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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 30, 2021**

**Service Changes and Mask Mandates**

*Conway (SC)* – Beginning Sunday, October 3, 2021, Coast RTA will be implementing the following services changes, as well as enforcing the federal mask mandate for all vehicles and public facilities.

* **Route 15 North** will now include service to Carolina Forest/International Dr. (previously Route 17). Buses will now serve Grand Strand Hospital in one direction at 20 minutes past the hour every hour 7AM through 8PM and use US 17 Bypass to International Drive. Inbound service will return to 79th Avenue to get back to Kings Hwy. Hourly frequencies will remain on the route.
* **Route 17** will no longer serve Carolina Forest/International Dr. The rest of the alignment will remain unchanged. From the Ivory Wilson Transit Center, riders headed to Carolina Forest will need to access Route 15N.
* **Route 15 South** will operate on two separate segments. **Route 15S** will terminate in Market Common serving the new VA facility. Route frequency between the Ivory Wilson Transit Center and Market Common (including MYR Airport) will remain at 60 minutes. **Route 15 South Extension** will operate between the VA Facility in Market Common to Tidelands Waccamaw Hospital in Murrells Inlet on a 90 minute frequency. There will be a timed transfer between 15S and 15S Ext certain times of the day at the VA Facility for through travel – check the schedule for these times.

According to a federal mandate for public transit, Coast RTA will be instituting a **“No Mask, No Ride”** policy on all vehicles and public facilities. We ask this of all our passengers to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Passengers needing a mask will be provided one.

As a reminder, Coast RTA continues to be “Fare Free!” to prevent lingering at the fare box in an effort to keep our drivers and the traveling public safe.

For more information including additional route, schedule and fares information, call 843-488-0865 or visit the NEW Coast RTA website [www.RideCoastRTA.com](http://www.RideCoastRTA.com). Become a Coast RTA fan on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RideCoastRTA) or follow us on Twitter [@CoastRTA](https://twitter.com/CoastRTA). Coast RTA recommends tracking service in real time by downloading the APP at [www.CoastRTARideTracker.com](http://www.CoastRTARideTracker.com).

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Service Vision: Coast RTA provides reliable transit service to our growing, diverse, and visiting community to make life’s important connections.