

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD

The Indian River County (IRC) Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2006 in the First Floor Conference Room "A", County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Sandra Bowden, IRC Commissioner; Vice Chairman Ronald Tesnow, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Representative; Pearlie Clark, Florida Department of Children and Families (FDC&F) Representative; Cathy Viggiano, Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security (FDLES) Representative (10:04 a.m.); William Lundy Parden, Handicapped Representative; Corine Williams, State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Representative; Cindy Barnes, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (FAHCA) Representative and Barbara Patten, Florida Association of Community Action (FACA) Representative.

Absent were Dr. Harry Hurst and Jim Granse, Citizen Advocate Representatives; Ginna O'Connor, Florida Department of Elder Affairs (FDEA) Representative; Tom Buchanan, Elderly Representative; and Kathleen "Cookie" Geyer, Public Education Community (all unexcused).

Let the record show, at this time there are no Representatives of the State Coordinating Council of Early Childhood Services (CCECS), the Private Transportation Industry, or the Mass/Public Transit Industry on the TDLCB.

Also present were IRC staff: Bob Keating, Community Development Director; Sutapa Chatterjee, Transportation Planner, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); and Reta Smith, Assistant to the Executive Aide. Also present were Karen Deigl, Chief Executive Office, Council on Aging (COA); and Karen Wood, Transportation Director, COA/Community Coach.

Call to Order

Chairman Bowden called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

TDLCB Chairman's Report

There was none

Planning Status Report – Sutapa Chatterjee, IRC Transportation Planner

Ms. Chatterjee brought the members' attention to a flyer with information about the \$1.00 donation residents could make to the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) fund when they renewed their license plates, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She related the County had collected \$142.00 from this fund last year, which was used for operating expenses. Ms. Chatterjee noted the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities would be holding five transportation forums around the state and referred to the fliers for the one to be held in West Palm Beach on June 12, 2006 and the other to be held in Orlando on June 21, 2006, copies of which are on file in the Commission Office. She explained the purpose of the forums was to learn how transportation issues affected employment of people with disabilities.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 23, 2006

ON MOTION BY Mr. Parden, SECONDED BY Ms. Barnes, the Board voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2006 meeting.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #2 for the 2006 Planning Grant - Sutapa Chatterjee, IRC Transportation Planner

Ms. Chatterjee reviewed the information contained in the backup, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She advised the planning grant covered IRC staff expenses incurred from January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006 in the amount of \$3,423.05.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Ms. Barnes, the Board voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the Planning Grant Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #2 in the amount of \$3,423.05, and direct staff to forward them to the Metropolitan Planning Organization as the Designated Official Planning Agency for approval and transmittal to the state.

**Review of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan for FY 2006/07 -
Sutapa Chatterjee, IRC Transportation Planner**

Ms. Chatterjee gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the TD Service Plan for 2006/07, and a copy is on file in the Commission Office. She reviewed the 2006 updates, which included revised population and economic data, a new objective, trip prioritization list, updated bus and vehicle inventory, updated service and financial information and a new emergency preparedness plan.

Ms. Chatterjee advised the times for dial-a-ride services had been changed to 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. She revealed the COA/Community Coach had a total of 51 vehicles in their fleet, consisting of 45 vans with wheelchair lifts, three new 31-foot buses, five new high-top vans and nine fixed route vehicles. Ms. Chatterjee outlined the ridership in 2005 averaged 27,479 one-way trips per month, which was a 16% increase for the fixed routes. The total number of trips for the year 2005 was 329,745, for an increase of 5.3% over the previous year. She reported the average cost per trip was \$7.98, which was an increase of 10.5%, largely due to the increase in the price of gasoline. Ms. Chatterjee summarized the total transportation costs for the year amounted to \$2,630,371, which represented an increase of 16.3%.

Ms. Chatterjee related the new objective was to transfer clients to the fixed-route system, as recommended by the Commission for the TD in February 2006.

Ms. Karen Wood, COA Transportation Director, detailed some minor changes to the TD Service Plan and these changes have been made in the copy on file in the Commission Office.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Ms. Viggiano, the Board voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan for 2006/07, with the changes as noted by Ms. Wood, and transmit it to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Ms. Patten observed it seemed at some point fairly soon there would be a mechanism to have pet friendly shelters in emergency situations. She wondered if there was a plan in terms of transportation for those individuals wanting to bring their pets with them to a shelter. Ms. Wood stated when and if that became available it would be added to the COA's Hurricane Preparedness Plan and they would take direction from the County's Emergency Services Department.

