



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

May 21, 2013

Mr. Richard P. Shine
District Transit Programs Administrator
and Title VI Program Area Officer
Florida Department of Transportation, District One
Modal Development Office / Public Transit
Mail Station Number 1-93
2981 Pine Island Road
Cape Coral, Florida 33909

Dear Mr. Shine,

Please accept Manatee County's Service Development Project Proposal – Route 3 in response to the Florida Department of Transportation, District One, Modal Development Office Request for Proposals (RFP) for a State Discretionary Transit Program grant. Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) is seeking a total of \$385,791 over a three year period of time, with service beginning in October 2014. This will assist MCAT in increasing the frequency of Route 3, a line-haul route that serves the State Road 64 corridor, from 60 minute to 30 minute frequency during periods of peak congestion. Increasing service frequency on Route 3 will allow MCAT to better serve its customers, while assisting in mitigating congestion on a major State Road corridor.

Sincerely,

Chairman
Manatee County Board of County Commissioners

Attachments: Service Development Project Proposal – Route 3

cc: Ron Schulhofer, Manatee County, Public Works Director
Chad Butzow, Manatee County, Public Works Deputy Director
William Steele, Manatee County, Transit Division Manager

Board of County Commissioners
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1000 Street Address: 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34206-1000
WEB: www.mymanatee.org * PHONE: 941.745.3707 * FAX: 941.745.3790

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PROPOSAL – ROUTE 3

Recipient: MANATEE COUNTY AREA TRANSIT (MCAT)

Service Profile: Route 3 provides line-haul, cross-county bus service linking eastern Manatee County and the Gulf Beach communities. In the Holmes Beach area, route connectivity with the Anna Maria Island Trolley service is available to facilitate travel to/from the Beach and mainland areas. Route 3 currently operates between Interstate 75 in eastern Manatee County, downtown Bradenton and Homes Beach, via the State Road 64/Manatee Avenue Corridor (see graphic on Page 3). The service period is currently from 5:50 AM to 7:55 PM Monday-Saturday, with 60-minute service frequency.

Proposed Enhancement: The proposal is for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) funding to improve Route 3 **peak-period weekday service frequency from 60-minute to 30-minute service frequency**. Peak periods include the morning peak from approximately 5-9 AM and the afternoon peak from 3-7 PM during weekdays.

Duration: Three-year Service Development funding period.

Project Location: The MCAT Administration Office is currently located at 1108 26th Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208.

FDOT District: 1

Project Initiation/Completion Dates: Execute Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) by August 2014 and initiate service October 2014. Evaluate annually with review by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) comprised Manatee County Public Works and FDOT staff.

Project Objectives:

- Utilize a convenient (intermodal) transfer point for connections to local and regional bus services.
- Provide improved, more frequent bus service on major travel corridors during periods of peak congestion. Complement this service network with enhanced bus stop infrastructure, new technology fare box systems and multi-ride ticket options.
- Coordinate Route 3 schedule for the convenience of work-trip commuters and major employers in downtown Bradenton and the Gateway area in eastern Manatee County.
- Annual ridership of 250,000 passengers at the conclusion of the three-year service development period. Currently, Route 3 annual ridership is approximately 190,000.
- Enhance the core network/line haul route corridors in advance of new “feeder” service extension to the Lakewood Ranch Activity Center.*

*Lakewood Ranch Service Development study currently underway.

- Farebox recovery ratio shall be approximately 20%.
- Establish a core group of very frequent and productive transit line hauls complemented by an established network of "feeder" routes. Utilize on- and off-street transfer points to facilitate connectivity to/from the line haul route network.

Operational Responsibilities: MCAT will continue to operate and supervise Route 3 and manage the project. Ridership and financial reports will be prepared by MCAT, including any recommendations and/or service modifications.

Criteria for Success: This project will demonstrate the importance of intra-county bus travel along major travel corridors, particularly for work-trip commuters. The use of intermodal transfer points, **improved peak period service frequency**, and multiple fare options is applicable to the other metropolitan areas in Florida. Techniques to measure project effectiveness include: average daily and total ridership, farebox recovery ratio, and average fare.

