



September 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Projected Transit System Changes for Manatee County, Ryan Suarez, Kimley-Horn (Consultant)

Category

REPORTS

Briefings

Briefing Provided Upon Request

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Benita Zarr, Interim Transit Division Manager, benita.zarr@mymanatee.org, (941) 747-8621 x7426

Chris Deannuntis, Transit Planning Section Manager, Chris.Deannuntis@mymanatee.org (941) 747-8621 X7622

Ryan Suarez, American Institute Certified Planner, kimley-horn, Ryan.Suarez@kimley-horn.com, (727) 460-1886

Clarke Davis, Interim Director Public Works, clarke.davis@mymanatee.org, (941) 708-7450 x7272.

Action Requested

No Action Required

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

MCAT has 85 active bus operators and requires 91 daily assignments. Operators are working six-day weeks, and supervisors are regularly covering routes. This limits supervisors' ability to monitor road operations, survey routes, and address service issues. The current approach is not sustainable long-term. The approach is to reduce daily assignments through data-driven service planning, supported by the ongoing third-party Comprehensive Operations Analysis, by modifying or suspending lower-ridership services while prioritizing increased frequency on high-demand corridors.

The recovery plan of continuing to recruit 105 Operators, prioritizing and expanding on the most productive routes as staffing improves. Explore additional resources, including

mobility-on-demand and other on-demand services to supplement and maintain existing coverage.

The goal is to stabilize operations, reduce workforce strain, maintain high demand service and develop sustainable transportation options while working toward full staffing to oversee services provided.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

None

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

None



September 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting

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Updates to Agenda - August 27, 2026

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates (dated 8/27/26) for the meeting of September 1, 2026:

GENERIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Presentations

Item 2, Project Grace Follow-Up Discussion and Staff Responses to Board and Community Questions and Concerns - District 5

- This item was updated with additional public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Community and Veterans Services

Item 40, Review of Proposed FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - Local Formula Application for Manatee County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Needs, Dr. Renese M. Remy, Criminal Justice Policy Coordinator - Countywide

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Financial Management

Item 13, Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-105; and Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-106 for Infrastructure Sales Tax

- This agenda item was updated with Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-106 and revised Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-105.

REGULAR

Administrator

Item 32, Confirmation of Appointment of Deputy County Administrator

- This agenda item was updated with Stephanie Garrison's resume.

Financial Management

Item 38, Continued Discussion Regarding County Reserve Policy, Claudia Campos, Interim Chief Financial Officer

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Government Relations

Item 34, Approval of Project Wolf - Advanced PFAS Treatment for Landfill Leachate and Biosolids at Lena Road Landfill; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-109, Aimee Johnson, Economic Development Division Manager - District 5

- This agenda item was updated with Commissioner Questions, revised Cover Sheet that includes a revised Title and Action Requested (in strikethrough/underline format), Resolution R-26-122, and the County Administrator Recommendation Memorandum (dated 8/27/26).

Human Resources

Item 37, Approval of the 2027 Medical, Dental, Vision, and Retiree cost sharing for the self-funded and fully insured employer sponsored benefits, Kate Rucker, Human Resources Manager

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

REPORTS

Public Works

Item 39, Projected Transit System Changes for Manatee County

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

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Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

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MCAT Service Evaluation

Project Scope

Evaluate the existing Manatee County Transit Division service network and develop service network alternatives for consideration by the BCC at its October work session.

Guiding Principles

1. Build a new service network that consists of varied service types (i.e., service delivery model and/or demand market).
2. Assume a limiting funding parameter that equates to 60% of the existing operating budget.
3. Preserve core fixed-route service and grant funded routes.

Major Tasks

- Evaluate the performance of the existing operation.
 - Productivity
 - Cost Efficiency
 - On-Time Performance
- Gap analysis.
 - Transit Dependent Populations
 - Density, Employment, and Activity Centers
- Prepare a peer system comparison.
- Evaluate Manatee County Transit Division program expenses – capital and operating
- Assess costs of new service delivery models.
- Develop alternative service networks for consideration by the Board including advantages and disadvantages.
- Develop a plan for phasing in a preferred service network.

Project Outcomes

- Preferred service network that integrates new service models.
- Phased implementation and action plan.