

LOCAL

# Brightline lowers its Florida ridership projections for the next two years



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Brightline has released new ridership projections for this and next year that anticipates the possibility of fewer passengers than the best-case scenario the high-speed train company still hopes for.

A March 27 report now forecasts a range of ridership projections in three categories based on how fast or slow passengers adapt to new services such as the Miami-Orlando route.

For 2024, the projections are:

- **Accelerated:** 5.5 million passengers if there's rapid growth
- **Base:** 4.9 million if there's moderate growth
- **Conservative:** 4 million if there's slow growth

For 2025, the projections are:

- **Accelerated:** 8 million passengers if there's rapid growth
- **Base:** 7.4 million if there's moderate growth
- **Conservative:** 6.7 million if there's slow growth

The lower estimates also account for the fact that Brightline launched its Miami-Orlando route later than planned, on Sept. 22 instead of January.

Here's the latest accelerated, base and conservative projections for short-distance ridership among the five South Florida stations:

- **2024:** 2.7 million, 2.4 million, 1.8 million
- **2025:** 3.7 million, 3.7 million, 3.1 million

Here's the latest accelerated, base and conservative projections for long-distance ridership on the Miami-Orlando route:

- **2024:** 2.8 million, 2.5 million, 2.2 million

- **2025:** 4.3 million, 3.7 million, 3.6 million

Brightline has not changed its ridership projections for 2026-40 and expects 8 million passengers in 2026.

Brightline lowered its ridership projections in December by 21% to 5.5 million from 6.5 million.

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