Project Budget: This project is funded by FDOT at 50% of net operating costs.

Cost Item	Total Project Cost	Farebox Revenue	Net Project Cost	FDOT Share (50%)
Annual Operating Cost**	\$308,992	\$61,798	\$247,194	\$123,597
Marketing/Administration	\$ 10,000	--	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
TOTALS	\$318,992	\$61,798	\$257,194	\$128,597

Benefit to Other Systems: This project benefits other systems by demonstrating the applicability of line-haul cross-county bus service with multiple stop opportunities to provide maximum accessibility, and intermodal transfer points and connectivity for inter-county and regional travel along major state roadway corridors.

**Note: A total of 4,352 additional annual route hours at \$71/hour. Two additional peak hour buses are required for weekday service.

REVISED May 21, 2013 - Regular Meeting
Agenda Item #37

Subject

MCAT Public Transit Service Development Project Proposal

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Ron Schulhofer, Public Works Director, ron.schulhofer@mymanatee.org, (941) 708-7480

William Steele, Transit Division Manager, william.steele@mymanatee.org, (941) 747-8621 x7440

Action Requested

Authorization for the Chairman to sign and submit cover letter and accompanying project proposal for Route 3 Service Development Project Proposal in response to the Florida Department of Transportation, District One, Modal Development Office Request for Proposals.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Florida Statutes 125, Sections 341.05 and 334.048(3) Florida Statutes

Background Discussion

The Public Transit Service Development Program (hereinafter referred to as the Service Development Program) was enacted by the Florida Legislature to provide initial funding for special projects that improve or expand public transit. Service Development Projects are subject to specified terms of duration, but no more than three (3) years. The State funding participation requires a 50/50 share of operating costs by the grant recipient.

On April 17, 2013, Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) staff received notice from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, Modal Development Office, of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for eligible applicants to apply for State Discretionary Transit Program, Service Development Program grants. The funding for the grant programs is contingent on future legislative appropriations for State Fiscal Year 2014/15.

MCAT has prepared a Service Development Project Proposal for Route 3. County funding has not yet been budgeted for this proposal, but would be required starting in Fiscal Year 2014/15, if selected.

Route 3 provides line-haul, cross-county bus service along State Road 64 from just west of Interstate 75 to Manatee County Public Beach. Service currently runs Monday through Saturday, from 5:50 AM to 7:55 PM, every 60 minutes. Annual ridership on Route 3 is approximately 190,000. This makes Route 3 the most popular route in terms of ridership, after the Anna Maria Island Trolley and Route 99, which currently have

APPROVED in Open Session

Manatee County Board of County
Commissioners

service frequencies of 20 and 30 minutes, respectively. The Service Development grant would allow for Route 3 to provide 30 minute service frequency during periods of peak congestion, from approximately 5-9 AM and 3-7 PM during weekdays. This would allow for improved bus service on a major travel corridor.

Service Development is being requested from FDOT for a three (3) year period, beginning in October 2014. The request is for a total of \$385,791, over the three year period or \$128,597 per year. This amount is the FDOT half of the estimated 3 year operating costs of the service expansion. The program will require Manatee County to share 50% of the operating costs, \$128,597. Two additional peak hour buses are required for weekday service and the fleet is currently sufficient to accommodate added peak service.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

Please send signed letter, including the attachment, and a copy of the minutes to Chad Fosnight, Senior Transit Planner, chad.fosnight@mymanatee.org, (941) 747-8621 x7622. - Snt ltr & attch via interoffice, emailed CF notifying him the minutes will not be available immediatley. - 5/22/13 - SS

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

50% of operating cost , \$128,597 annually during the 3 year grant, should the grant be approved and accepted by the Board, 435-001200 Transit Operations.

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

If proposal is selected, funds would be budgeted for FY 2014/15.

Attachment: [ServiceDevelopment5_6_13.pdf](#)