

RESOLUTION R-26-120

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING AND SUBMISSION OF AN FTA BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

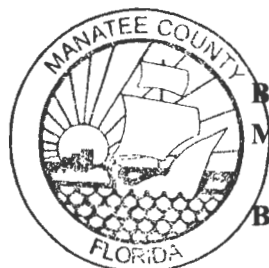
WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, has the authority to file Grant Applications and accept Grant Agreements with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration.

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently published a Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) for discretionary grant funding for the replacement, rehabilitation and purchase of buses and related equipment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that:

1. This Resolution applies to Federal Program(s) under U.S.C. Section 5339.
2. The BOARD has the authority to authorize the filing of discretionary grant applications.
3. The submission of the FTA Section 5339 discretionary grant application and supporting documents to the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration is hereby approved.
4. The Chairman, the County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, Directors of Public Works or any of their designees, and the Grant Division Manager is hereby authorized to execute all necessary subsequent documents related to grant submission.
5. The Chairman, the County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, Directors of Public Works or any of their designees, and the Grant Division Manager is hereby authorized to make any non-monetary changes.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this the 1st day of September, 2026.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____

County Chairperson

**ATTEST: Angelina Colonnese
Clerk of the Circuit Court**

By: _____

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September 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Authorization to apply for a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY 2026 Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program; Adoption of Resolution R-26-120, which authorizes staff to submit an application to FTA

Category

CONSENT AGENDA

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Chad Butzow, P.E., Public Works Director, Chad.Butzow@mymanatee.org, (941) 708-7450 x7432

Action Requested

1. Adopt Resolution R-26-120 which authorizes staff to apply for a FY 2026 FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program Grant Application for replacement of Manatee County Area Transit fixed route buses.
2. Authorize the Chairperson, the County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, the Directors of Public Works, any of their designees, and the Grant Division Manager to execute all necessary subsequent documents related to the grant submission.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Chapter 341.051, Florida Statutes

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

The FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program provides funding to finance capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase, or lease buses and related equipment and to rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities. In Fiscal Year 2026, FTA set aside approximately \$610 million in discretionary funds for the Buses and Bus Facilities Program.

The FTA is currently emphasizing the "State of Good Repair" for all public transit infrastructure and equipment. In fact, local transit agencies developed a Transit Asset Management Plan in October 2018. The Manatee County Transit Division of the Public Works Department documents current asset performance based on the useful life of transit

vehicles and provides that information to the National Transit Database and the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Currently, 25 percent of Manatee County fixed-route buses have exceeded useful life standards in terms of both age and total mileage of the vehicles.

With a grant from the FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program, Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) will purchase replacement fixed-route transit buses. Completion of this project will ensure compliance with FTA's requirement for the State of Good Repair of all public transit infrastructure/equipment and the County's Transit Asset Management Program.

The total projected cost for the bus purchase is projected to be around \$6,705,000 which reflects a cost sharing comprised of \$5,028,750 in requested FTA funding (80%) and \$1,676,250 (20%) in Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Transportation Development Credits.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

Provide copy of the signed Resolution R-26-120 and electronic copies to lauren.franklin@mymanatee.org, chris.deannuntis@mymanatee.org, and chad.butzow@mymanatee.org.

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

Total Funds of \$6,705,000 represents \$5,028,750 in FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program funds and \$1,676,250 in FDOT Transportation Development Credits

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

One-time funding

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By: _____
County Chairperson

**ATTEST: Angelina Colonnese
Clerk of the Circuit Court**

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Regional Transportation Planning for the Sarasota-Bradenton Urbanized Area

Mayor Gene Brown, Chair
Commissioner Teresa Mast, Vice Chair

Commissioner Liz Alpert
City of Sarasota

Commissioner Jason Bearden
Manatee County

Commissioner Carlos Beruff
Sarasota-Manatee Airport Authority

Commissioner Steve Branham
Town of Longboat Key

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Mayor John Chappie
Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach & Holmes Beach

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City of North Port

Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch
City of Sarasota

Councilmember Jayne Kocher
City of Bradenton

Commissioner George Kruse
Manatee County

Commissioner Teresa Mast
Sarasota County

Commissioner Joe Neunder
Sarasota County

Mayor Nick Pachota
City of Venice

Commissioner Mike Rahn
Manatee County

Commissioner Mark Smith
Sarasota County

Mayor Phil Stokes
City of North Port

Mayor Dan West
City of Palmetto

James "Jamie" Driggers, District One Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation, Advisor

Ryan Brown, AICP
Executive Director

Sarasota/Manatee
Metropolitan Planning Organization
5460-A 63rd Street East
Bradenton, Florida 34203-3248
Phone: 941-359-5772
www.mympo.org



August 14, 2026

Benita Zarr
Interim Transit Division Manager
Manatee County Area Transit
2411 Tallevast Road
Sarasota, FL 34243

RE: Sarasota/Manatee MPO Support Letter for Manatee County's
FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program
Grant Application

Dear Ms. Zarr,

It is our understanding that Manatee County will be submitting a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the FY 2026 Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program for replacement of ten bus fleet vehicles that will soon exceed their useful life. Maintaining a "State of Good Repair" for our local public transportation fleet is critical to support the future growth of public transportation services in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Public transportation is a critical component in the development of a robust and multi-modal transportation network in the Sarasota/Manatee MPO planning area. As the region continues to grow, demand for transportation alternatives continues to be at the forefront of discussions among residents and elected officials.

To ensure consistency between local and regional transportation plans, MPO staff and Manatee County Transit Division staff diligently work together to ensure that FTA's State of Good Repair goals are addressed in the most recent Sarasota Manatee MPO Work Program. A copy of that work program update is available on the Sarasota/Manatee MPO website, www.mympo.org.

The Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization supports Manatee County's continued efforts to improve and maintain the condition of the Manatee County public transportation fleet, and will continue to work closely with County staff in its efforts to secure federal funding for critical regional "state of good repair" projects. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (941) 359-5772.

Sincerely,

Ryan Brown, AICP
Executive Director
Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization