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## **City: South side not ignored by park-and-rides**

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Responding to questions about why the city of Tallahassee's proposed park-and-ride lots do not cover the southwest side of town, StarMetro's executive director said today that the transit department's plans for growth are still preliminary.

Ron Garrison said his staff has been working with developers in other quadrants of town, and has yet to identify proposed developments on the south side where a park-and-ride collaboration would make sense.

"Our ultimate plan is to have park-and-ride lots on the outskirts of the city so that wherever you're coming from there will be a lot," Garrison said. "That would include the southwest corridor."

StarMetro to date has identified five possible park-and-ride locations on the city's west, northeast, east and southeast edges. The idea is to work with existing or proposed developments to set aside parking lots where commuters could leave their cars within walking distance of stores and bus stops.

A sixth location, involving about 40 spots, is set to serve as a test site as part of a collaboration between StarMetro and the Knight Creative Communities Initiative. It should open to the public Sept. 4.

Bond community activist Edwina Stephens, who participated a couple of years ago in a community-improvement committee that looked at transportation and other neighborhood issues, said the south side could use a park-and-ride. She said that neighborhood residents already use the bus in large numbers, but that such a lot would help get commuters from Crawfordville and Woodville off Orange Avenue, where they create traffic backups that affect south-side residents.

"For those persons, that would make sense," Stephens said.