



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMTD Will Change Chatham, Downtown Shuttle Routes *Schedule Adherence/Ridership Basis for Adjustments*

Springfield, IL – The Sangamon Mass Transit District (SMTD) is announcing coming changes to two of its newest routes. The UA 1 Chatham Urbanized Area Route is being changed due to schedule adherence issues during peak traffic, and the Downtown Shuttle will be changed due to low ridership.

“The current patterns in the morning and afternoon taking the Chatham route past both hospitals and utilizing Monroe from Chatham to the Capitol Complex is causing the route to consistently run late due to traffic congestion that time of day,” said Steve Schoeffel, SMTD Service Planning & Marketing Specialist. “So far, passengers on that route do not appear to be utilizing the stops at the two hospitals, but are using the route to connect with other buses in our system. So, those stops are being removed from this route, and passengers choosing to can transfer upon arriving downtown to other buses in the system that serve the hospitals.”

SMTD says the changes will go into effect Monday, October 29th. The morning route will also begin at the Chatham Municipal Building stop rather than the Pavilion, but the stop locations in Chatham will remain unchanged. Staff will continue to monitor this route and the other new routes for ridership and future route and/or schedule modifications that might improve performance and ridership.

The other change will be the replacement of the current downtown shuttle with a new, thirty-minute downtown route that will go into effect with the beginning of the new routes and the opening of the new off-street Transfer Center on January 7th.

“Since it began in January, the Downtown Shuttle has not performed well at all,” said Schoeffel. “While it takes time for a route to get attention and become well-known to the community, this route has continued to underperform through high frequency, every-ten-minutes schedules, special reduced fares and substantial advertising and community outreach efforts. Based on ridership trends over the course of almost a year now, the concept of a high-frequency downtown shuttle is clearly not something Springfield will support at this time.”

In addition to regular weekday service, the new downtown route will also run for six hours on Saturdays, 9am to 3pm, which the current shuttle route does not do. As a modification of a new route still under evaluation, the changes are remediation to avoid cancellation of the downtown route entirely, and will not require public comment.

Designed to continue providing service to the core downtown area the current on-street transfer center is moving from, SMTD will replace the Downtown Shuttle route with a new thirty-minute downtown route that serves much of the same area plus the medical district and more urban housing complexes. The route (see map attached) is planned to take Adams west from the Transfer Center, passing by the hotel and BoS Center area, travel down 7th to Capitol, just across the street from the Lincoln Home Visitor Center, travel west on Capitol to 2nd, north on 2nd to Monroe, east to 4th, then north on 4th all the way to Carpenter. From there, the route will run west to 1st, north to Miller, west on Miller to Rutledge, then Rutledge to Carpenter to 7th to Washington back east to the Transfer Center.

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