

January 10, 2017 - Regular Meeting
Agenda Item #4

Presented in Open Session 1/10/17,
Manatee County
Board of County Commissioners

Subject

Transit Division Florida Public Transit Association (FPTA) Awards

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

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Action Requested

Recognition of individual and team awards received from the Florida Public Transit Association (FPTA) Annual Conference on December 11-14, 2016. These awards recognize the outstanding achievements accomplished throughout the past year in support of our community.

Individual staff awards received are as follows: Stacy Meeth – FPTA Operator of the Year; Team awards received are as follows: 1. Website Update – FPTA Marketing Award (Digital Media); and 2. *Skyway ConneXion* – FPTA Creativity and Innovation Award.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Background Discussion

The Florida Public Transit Association is comprised of members from transit agencies located across the State of Florida. Annually, member organizations meet to discuss the ever-changing landscape of public transportation, issues and concerns, and recognize various agencies, teams, and individuals whose efforts and accomplishments clearly demonstrate the most outstanding, innovative, and staff dedication to the transit industry. The Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) and Fleet Division Teams were recognized in many areas as the "best of the best" in 2015 and this trend continued in 2016. These individual and team awards are as follows:

Transit Division

At the Joint 2016 Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Conference and Expo, Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) received the following awards:

Operator of the Year: Ms. Stacey Meeth, MCAT Fixed Route Transit Operator, was selected by the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) as the State of Florida's Most Outstanding Transit Operator in 2016. The selection of the winner is undertaken by an FPTA committee and those selected must be very safe operators over a long period of time, demonstrate an excellent attendance record, and exhibit a commitment to community service. Ms. Meeth excels in these areas, and received a "Heroism Award" from Manatee County in 2016.

Stacy Meeth has driven over one million miles in revenue service in her 25-year career and has never had an accident. She is continually looking for ways to go above and beyond the call of duty, and knows the names of all of her regular passengers.

Stacy is ready with a smile and kind words for riders and coworkers alike, since she views others as "friends." She is consistently recognized by her passengers and peers for being a nurturing person who truly cares about others.

These characteristics are very worthy of statewide recognition, and set a great example for others to follow.

Marketing Award: Each year, Transit Operators submit their recent marketing campaigns to FPTA, and a FPTA committee selects the winner. There are a number of marketing categories to capture the wide array of marketing efforts. In the "Digital Media" marketing category, Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) received the Third Place award for the update to the MCAT portion of the Manatee County website. This new website incorporates the County "branding" scheme, is much easier to navigate, and includes "sliders" to note recent service adjustments and even recognition for staff.

Innovation and Creativity Award: Each year, Transit Operators submit their service innovations to FPTA, and a FPTA committee selects the winner. The winning Transit Agency is then recognized at the annual FPTA Conference. Manatee County/MCAT was recognized in 2016 as the Innovation and Creativity Award winner for the establishment of a limited stop/express Regional Transit Service (RTS) known as the *Skyway ConneXion*.

The *Skyway ConneXion* encompasses the repurposing of a paratransit service for Veterans that served to provide access to the Bill Young/Bay Pines Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in St. Petersburg. With a ridership base already established by area Veterans and funding already programmed, a fixed route/fixed schedule RTS express service went into effect on April 1, 2016. The *ConneXion* serves all MCAT Transit Stations, and the Pinellas County bus stops include the following Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) major transfer points: Grand Central Station, Tyrone Square Mall, and the Bill Young/Bay Pines VA; serving these major transfer points promotes inter-county transit service connectivity.

The FPTA recognized Manatee County/MCAT for the demonstration of innovative and creative service concepts, along with effective problem solving approaches, that demonstrate "Best Practices" for the public transportation industry. Special thanks to Transit Operations Chief James Egbert for developing the RTS service concept and the "vision" for inter-county transit service connectivity.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

Please send a stamped copy of the Agenda to Transit Division Administration,

Melinda.Shaver@mymanatee.org. **Distributed 1/11/17, RT**

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A