



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2019

Contact: Steve Schoeffel (SMTD) 217.622.1217

SMTD Continues Adjustments To New Routes *Daily Operations and Customer Feedback Drive Updates*

Springfield, IL – The Sangamon Mass Transit District (SMTD) announced that changes to its new Route 8 – S. Grand/MacArthur will go into effect today, Friday, February 8th. The changes are based on operational needs clarified after a month of operations in the new system and feedback from customers riding the new routes.

“SMTD observes timing and safety issues through the eyes of our road supervisors, bus operators and our passengers,” said Melissa Ashford, SMTD’s Director of Operations. “Route 8 in particular was having some issues staying on schedule running through the neighborhood south of Outer Park, and we received quite a few requests from Route 8 passengers to have the route stop at Junction Circle to make connections easier. These adjustments address those issues.”

The changes included removing the route from Cherry Hills, Denison and Bates in the neighborhood near Franklin Middle School south of Outer Park. The route will now serve stops along Outer Park instead at Lincoln, Park and Bates. The route will also pass through Junction Circle near the top and bottom of each hour to facilitate easier transfers to the Junction Circle routes that arrive and depart at quarter of and quarter after each hour.

“A change of this magnitude was planned for, but, until we could see it in day-to-day operation, we couldn’t know for sure what changes might be needed,” said Steve Schoeffel, Deputy Managing Director at SMTD. “Over the course of this last month, we’ve observed issues throughout the system that we are working on ways to address. We have already made some smaller adjustments with times a couple of weeks ago, we added a helper bus to another route to improve on-time performance, and these Route 8 changes are just the next in what will be a series of changes over the next few months to iron out problems and smooth out how the system runs for our passengers.”

SMTD passengers are encouraged to visit SMTD.org and SMTD’s Facebook page for the latest updates and to make comments or suggestions on the new routes.

###