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DUMP THE PUMP THIS THURSDAY

Thousands of commuters across the nation are expected to leave their vehicles at home on Thursday, June 20 and use public transit instead. It's all part of national Dump the Pump Day, sponsored by American Public Transportation Association (APTA), in partnership with the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Now in its eighth year, the initiative was launched as a way to encourage the public to ride public transportation as a gas saving alternative.

"At 840 square miles, Jacksonville is largest city in the contiguous 48 states. For many commuters, the trip from home to work can be more than 20 miles each way and Dump the Pump Day is an opportunity to take advantage of public transportation and feel good about the cost savings and the benefits of using fewer natural resources," said Nathaniel Ford, JTA's Chief Executive Officer.

Jacksonville has not seen gas prices below \$3 a gallon in more than two years. As gas prices continue to fluctuate, JTA offers individuals more cost-effective modes of transportation. In fact, according to the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) April Transit Savings Report, individuals who ride public transportation instead of driving a car can save, on average, more than \$811 per month, and \$9,728 annually.

"Riding public transportation not only helps people save money on fuel costs, it also reduces road congestion and gasoline consumption, in addition to creating new jobs and providing environmental benefits," Ford added.

This Thursday (June 20th), volunteers from JTA will be handing out stickers to all individuals who participate in 'dumping the pump' this year. The JTA will also be unveiling its new Hybrid electric bus fleet to the public. Please visit one of the following locations to learn more about the Dump the Pump Day campaign and your chance to tour a Hybrid electric bus:

Rosa Parks Transit Station 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Regency Park Transit Hub 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Gateway Transit Hub 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Central Station 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to know how much public transportation can save you each month; check out JTA's transit calculator by clicking on the Dump the Pump icon at www.jtafla.com. Also, visit the Plan Your Trip page to help you choose the best way to use JTA transit services or call customer service at (904) 630-3100.

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