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## MCAT Route 3 Returns to Normal Operations

MANATEE COUNTY, FL (February 16, 2018) – Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) Route 3 buses, serving the Manatee Avenue corridor, resume full operations, effective February 17<sup>th</sup>. This means that MCAT Route 3 buses will now serve passengers with a bus every 30 minutes, along the Manatee Avenue/Route 3 service corridor.

In 2017, a much higher than normal number of transit operator vacancies coupled with a higher incidence of longer-term injuries and illness, significantly reduced the available service delivery workforce; and stressed transit and paratransit operations to a breaking point. To compensate, a temporary reduction in service frequency changed MCAT Route 3 operations to a bus every 60 minutes, rather than full operations (i.e., a bus every 30 minutes).

During the last several months, the MCAT “operations team” continually ramped up with new hires, and worked diligently to complete new operator training. “Now that a sufficient complement of operators is available for daily service delivery, Route 3 service is restored to full operations. The patience and understanding of our passengers during the transitional period is most appreciated. Special thanks to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners and County Administration for supporting the request for additional transit operators” said William Steele, Manatee County’s Transit Division Manager.

For more information on Manatee County Area Transit visit online at [www.mymanatee.org/mcat](http://www.mymanatee.org/mcat) or call (941) 749-7116.