

# SCGOVNEWS

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**Media contact:** Susan Walsh, 941-861-0951; cell 941-650-4791; [swalsh@scgov.net](mailto:swalsh@scgov.net)

**Project contact:** Sarah Blanchard, cell 941-650-2284; [sblancha@scgov.net](mailto:sblancha@scgov.net)

## **SCAT ridership hits all-time high for year and month in September**

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) annual ridership jumped by almost 5 percent in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, reaching a record high of more than 2.3 million trips for the 29-year-old county bus service. Monthly ridership in September soared to an unprecedented high of 207,174 trips, a 19.7 percent increase over the same month in 2007.

While recent high gasoline prices may have contributed to the sharp increase in ridership, SCAT General Manager Anthony Beckford said that significant SCAT service improvements over the past year, particularly late-night and Sunday service starting Feb. 25, played a major role in attracting new riders and adding more trips by regular users.

"If we provide good service, people will use it," Beckford added. "This year's new Sunday service, evening hours and late-night hours are popular with many riders. We've also made many other schedule and route improvements that have enhanced service on our strongest-performing routes to make riding the bus more convenient and accessible."

For more information about SCAT services, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000, or visit the Web site, <http://www.scgov.net/SCAT/>.

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