

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD

The Indian River County (IRC) Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 16, 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; and Jim Granse, Citizen Advocate Representative; Kathleen "Cookie" Geyer, Public Education Community Representative; Barbara Patten, Florida Association of Community Action (FACA) Representative; William Lundy Parden, Handicapped Representative; Corine Williams, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Representative; Cindy Barnes, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (FAHCA).

Absent was Cathy Viggiano, Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Representative; Dr. Harry Hurst, Citizen Advocate Representative; Tom Buchanan, Elderly Representative; and Bill Craig, Florida Department of Elder Affairs (FDEA) Representative (all excused).

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; Bill Ball, Tindale-Oliver; and Misty L. Pursel, Staff Assistant III.

Call to Order

Chairman Bowden called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes of the August 24, 2006 Meeting

Ms. Cindy Barnes, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration requested to be listed as present at the August 24, 2006 meeting.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Mr. Granse, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of August 24, 2006, as amended.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

TDLCB Chairman's Report

Chairman Bowden reported a public hearing would immediately follow this Committee meeting.

Planning Status Report - Phil Matson, IRC MPO Staff Director

Mr. Matson introduced Mr. Bill Ball, a consultant who had completed the reviews of the transit system over the past several years, a speaker from the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Metropolitan Advisory Committees and this board as well. For the record, Mr. Matson requested from Chairman Bowden, Mr. Ball speak regarding a state initiative for three-county transit and paratransit plans and coordination thereof with neighbors to the south on Agenda Item Number 9, Other New Business.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #4 or 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 July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006 in the amount of \$7,730.38.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Ms. Geyer, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the Planning Grant Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #4 in the amount of \$7,730.38, 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 summarized the IRC CTC's Third 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 increase of 1% in ridership for the quarter of July, August and September, 2006. She reported Indian River Transit (IRT) public transportation also showed an increase of 7% due to the holiday season approaching. Ms. Wood related having received more and more riders in wheelchairs.

Mrs. Wood accorded a vote of thanks to Mr. Matson for the MPO's assistance in budget revision of dollars to make the purchase of three high top Van Terras. She also indicated The Federal Department of Transportation had agreed to supply an additional \$18,000.00 in grant monies to purchase three more high top Van Terras.

Among items mentioned in the report were the IRT Route schedule and the final monitoring report of the Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) would be available upon its receipt from the TD Commission.

Also included in the report was IRT Extended Hour Grant was now available and would be the next project implemented to the IRC Public Transportation System.

Mrs. Wood mentioned the receipt of a grant for a regional project for Indian River Public Transportation to run from Barefoot Bay into Pocahontas Park, noting the original grant would not come into effect until July 1, 2007.

Annual CTC Evaluation Report – Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director

Mr. Matson presented the findings of the CTC evaluation subcommittee for the reporting period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He reported an excellent performance ranking was obtained in all four categories, with a fifth component for on-site observation of the system.

Mr. Matson briefly mentioned the Community Transportation Coordinator Review for July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 would be sent to the State Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged for approval to continue operations with the CTC.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Mr. Granse, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to accept the Annual CTC Evaluation Report.

UNDER DISCUSSION, Kathleen “Cookie” Geyer, Public Education Community Representative commended the coordination between the different departments, and noted dedication of the Indian River County staff was very much appreciated. Chairman Bowden also applauded the energy level of those individuals.

Other New Business

Mr. Matson introduced Mr. Bill Ball, Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc., who had provided the last several system-wide reviews of our transit system, or Transit Development Plan (TDP). A copy of Mr. Ball’s Transit Efficiency Study presentation is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Ball summarized a draft scope of services, key deliverables and the project schedule commencing in January 2007. He indicated the formation of a Review Committee would be comprised of one local coordinating board member from each of the four counties and one MPO staff member from one of each of the four counties. Mr. Ball urged this committee to designate a representative to participate on this review committee as well as the MPO.

Mrs. Wood posed the question regarding the origin destination analysis, and the eligibility for the paratransit having been done, how was the trend shifted to the riders of fixed route.

Mr. Ball answered some of the routes could not be shifted and focus was on the non-essential, non-medical trips where a choice would be given to provide more flexibility to travel; when the desire to travel, rather than scheduling in advance and meeting time windows. He confirmed further discussion and planning would be required.

Barbara Patten, Florida Association of Community Action (FACA) Representative volunteered to participate on the review committee, representing the local coordinating board member.

Mr. Matson would participate on the review committee as the MPO staff member representing Indian River County.

Kathleen "Cookie" Geyer, Public Education Community Representative tendered her resignation from this committee, effective as of December 31, 2006, with a recommendation and placement of a school board representative on the committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Call to Order, Introductory Remarks and Welcome

Chairman Bowden opened the Annual Public Hearing at 10:35 a.m. and welcomed those members of the public who were present.

Designated Official Planning Agency Staff and Community Transportation Coordinator Presentation

Mr. Matson gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office. He reviewed the System Summary provided by the state, noting the number of trips provided through the coordinated network had increased to 347,404, which was a 5% increase from last year. Mr. Matson reported Indian River County had more elderly riding the system; 35% of the 58% state-wide total. He mentioned the overall satisfaction was rated 4.7 out 5.00 out of 133 riders.

Mr. Matson reported new legislation affected Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) by changing the Commission for the TD and decreasing the members of the Board from 29 members to 7 members. The seven members now underwent background checks to ensure no conflict of interest and the Governor appointed the Chairperson.

Chairman Bowden asked if the public had any questions up to this point, and no one did.

Open Discussion/Public Input

Ms. Beverly O'Neill, Children's Services Advisory Committee member provided a summary of the findings of the County-wide needs assessment. She reported the community survey transportation concerns were toward the working people and children in after-school programs. Ms. O'Neill advocated for a transportation plan to meet the needs of the expanding population to include late evening bus routes and early morning routes.

Mrs. Wood indicated due to the liability issues involved when dropping children off on busy thoroughfares where they needed to cross the street, children had to be 12 years of age or older to ride by themselves and those children under 12 years of age needed to be accompanied by someone 16 years of age or older. She explained transportation was provided for pickup at the Gifford Middle School on Wednesday for the half-days, and to the Gifford Youth Activity Center.

Mr. Matson talked about the major change made in Medicaid this year, wherein every county was provided a year-to-year allocation and should the demand not meet the allocation, the funding was maintained. He explained if the demand exceeded the allocation; the County was obligated to provide Medicaid service.

Mrs. Wood related Medicaid was a mandatory transport to include out of county, even airline flights.

Chairman Bowden suggested moving forward at least one of Ms. O'Neill's goals by possibly having a meeting with the Indian River County School Board, the Recreation Department, and whoever else is needed to be involved.

Ms. Karen Deigl, COA Executive Director, volunteered to coordinate between the School District, Recreation Department, and the County, et al., to plan a meeting and initiate communications.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.