

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Sarasota County Area Transit

TO: Sarasota County Commission
THROUGH: Randall H. Reid, County Administrator
FROM: Glama Carter, Director, Sarasota County Area Transit
DATE: September 17, 2013
SUBJECT: **Item 2C: Update on discussions with Manatee County relating to the potential consolidation of Transit and the Longboat Key Trolley Services**

SUMMARY:

As requested by the Town of Longboat Key, Sarasota County staff will present an update on the Longboat Key Services.

BACKGROUND:

Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) and Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) offer coordinated transit service on Longboat Key between Coquina Beach on Anna Maria Island and Downtown Sarasota. MCAT and SCAT each operate one vehicle on the coordinated route. Transit vehicles along the Longboat Key route run Monday through Sunday, 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m., every 60 minutes.

In a joint meeting between the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners and the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners in April 2013, the respective Boards directed staff to develop an interlocal agreement for MCAT and SCAT services. On October 15, 2013, a joint meeting between Manatee County and Sarasota County is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. at the Bradenton Area Convention Center. The interlocal agreement could be considered during this joint meeting.

Longboat Key Route Vehicles and Operating Characteristics

In April 2013, the BCC approved an agreement with Gillig, LLC for the purchase of eighteen (18) clean diesel buses including seventeen (17) replacement buses and one (1) expansion bus. Also in April 2013, the BCC established a policy for SCAT to purchase clean diesel vehicles to replace both diesel and hybrid-diesel electric vehicles that have met their useful life. SCAT then ordered eighteen (18) clean diesel buses, five (5) of which will be replacements for the disposed trolleys. As replacement vehicles are delivered in mid-2014, SCAT will pursue the wrap option for a unique island look.

SCAT operates its portion of the Longboat Key route through general fund and farebox revenues. In 2012, the average farebox recovery for the route was 7%. The average farebox recovery remains at 7% for 2013. Based on FY 2012 National Transit Database (NTD) cost per revenue hour data, Sarasota County's portion of the FY 2013 expense is projected to be approximately \$380,000. The funds were budgeted in FY 2013 and continue as part of the proposed FY 2014 budget and will be considered for adoption by the Board in September 2013.

The following table shows the distribution of July 2011 - July 2013 ridership on SCAT and MCAT vehicles.

**LONGBOAT KEY ROUTE
AVERAGE DAILY RIDERSHIP COMPARISON**

	TOTAL	SCAT	MCAT
July 2011	207	110	97
July 2012	182	93	89
July 2013	181	92	89

Lower ridership in July is a part of the seasonal pattern for this route. Ridership begins dropping after the spring season and then increases from October through February. In 2012, compared to other SCAT island routes (Lido Key, with 12 trips per revenue hour and Siesta Key, with 15 trips per revenue hour) the Longboat Key route has fewer passenger trips per hour. See attached table of SCAT Route Performance in terms of ridership and revenue (October 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013).

Staff will continue monitoring performance and cost of this route and will continue coordinating with Manatee County providing updates to the City of Longboat Key.

