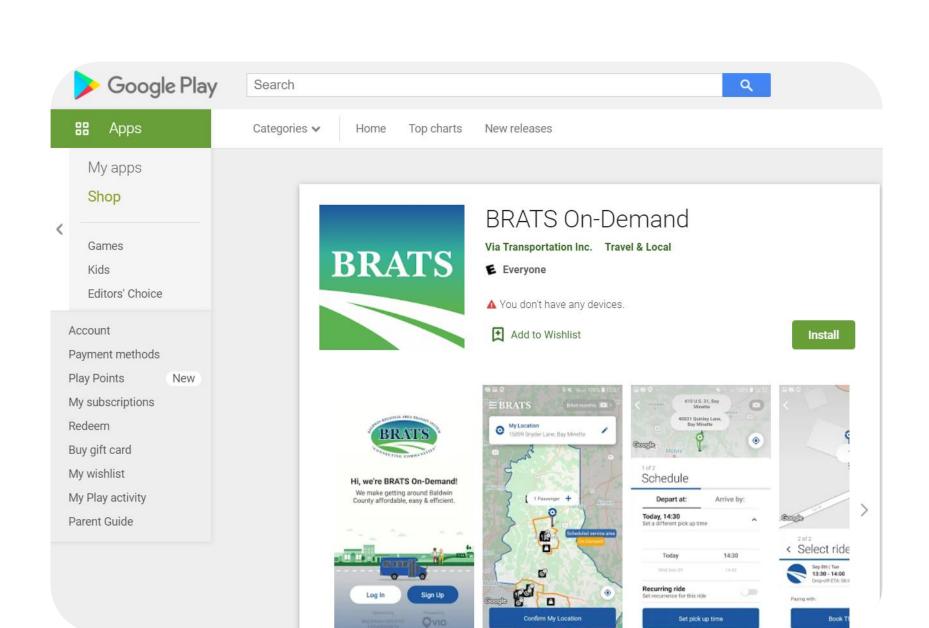
0 - 5 Miles	\$2.00
5.1 – 10 Miles	 \$2.50
10.1 - 15 Miles	 \$3.00
15.1 - 20 Miles	 \$3.50
20.1 - 25 Miles	 \$4.00
25.1 - 30 Miles	 \$4.50
30.1 - 35 Miles	 \$5.00

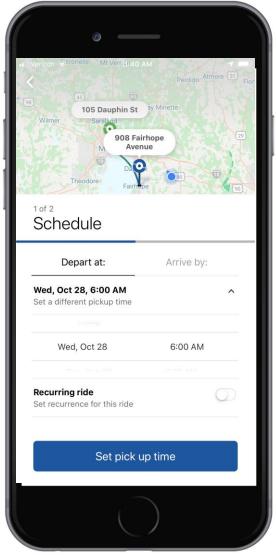
Additional guest - \$2 flat fare.

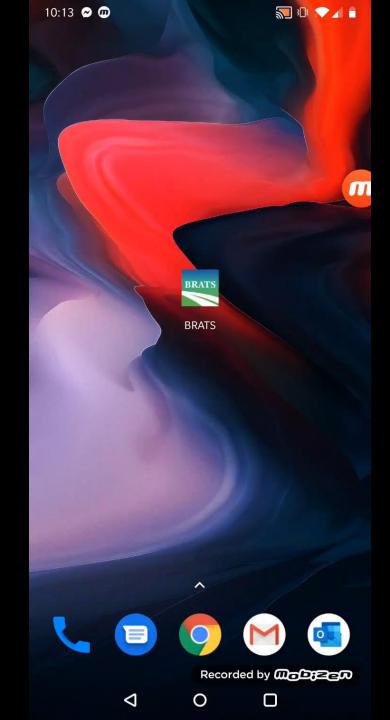


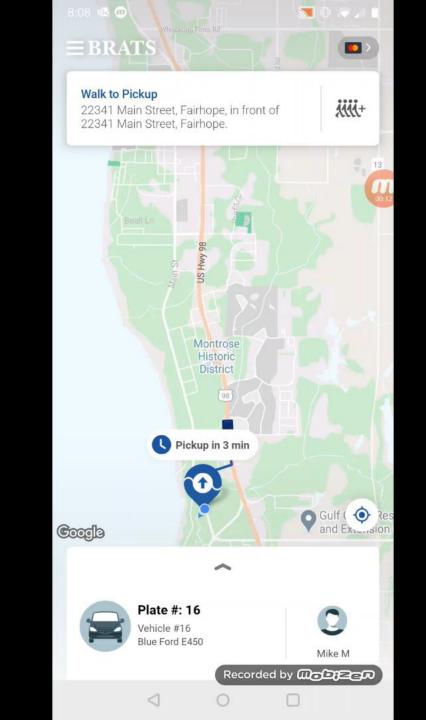












Coming Soon: (hopefully)

- 1. Web Booking Portal
- 2. More Versatile Fleet
- 3. Marketing Push

QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK?