

March 26, 2010

Media contact: Susan M. Walsh, 941-861-5504; cell 941-650-4791; swalsh@scgov.net

Project contact: Sarah Blanchard, 941-861-1002; cell 941-7650-2284;

slancha@scgov.net

SCAT to hold public meetings on route and schedule changes

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) has scheduled public meetings on April 5 and 6 on proposed route and schedule changes to fixed-route transit service. The changes are expected to be implemented this summer. SCAT will act as the Sarasota County Transportation Authority to hold the meetings.

The open house-style meetings will be held from 4:30-6 p.m. at the following locations:

- Monday, April 5, at the Robert L. Taylor Community Complex, 1845 34th St., Sarasota
- Tuesday, April 6, at the Community Hall of Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., Venice

Major service changes scheduled to take effect include:

- **Route 26 (Venice Connector):** SCAT will merge most of the service area from Route 26 into the Route 13 (Venice Island). The portion of Route 26 operating on the U.S. 41 By-Pass will be served by a redesigned Route 16 (Englewood).
- **Route 16 (Englewood):** Route 16 will be redesigned to be more direct between Venice and Englewood. In Venice, the route will operate via U.S. 41 By-Pass, not Venice Island.
- **Route 13 (Venice Island):** Route 13 will be extended to the Venice Walmart on Jacaranda Boulevard via Center Road, Shamrock Boulevard, Alligator Drive and U.S. 41. To make this change, SCAT will remove service from U.S. 41 Business between Golf Drive and Avenida Del Circo.
- **Route 18 (Longboat Key Trolley):** In coordination with Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT), service on the Longboat Key Trolley will end at 8 p.m. The last trip of the day is proposed to depart outbound at 7:25 p.m. from downtown Sarasota and inbound at 7:40 p.m. from Coquina Beach.
- **Route 8517 (Tallevast – SMH):** SCAT will eliminate Route 8517 on Sunday. The route will be replaced with two separate routes: Route 7 (Newtown – NE) and Route 8 (Newtown – U.S. 301). Routes 7 and 8 will operate every two hours on Sunday. Both routes end at the SCAT Downtown Sarasota Transfer Station and do not continue to Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Riders can transfer to Route 1713 to travel south of Lemon Avenue.

- **Route 9 (North Port via Jacaranda Boulevard):** Route 9, which travels between North Port and the Venice Train Depot SCAT Transfer Station, requires minor schedule changes that will help to improve connections. The last Route 9 trip outbound from the Venice Train Depot to North Port will be at 6:40 p.m.

SCAT also plans minor service or schedule changes involving Routes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 17, 20, 99, 215, 1411 and 1713. Most of these routes will end earlier in the evening than the current schedule.

For a complete listing of all proposed route and schedule changes, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000, or visit the SCAT Web site, www.scgov.net/SCAT.

-end-