

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD

The Indian River County (IRC) Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2006 in the First Floor Conference Room "A", County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Sandra Bowden, IRC Commissioner; Joel Herman, Alternate for Vice Chairman Ronald Tesnow, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Representative; Pearlle Clark, Florida Department of Children and Families (FDC&F) Representative; Cathy Viggiano, Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Representative; Dr. Harry Hurst and Jim Granse, Citizen Advocate Representatives; Tom Buchanan, Elderly Representative; Kathleen "Cookie" Geyer, Public Education Community Representative; William Lundy Parden, Handicapped Representative; Corine Williams, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Representative; Cindy Barnes, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (FAHCA) and Bill Craig, Florida Department of Elder Affairs (FDEA) Representative.

Absent was Barbara Patten, Florida Association of Community Action (FACA) Representative (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.

Also present were Phil Matson, IRC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Staff Director; Karen Wood, Council on Aging (COA)/Community Coach; Karen Deigl, COA Executive Director and Misty L. Pursel, Staff Assistant III.

Call to Order

Chairman Bowden called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes of the May 25, 2006 Meeting

ON MOTION BY Mr. Buchanan, SECONDED BY Mr. Granse, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of May 25, 2006.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

TDLCB Chairman's Report

There was none.

Planning Status Report - Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director

Mr. Matson presented a Proclamation received from the Central Committee for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) office in Tallahassee acknowledging the 16th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed into law by President George W. Bush on July 25, 1990, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

He explained the anniversary of this landmark legislation affected everything and everyone as accessibility was a consideration for all dimensions of everyday life.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #3 for the 2006 Planning Grant – Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director

Mr. Matson reviewed the information contained in the backup, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He advised the planning grant covered IRC staff expenses incurred from April 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$6,226.10.

ON MOTION BY Ms. Clarke, SECONDED BY Ms. Barnes, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the Planning Grant Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #3 in the amount of \$6,226.10, and directed staff to forward them to the Metropolitan Planning Organization as the Designated Official Planning Agency for approval and transmittal to the state.

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

Mrs. Wood went over the IRC CTC's Second Quarter Status Report 2006, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mrs. Wood advised Community Coach door-to-door service showed a decrease of 2% in ridership for the quarter of April, May and June, 2006 due to seasonal residents migrating to the north for the summer months. She advised Indian River Transit (IRT) public transportation also showed a decrease of 3% again due to the seasonal residents migrating. Ms. Wood related IRT Saturday service increased 22% from the same quarter last year, indicating this service proved positive with the public.

Mrs. Wood noted following renovations to its original building the transportation department moved back without any interruption to service.

Mrs. Wood stated the TD Operational Equipment grant in the amount of \$279,788 was received by the COA. The Rural Capital Equipment grant for computer monitors and handheld radios was received by the COA in June, 2006.

Mrs. Wood commented her attendance at the TD Conference Expo 2006 in Orlando, Florida on June 4-6, connected her with many new contacts where she obtained vital new informational changes and technology for the transportation field.

Mrs. Wood further advised replacement buses for Community Coach and a new route for IRT, with a change in the existing route location adjustments and extended hours, was in process. Mrs. Wood related the possibility of providing transportation to Fellsmere, and Wal-Mart awaits the results of surveys sent out with utility bills. She advised positive feedback was received at a City of Fellsmere workshop.

Mrs. Wood explained discussions regarding the Sebastian route possibly cutting back to three days a week instead of five days a week have subsided because the Sebastian route had increased significantly in the last six months. Mrs. Wood advised the same instance had occurred with route 9, coming out of Sebastian into Vero Beach with the connection through Wabasso. This route showed an increase of 145%.

Mr. Matson commented no public transportation from the School Board was provided to charter school students, affecting the educational passenger numbers, including the Mueller Center. Mrs. Wood advised bulletins were circulated this year, as well as last year, to charter schools advising transportation was available, along with schedules. Chairman Bowden suggested possibly mentioning in the newspapers the bus routes and schedules availability to charter schools.

Corine Williams, FDOT, mentioned FDOT might be able to assist with placing some brochures in the school orientation packages.

Annual Operating Report (AOR) – Karen Wood, Transportation Director, COA/Community Coach

Mr. Matson explained the AOR had been compiled by the COA as CTC.

Mrs. Wood reviewed the information contained in the AOR, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mrs. Wood advised in Section II: General Info, Number 2, the number of coordination contractors will increase to 2 from 1 and the number of trips will change because the veterans' trips were not included, due to a discrepancy. She directed passenger ambulatory and non-ambulatory numbers would change when the veterans' count, usually between 5,000 and 6,000 trips, was included, also affecting the total number of trips.

Mrs. Wood reiterated that the numbers for total miles in Section V of the Employee Info would also change when the veterans' mileage was included.

Mrs. Wood provided explanation to the 664 denied trips in Section III: Passenger Trip Info, from the 29 lack of vehicle availability denials, a large majority were students requesting rides to school, which were not allowed because Community Coaches were not rated to transport to schools. She further noted although approximately half of the denied trips were covered through volunteer ambulance and volunteers, the requests were counted as denied trips. Mrs. Wood confirmed the report would be noted accordingly.

Mrs. Wood discussed outside service areas were eligible for Medicaid transport to specialist in Martin and St. Lucie Counties. She further noted coordinating efforts were being investigated with surrounding counties. Mr. Matson concurred as Indian River County medical establishments built up, the outside service area costs would decrease. Mrs. Wood noted the flat rates, plus mileage fees would also affect costs.

ON MOTION BY Dr. Hurst, SECONDED BY Mr. Herman, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the Community Transportation Coordinator Annual Operations Report, to include the amendments prior to transmittal to the state.

Other New Business

Ms. Williams stated the \$100,000 State Transit Corridor grant to expand service to include U.S. Highway 1 into Barefoot Bay, in southern Brevard County, was highly recommended and awaited proposed budget approval. She further advised the emphasis was on regional services and funds would not be made available until July 1, 2007.

Ms. Williams advised a regional, specialized Transit Efficiency Study by Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc. has been approved for the region, to include four counties; Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River. She further advised this study specifically related to demand response and expansion in the sense of filtering individuals who utilize the service for the designed purpose (i.e., medical purposes versus recreational), and have them on fixed routes. Ms. Williams commented FDOT could be a possible funding source, especially if the request was a new service development for three years or has a regional emphasis with a five year life span.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.