Review of the Indian River County MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2006/07 – 2010/11 - Sutapa Chatterjee, IRC Transportation Planner

Ms. Chatterjee reviewed the information contained in MPO Staff Director Mr. Phillip Matson's memorandum dated May 11, 2006, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Bob Keating, IRC Community Development Director, explained one of the things the MPO had to do each year was to approve a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and if the MPO did not approve it the DOT could not spend any transportation money in Indian River County. He specified most of the input for the TIP were received from DOT District IV and it related to all the state and federal money that was going to be spent in the County in the next five year timeframe. Mr. Keating continued one of the requirements was for the TDLCB members to give their input on the TD portion of the TIP, as shown in the line items in Mr. Matson's memorandum. He indicated the funding sources identified to the left of the chart in the memorandum, and clarified LF meant Local Funds, TDTF was the TD Trust Fund, and the TDDR stood for TD District Revenue.

Ms. Williams pointed out the figures in the TIP were only a projection because every year it all depended on how much was awarded from the Central Office before it came down to the District IV DOT. She advised this year there was a significant increase in TD funds and the trend would continue for some time.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Ms. Patten, the Board voted unanimously (8-0) to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged section of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations Federal Year 2006/07 – 2010/11 Transportation Improvement Program and recommend the Metropolitan Planning Organization approve the Transportation Improvement Program.

Community Transportation Coordinator Status Report – Karen Wood, Transportation Director, COA/Community Coach

Ms. Wood went over her TDLCB Report for January through March, 2006, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She introduced Ms. Karen Deigl, the new Chief Executive Officer for the Council on Aging. Ms. Deigl gave a brief history of her background in the County and said she was looking forward

to working with the Board. All members of the TDLCB introduced themselves to Ms. Deigl and stated who they represented on the Board.

Ms. Wood advised the COA had three new 31 foot buses. She noted the general public and bus drivers seemed to be positive about the vehicles because they seated 24 passengers and had alleviated the overload situation on routes one and two. She mentioned the COA was looking at possibly ordering two more of the buses to replace 25 foot vehicles presently used on routes three and eight.

Ms. Wood related the DOT had told the COA \$70,000 would be available to buy a replacement van and an additional seven-passenger mini-van to be used for passenger trips and Meals on Wheels deliveries. On July 1, 2006 \$225,000 would be available for operational purposes, and this amounted to an increase of \$177,000 from the funds received last year. Ms. Wood detailed the COA had found a way to match the \$225,000, which would hopefully allow them to raise the starting rate for drivers in order to become competitive in the marketplace.

Ms. Wood confirmed a TD Trip Equipment grant in the amount of \$260,000 had been submitted to the TD Commission for approval.

Mr. Tesnow noted the chart showing the fixed route ridership count indicated route nine had a 218% increase in ridership from the same quarter as last year, and wondered why. Ms. Wood related route nine connected Vero Beach and Sebastian via 58th Avenue, and ridership had just exploded. She advised the Community Coach was running at about 56% captivity over the entire fixed-route system, which was about 25% higher than what you normally see, since most cities ran at 25% - 27%. Ms. Wood stated the possibility of providing transportation to Fellsmere, the Outlet Mall and the CVS warehouse center would be looked at, depending on funding.

Gasoline prices were discussed.

Other New Business

Ms. Williams stated the DOT was looking into how things were done on a local level by the transportation agencies as far as Title VI was concerned. She specified this involved nondiscrimination and equal opportunities for people with disabilities, and she would be coming back to the Board with a plan of action at a later date. Ms. Williams mentioned one thing she liked was the information on the agenda giving a number to call if anyone needed special accommodation. Ms. William wondered if there were other advertising mediums used for people who were visually impaired and might not be able to read about the meeting in

the newspaper. Chairman Bowden said she would check on this and let Ms. Williams know.

Ms. Clark wondered if the COA buses assisted clients in getting to shelters in an emergency event. Ms. Wood advised vehicles were not actually running on a regular basis, but if anyone called in they would be driven to the shelters.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Ms. Barnes, the Board voted unanimously (8-0) to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m.