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Media contacts: Susan Walsh, 941-861-5504; cell 941-650-4791; swalsh@scgov.net
Randall Beckwith, 941-745-3783; randall.beckwith@mymanatee.org

Project contacts: Anthony Beckford, 941-861-1006; cell 941-232-8300; abeckfor@scgov.net
Ralf Heseler, 941-747-8621; cell 941-780-1059; ralf.heseler@mymanatee.org

SCAT and MCAT will host statewide transit conference Oct. 19-21

Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) and Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) will host the 34th annual conference of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota Oct. 19-21. About 250 transit professionals from more than 28 transit agencies around the state are expected to attend.

"This conference brings together some of the best and brightest professionals in public transportation throughout the State of Florida with the common goal of finding ways to provide greater transportation opportunities and alternatives for the residents and visitors of Florida," said MCAT Manager Ralf Heseler and SCAT General Manager Anthony Beckford in a joint statement issued today. "This same desire has come to fruition through the cooperative efforts of MCAT and SCAT in creating convenient inter-county travel and higher levels of service, which will be heralded during the conference."

"Creative Energy Fuels Public Transit" is the theme of the three-day conference. Among the highlights:

- **Sunday, Oct. 19** -- welcome reception from 6:30-8 p.m.
- **Monday, Oct. 20** -- breakfast and welcome from 8-9:30 a.m., featuring the following speakers: Sarasota County Administrator Jim Ley and Manatee County Commission Chair Jane von Hahmann; Wes Watson, executive director of FPTA; Steve Myers, FPTA chair; and Lee Tran, past FPTA chair; Arthur Guzzetti of the American Public Transportation Association; and Debbie Hunt of the Florida Department of Transportation
- **Monday, Oct. 20** – luncheon from noon-2 p.m., with special presentations, FPTA Hall of Fame induction ceremony and the keynote address by Chuck Underwood, a generational consultant and one of the leading experts on generational dynamics in the marketplace and workplace
- **Tuesday, Oct. 21** – reception from 6:15-7 p.m. and awards banquet from 7-9:30 p.m.

A variety of technical sessions and roundtable discussions on transit issues will be held at the hotel throughout the conference. Attendees also can visit transit vendor exhibits during the three-day event.

Media note: News media representatives who want to cover the event should call SCAT at 941-861-1003 or MCAT at 941-780-1059. To obtain a copy of the program, visit the FPTA Web site at <http://www.floridatransit.org/>.

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