



# BREVARD County SPACE COAST AREA TRANSIT

## Public Information Release

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### *Park & Ride Lot Opens in Viera*

The Viera Company and The Viera Transportation Management Association officially opened Viera's new Park & Ride lot, increasing the total number Park & Ride lots in Brevard County to three. The new lot is located on Porada Drive, near Stadium Parkway and Viera Boulevard. The two existing lots are located on Eau Gallie Boulevard, just west of I-95 exit #183, and in Palm Bay on Emerson Road NW, just west of Minton Road. Park & Ride lots offer free parking to commuters who are sharing a ride by carpooling, vanpooling or taking the bus to work.

The Viera Park and Ride lot is a community project, funded and constructed by The Viera Company. It has the potential to remove over fifty cars from the road each day, translating into over 36,000 vehicle trips per year being removed from Brevard's roadways. "We cannot continually build and maintain infrastructure to meet our transportation needs," said Commissioner Mary Bolin, Chairman of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. "It's important that we learn to rely on ridesharing as we look to creating a responsible future. Many employees are looking for ways to make their work commute more affordable. During these challenging economic times, families are struggling to make ends meet. Ridesharing not only saves money and gas, it is a positive investment in our environment as well. The Viera Company has worked diligently to create a community that is pro-active about transportation management. This is a great example of the private and public sector working together to benefit our citizens," Bolin added.

Brevard County has one of the largest Vanpool Programs in the nation; traveling over 175,000 miles per month, carry approximately 30,000 passengers per month and logging more than 1,000,000 passenger miles per month. The vans are purchased by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners with federal grants, and are provided to VPSI, the company who administers Space Coast Area Transit's Vanpool Program. VPSI then leases the vans to both commuters and human service agencies at a rate that includes all maintenance and insurance. Commuters that live in the same area and work in the same location form vanpools of seven to fifteen people, in state-of-the-art vans provided through this program. Employers can provide employees with up to \$2,760 annually in tax-free vanpool and transit transportation benefits. Many commuters find that advantages of sharing a ride include: avoiding wear and tear on their personal car, saving money on gas and maintenance, qualifying for discounted rates on auto insurance, reducing stress that is caused by driving in traffic during peak commute hours, and enhancing personal safety by leaving and arriving in groups. For further information on vanpooling or using Park & Ride lots, call 952-4563. In North Brevard, call 637-5307. To receive bus maps and schedules by mail, call 633-1878. Vanpool applications and printable maps and schedules are also available on RideSCAT.com.

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*Photo: Left to Right (Front row) Mary Ellen McKibben, Project Manager, The Viera Company; Jim Liesenfelt, Director, Space Coast Area Transit; Tracy Duda-Chapman, CEO, The Viera Company; Stephen Johnson, President, The Viera Company; Commissioner Mary Bolin, Chairman, Brevard County Board of County Commissioners; Diane Poitras, Transit Analyst, Florida Department of Transportation District 5; (Back Row) Mel Scott, Assistant County Manager, Stockton Whitten, Assistant County Manager, Bob Kamm, Director, Space Coast TPO and Robin Symthe, Vice President/General Manager News 13.*