



Public Works/Transit Division
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July 11, 2019

Michelle S. Peronto
Transit Program Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation, District One
Modal Development Office / Public Transit
801 North Broadway Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830

RE: Time Extension for FPN#435213-1-84-01, Contract No. G0720, State Transit Service Development Program Category for Service Frequency Improvement on State Road 64

Dear Ms. Peronto:

The time allotted for the completion of State Transit Discretionary Grant project funded through FPN No. FPN#435213-1-84-01, Contract No. G0720, dated April 12, 2016, is a maximum of three (3) years beyond the project start date. In accordance with Section 16.00 of the Joint Participation Agreement (JPA), a time extension through March 31, 2022 is hereby requested. The assessment of the extension is based on the unexpended balance and on current eligible expenses being billed to the project.

The actual project start date for the SR 64 frequency enhancements was November 2016 and Manatee County staff understands that the requested extension date is beyond the maximum three-year Service Development Grant period. The project continues to be very successful and Manatee County staff request that FDOT continue to support the project through the requested extension timeframe given the following justifications.

- The project is very successful and well received by passengers. Ridership levels through June of this fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2019, exceed ridership for the same period in FY 2018 by 24 percent and the increase in productivity continues to grow on a month-to-month basis.
- The Route 3/Manatee Avenue service is one of four “core network” routes in the Manatee County fixed-route network and connects commercial areas in the east part of the urbanized area of the County with Downtown Bradenton and Anna Maria Island. Consequently, frequency enhancement on the Route 3 was a long-standing goal on one of the County’s major transportation corridors and the FDOT assistance is critical in achieving that goal.
- The project had to be suspended for a brief period of time, from May 2017 through February 2018, as the Manatee County Transit Division was experiencing a significant driver shortage. Required overtime led to staff burnout which was evident in the number of early retirements and staff separations. That shortage has since been

corrected with the approval of sixteen (16) operator positions by the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for FY 2018 and staff do not anticipate any similar staffing shortfalls given service levels are not anticipated to change without the addition of new bus operator positions in the County budget.

The Service Frequency Improvement on State Road 64 continues to serve as a major traffic mitigation component on State Road 64/Manatee Avenue Corridor and with significant ridership growth in FY 2018/19. To ensure the agency is able to continue to provide this optimum level of service and utilize available grant resources, MCAT is requesting that the JPA for the subject project be extended by FDOT.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 941-747-8621 ext 7354.

Sincerely,



Edrick Sweeting,
Grants Administrator

cc: Chad Butzow, Director of Public Works
William P. Steele, Transit Division Manager
Ryan Suarez, Public Works Transit, Planning Manager