

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Community Services Group

TO: Sarasota County Commission
THROUGH: Thomas A. Harmer, Interim County Administrator
FROM: Glama Carter, Director – Sarasota County Area Transit
DATE: February 7, 2014
SUBJECT: **Update on Public Transit in Southern Sarasota County: Venice, North Port and Englewood**

BACKGROUND:

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) and Charlotte County transit have met on a quarterly basis with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and City of North Port staff to develop a better understanding of the transit systems and to collaborate on planning for transit services in the two-county area. Both transit systems are preparing a major update to their respective Transit Development Plans (TDP) in 2014 and are sharing data and public input as a result of the ongoing coordination. Attachment A provides the TDP Public Meetings Schedule.

The Charlotte/Punta Gorda and the Sarasota/Manatee MPOs initiated a joint transit planning study in 2012. As a result, a latent demand study was conducted to evaluate the need for transit service in South Sarasota County/Charlotte County area. The study recommended a route connecting Charlotte County government/commercial centers with SCAT fixed routes in North Port. Both MPOs approved the study and in October 8, 2013 the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners approved (5-0 Vote) the incorporation of the latent demand study into the upcoming SCAT Major Update of the Transit development Plan.

CURRENT SERVICES

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) operates bus services within the southern portion of Sarasota County in Venice, North Port and Englewood. SCAT operates five fixed routes and two express routes, Monday – Saturday and two routes on Sunday. Performance for each route is shown in Attachment B. In December 2013, SCAT expanded service within the City of North Port to add new service to the Sarasota Memorial Emergency Room and Health Clinic at Bobcat Village Center Road and more frequent service to the North Port Family Service Center at Pan American Drive. The new route is funded in part with grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Charlotte County operates a demand response Dial-A-Ride “call-in reservation” system that is open to the public and a “Sunshine” system for Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) trips. Trips are granted based on available seating capacity. Currently, the Charlotte County transit meets the SCAT fixed route at SCAT transfer locations in North Port and in Englewood. Both transit agencies work in collaboration to provide transit services to the public.

Attachment A - TDP Public Meetings Schedule

Attachment B - South County Routes Performance Matrix

ATTACHMENT A

**Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT)
Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update
Public Meetings Schedule
2014**



February 25	Joint Quarterly Coordination Meeting with Manatee County Staff
March 19	Joint Quarterly Coordination Meeting with Charlotte County Staff
March 24	Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Public Transportation Task Force (PTTF)
March – April	Public Involvement Meetings, north, central and south County (locations TBD)
April 3	MPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
April 14	MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
July 8/9	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
June 23	Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Transportation Task Force (PTTF)
July 28	MPO Board

ATTACHMENT B

Route	Passenger Trips per Revenue Hour	Total Passengers FY 2013	Passenger Per Day (Average)
#13 Venice	6.6	13,342	173
#16 Englewood	8.8	16,875	219
#20/29 Toledo/Glenallen	5.8	6,273	81
#28 Biscayne-Bobcat	N/A	N/A	N/A
#9 North Port	14.8	31,102	404
#9S North Port Sunday	8.5	870	67
#1713 Trail-Jacaranda Sunday	17.7	9,363	720
#90X NP-Venice Express	1.6	1,490	19
#100X North Port Express	5.7	7,008	91