

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee Commissioners end weekly Pine Island LeeTran route; alternative transportation provided

Fort Myers, FL, Oct. 5, 2021 – Many Pine Island residents who use public transportation will now have the ability to ride seven days a week rather than the existing once-a-week service.

The service will be available for people who qualify, including those who do not own vehicles, seniors 65 and older, people with limited income and others. These individuals must complete a Transportation Disadvantaged application. Once on file with LeeTran, riders can schedule bus service for medical appointments, grocery shopping, connecting with a Cape Coral bus route and more.

Currently, island residents have LeeTran service once weekly on Thursdays. The route averaged about two riders a week in fiscal year 2019 and declined to one rider in 2020.

The Lee Board of County Commissioners voted Tuesday to end the weekly route, which is Route 160, after its final run on Nov. 18. After that time, Transportation Disadvantaged customers can request rides for 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

LeeTran has held an informational meeting and posted rider alerts, and will continue to do so this fall. LeeTran is coordinating with Beacon of Hope, a nonprofit that also provides some transit options for island residents who qualify for its programs. LeeTran also assembled a list of its Pine Island riders from the past three years and made contact to alert riders to the changes.

To learn more about LeeTran or to follow service related updates, please visit the agency's website at www.RideLeeTran.com. If you would like a LeeTran representative to speak to your organization, call 239-533-8726 and ask for Virginia Walters.