Attachments: Longboat Key Transit Services presentation

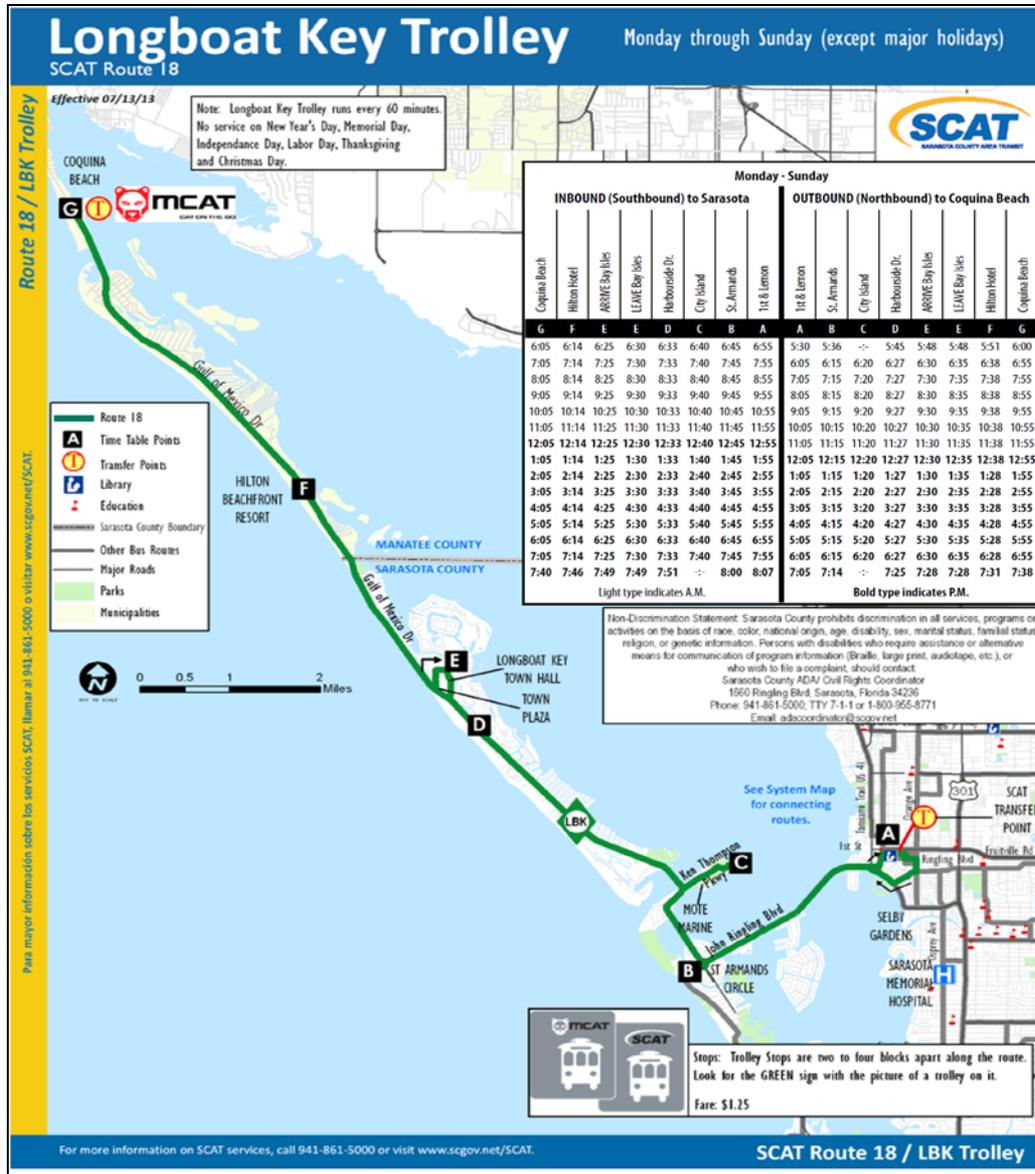
SCAT Route Performance		
October 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013		
Route	Trips per Revenue Hour	Average Daily Trips
12 (Lockwood)	26.3	714
99*(Palmetto/Sarasota)	25.0	996
14 (Bee Ridge)	22.1	370
6 (Beneva)	20.3	1066
2 (Cocoanut)	20.0	324
8 (Newtown US 301)	19.2	257
7 (Newtown NE Plaza)	18.6	265
17 (US 41/Trail)	17.7	1595
3 (Bahia Vista)	15.9	185
11 (Siesta Key)	15.4	419
9 (North Port)	14.5	395
4 (Lido Key)	13.5	154
1 (Fruitville)	12.4	465
5 (Osprey/Swift)	10.8	279
15 (Airport/Cattlemen)	10.2	408
16 (Englewood)	7.7	204
13 (Venice)	6.9	185
20/29 (North Port Neighborhood)	6.7	87
18 (LBK)*	6.6	97

*Includes only SCAT trips

Sarasota County Area Transit

Town of Longboat Key Commission
and Sarasota County Commissioners
Joint Meeting
September 17, 2013

Route 18 Map



Stops: Trolley Stops are two to four blocks apart along the route. Look for the GREEN sign with the picture of a trolley on it.
 Fare: \$1.25

Ridership Trends (July)

LONGBOAT KEY ROUTE AVERAGE DAILY RIDERSHIP COMPARISON

	TOTAL	SCAT	MCAT
Jul-11	207	110	97
Jul-12	182	93	89
Jul-13	181	92	89

Potential Timeline for Merger of MCAT/SCAT and Selection of Private Service Provider

- Finalize Inter-Local Agreement (30-60 days)
- Conduct Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) (30-60 days)
- Present ICE results and recommendation to the BCC (30 days)
- Gather and Integrate Public Input through Public Hearings (60 days)
 - Hearing must be publicly noticed
- Decide method of procurement
- Prepare Scope of Work for procurement (60-120 days)
- Procurement Advertisement, Cost Analysis and Selection Process (120-180 days)
- Contract Development and Negotiations (90-180 days)
- Present contract to both Manatee and Sarasota BCCs (30-60 days)
- Develop and implement vendor transition plan (60-120 days)

This process could take from 10 months up to 2 years.