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SCAT new route and schedule changes to take effect Oct. 31

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) will implement changes in bus routes and schedules on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Changes include schedule revisions, frequency improvements and major route changes that will significantly improve frequency and connection options for many SCAT riders, particularly in the Venice area and in Englewood. SCAT will discontinue several routes and sections of routes, but will replace most of the discontinued service on current routes with planned improvements or changes on other routes. In addition to restructuring south county bus routes, many schedule adjustments are being planned to SCAT's north county routes, including some added trips.

Eligible riders in neighborhoods that are not directly covered by other routes are encouraged to use the new SCAT Senior to Shopping Services offered by THE RIDE with weekly scheduled trips to and from shopping. All passengers who require bus service to medical appointments or information about THE RIDE or SCAT door-to-door service should contact SCAT at 941-861-5000 for determination of eligibility.

Route changes and discontinued routes include:

- **Route 21 (Englewood Loop):** Route 21 will be discontinued, removing service from the Englewood Sports Complex. Riders traveling to portions along East Dearborn Street, Pine Street, and Medical Boulevard to the Englewood Community Hospital can use the redesigned Route 16 (Englewood) to these destinations.
- **Route 16 (Englewood):** Route 16 will be redesigned to be more direct between Venice and Englewood, and will operate every hour, instead of the current two-hour frequency. Route 16 will travel through the Venice island, along Business U.S. 41, Rialto, Airport Avenue and U.S. 41 to State Road 776 and then southbound along Old Englewood Road, Dearborn Street, State Road 776 to Hosmer Avenue and then to Pine Street to the Englewood Hospital. Northbound, the bus will return over the same route except by using State Road 776 instead of Old Englewood Road.

- **Route 24 (Scenic-Woodmere) and Route 25 (Bird Bay):** SCAT will discontinue Routes 24 and 25, removing service from Bird Bay and from Santa Maria Street and Tarpon Street on Venice island. Most affected areas will be served by other routes. Riders from Santa Maria and Tarpon streets may be able to use a redesigned Route 13 (Venice), which will now travel along Miami and Tampa avenues. The redesigned Route 16 (Englewood) will serve the Rialto-Airport Avenue area. Senior Friendship Center will be served by the new Route 26 (Venice connector).
- **Route 13 (Venice):** SCAT will no longer operate Route 13 on Venice Avenue between Business 41 and Harbor Drive, on Harbor Drive between Miami Avenue and Valencia Road, and will not operate on Pensacola Road and will not operate on Turin Street. Instead, Route 13 will serve Tampa and Miami avenues, and will travel from the Venice Train Depot along Venice Avenue and turn north on Business 41 to Tampa Avenue, south on Harbor Drive to Miami Avenue to the Nokomis Ave. No other changes are being made to the current Route 13.
- **Route 26 (Venice Connector):** Venice area neighborhoods along Center Road, Shamrock Boulevard and Alligator Drive served by the current Route 16 (Englewood) will have the new Route 26, which will operate every 90 minutes and include a stop for the Senior Friendship Center. Route 26 will travel along U.S. 41 Venice By-Pass, Venice Gardens and the Seminole-Jamaica area of South Venice.
- **Route 19 (North Port via U.S. 41):** SCAT will discontinue Route 19 since the redesigned Route 16 (Englewood) will serve U.S. 41 north of Jacaranda Boulevard and portions of U.S 41 Business on the Venice island. Also, the new Route 26 (Venice Connector) will cover the U.S. 41 By-Pass.
- **Route 9 (North Port via Jacaranda Boulevard):** Route 9 will operate every hour between North Port and the Venice Train Depot SCAT Transfer Station. Riders from North Port will need to transfer to Route 26 (Venice Connector) if their destination is to U.S. 41 By-Pass, and to Route 16 (Englewood) if their destination is along U.S. 41 Business.

Among other changes are:

- **Route 9S (North Port-South Venice):** North Port will get Sunday service for the first time on the new Route 9S that will connect at the Jacaranda Boulevard Wal-Mart to Route 1713 (Trail-South Venice) every hour from 10:44 a.m. to 6:44 p.m. The bus will travel directly on U.S. 41 to Sumter Boulevard.
- **Route 1713 (Trail-South Venice) and Route 1411 (Lake Sarasota-Siesta Key):** On Sunday, Routes 1713 will operate every hour from approximately 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 1411 will operate every hour from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., and then every two hours in the evening.

- **Route 99 (Palmetto Fairgrounds to downtown Sarasota):** Route 99 will receive evening service for the first time, as far as the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, hourly until 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday. The first partial round trip from the airport at 5:30 a.m. will be eliminated. The first inbound trip on Route 99 from the airport will be at 6:25 a.m. The full outbound trip from downtown Sarasota at 5:15 a.m. will not be affected. ***Passengers who need to travel at that time may use the Route 2 (Cocoanut Avenue) departing from the airport at 5:30 a.m.***
- **Route 15 (Cattlemen):** Saturday service will be restored to every 60 minutes instead of the current 90 minutes. ***On Monday-Saturday, the last trip of the day will be a full trip to the airport.***
- **Route 17 (Trail):** The 6:44 a.m. inbound trip, and the 9:15 p.m. outbound trip, will extend to Venice Monday-Saturday.
- **Route 1A, 2, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 20, 29, 1713 and 8517:** Minor schedule adjustments will be made to improve on-time performance.

Fixed-route fares are 75 cents for a single ride and 35 cents for a discounted single ride. Discount tickets and passes are available with a SCAT Gold or Medicare card. Several passes, including a new 7-day passport, are available. They can be used for an unlimited amount of rides during the time period covered by the pass. Passes include the day pass for \$3 (available only for purchase on the buses), the 7-day passport for \$15 (discounted for \$7.50) and the 30-day passport for \$40 (discounted for \$30).

A new pass sales outlet will open Nov. 2 at the North Port City Hall, 4970 City Hall Blvd. Passes will be sold there from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, or a complete listing of pass outlets, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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