

Brevard County Transit Services Department

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Nelson Appointed New Director of Space Coast Area Transit

Brevard County, Florida – On May 8th, 2018, the Brevard County Commission confirmed the appointment of Scott Nelson as the new Director of Space Coast Area Transit. He replaces Jim Liesenfelt, the former Director for over 20 years, who was recently promoted to Assistant Brevard County Manager. Mr. Nelson had been the agency's Interim Director since July of 2017. Some of his responsibilities include directing Brevard County Transit Service's 48 fixed and paratransit routes, managing the 4th largest vanpool program in Florida, and supervising an extensive volunteer program that provides transportation to over 350 frail and elderly individuals. Nelson will oversee 139 transit service employees; an annual operating budget of \$14 million; a capital budget of \$8 million; and management contracts for vehicle maintenance, marketing, and the agency's vanpool program.

Assistant County Manager Liesenfelt strongly endorsed Nelson's promotion, stating, *"During his term as Interim Director, Mr. Nelson led the department through Hurricane Irma, five Federal, State and Local audits, positioned the department for future succession planning, and continued to work with Federal, State, City and Local authorities to improve Brevard's bus service. He has a proven track record as a successful Transit Director; serves with distinction on several statewide leadership teams; and is recognized for his integrity, strong interpersonal skills and operational expertise."*

Nelson began his transit career in 1985 with Kitsap Transit in Bremerton, Washington. as a transit operator. He proceeded to be promoted into a number of positions of increasing responsibility, up to Main Base Operations Manager. In 2007, he was hired as Space Coast Area Transit's Manager of Operations. During his 11-year tenure, fixed route ridership doubled to 2,000,000 passengers annually, the entire bus fleet was replaced and enlarged, video security systems were installed on all buses, and required State and Federal safety and security plans were developed and adopted. Additionally, the Agency won numerous state-wide awards for safety, driver of the year, and community outreach. Nelson holds a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California; a BA from Azusa Pacific University; and is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) in Brevard.

"I am very honored and grateful for this new opportunity," Nelson said. *"Jim Liesenfelt's guidance and advice was invaluable in helping me prepare for this position. I appreciate his faith in my abilities, as well as that of County Manager Frank Abbate and the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. I am excited to work closely with our team in this new role."*

