

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD

The Indian River County (IRC) Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2007, 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 (10:02 a.m.); Cathy Viggiano, Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Representative (FDVR); Dr. Harry Hurst (10:09 a.m.) and Jim Granse, Citizen Advocate Representatives; William Lundy Parden, Handicapped Representative; Paula Scott, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Representative (10:02 a.m.); Cindy Barnes, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (FAHCA); Ann Viens, Florida Department of Elderly Affairs (FDEA) Representative (10:21 a.m.); and Barbara Patten, Florida Association of Community Action (FACA) Representative.

Let the record show, at this time there are no Representatives of Public Education, the Elderly, 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 Hamilton, MPO Planner; Karen Wood, Council on Aging (COA)/Community Coach; Karen Deigl, COA Executive Director; and Reta Smith, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order

Chairman Bowden called the meeting to order.

Election of Vice Chair and Confirmation of Yearly Calendar of Meetings

ON MOTION BY Ms. Viggiano, SECONDED BY Ms. Barnes, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to re-elect Mr. Ron Tesnow as Vice Chairman for 2007.

Approval of Minutes of the November 16, 2006 Meeting

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Mr. Granse, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of November 16, 2006, as presented.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

Chairman's Report

There was none.

Planning Status Report

Mr. Matson advised we had now been organized into three districts at the State Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) level, and the contact in our region was Erin Schepers if anyone had transportation issues at the State level.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #1 for the 2007 Planning Grant

Mr. Matson reviewed the information contained in his memorandum of February 8, 2007, which is on file in the Commission office.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Mr. Parden, the Board voted unanimously (9 - 0) to approve the Planning Grant Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #1 in the amount of \$2,741.11, and directed staff to forward them to the Metropolitan Planning Organization as the Designation Official Planning Agency for approval and transmittal to the state.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Status Report

Mrs. Wood reviewed the IRC CTC Fourth Quarter Status Report for October through December, 2006, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. She noted Indian River Transportation (IRT) Route #10 had started operating on January 2, 2007, and she was in the process of getting bus schedules translated into Spanish and distributing them with the residents' monthly water bill. Chairman Bowden suggested putting this information in the Fellsmere and North County Libraries. Mrs. Wood confirmed the schedules would also be placed in apartment complexes, the health clinic and other sites in the Fellsmere area.

Mr. Matson thought the next expansion might be to run the buses a little later on routes that had a workforce on them so employees would have transportation both ways. Mrs. Wood pointed out the system was running a 9.5 hour day now and if it was expanded it would become a 10.5 to 11 hour day, and she would probably have to go to split shifts. Ms. Deigl mentioned the COA was looking for bus drivers and urged members to let people know if they thought anyone would be interested in applying for the positions.

A discussion followed about the problems involved in finding bus drivers. Mrs. Wood described the proposed Barefoot Bay to Pocahontas Park route.

Mrs. Wood related the COA Transportation Department had been invited to partner with the American Cancer Society (ACS) Lifeline program to ensure cancer patients had transport service to and from treatment and other cancer-related centers. She explained Blue Cross/Blue Shield had partnered with the ACS and had given them \$1 million to use for transportation, but unfortunately there was no money available for new vehicle purchases.

Mrs. Wood brought the members' attention to a CTC Letter of Agreement, which is on file in the Commission Office. She admitted she had some issues with the agreement because on page one under I (b) it stated the CTC agreed to insure all cancer patients were eligible for TD transportation. Mrs. Wood pointed out she could not do this unless they met the eligibility criteria. She continued I (d) said the CTC must coordinate multi-patient treatment scheduling with treatment centers to facilitate multi-loading of vehicles, especially for patients located more than 20 miles from treatment centers. Mrs. Wood acknowledged it was a wonderful thought but she did not have a fleet of vehicles sitting around

waiting for a few people in IRC that might have to go to a Fort Pierce treatment center, and she did not know where the money and vehicles would come from to do this.

Mrs. Wood noted there were also insurance issues that needed to be looked into further. She acknowledged this was a good program and thought there was a need for it, but was concerned with how she would be able to perform the duty once she said she could. She asked for comments and input from the TDLCB members present. Dr. Hurst agreed with Mrs. Wood's observations, adding they could not be all things to all people all the time.

Mr. Matson asked if the contract obligated the CTC to provide cancer transportation at the expense of other forms of treatment, such as dialysis. Mrs. Wood said the agreement was strictly for cancer patients and could mean trips to the dentist or other related trips. She felt it was important for the ACS to understand if the agreement meant she would treat cancer patients differently than other residents of the County, she could not do that because TD was on a first-come, first-served basis.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Tesnow recommended Mrs. Wood attend the next ACS meeting and voice her concerns, and if they did not respond to her satisfaction she should not sign the agreement. Ms. Deigl pointed out the CTC was already transporting cancer patients and if somebody needed to be transported to a cancer center or for trips, they booked accordingly. She mentioned historically the ACS had a transportation system on a volunteer basis and she thought they were perhaps trying to expand on this. She thought it was putting the CTC under more duress to take care of the needs of cancer patients.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY Dr. Hurst, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to recommend the Community Transportation Coordinator not sign the Letter of Agreement with the American Cancer Society the way things stood at this time.

Designation of Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation Sub-Committee

Mr. Matson referred to his memorandum dated February 14, 2007, a copy of which is on file in the Commission office. He recapped one of the principal responsibilities of the TDLCB was to annually evaluate the CTC. He pointed out the evaluation criteria and workbook contained in the backup on file in the Commission Office, and advised this was used by the Evaluation Sub-Committee to critique the CTC and submit it back to the Board for their recommendations. Mr. Matson recalled in the past Dr. Hurst had chaired and participated in the evaluation meetings and Mrs. Geyer of the School District had been an active participant, but she had since retired.

Mr. Matson introduced Ms. Paula Scott as the new FDOT representative and Ann Viens as the FDEA representative on the TDLCB, and felt it would be a good opportunity for them to learn about the system if they chose to volunteer. Dr. Hurst volunteered to serve as Chairman if Ms. Viggiano would be Vice Chairman and Ms. Clark also chose to be part of the group. He pointed out Mrs. Geyer had been a major player in the Sub Committee in the past, and down the road when he was not around he would like to make sure there was a mechanism in place to go on with a smooth transition without any glitches.

ON MOTION BY Dr. Hurst, SECONDED BY Mr. Tesnow, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve Dr. Hurst, Ms. Viggiano, Ms. Clark, Ms. Scott and Ms. Viens to serve on the Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation Sub Committee.

Chairman Bowden thanked the volunteers for their willingness to serve.

Other New Business

Mr. Matson announced before Mrs. Geyer retired she had advised her supervisor of the vacancy on the TDLCB for a Public Education Representative, and he understood the School District would be naming a new Transportation Coordinator to serve on the Board. He continued Mrs. Geyer had expressed an interest in participating in the County on an advisory basis, and noted there was a vacancy on the Board for an Elderly Representative. After some discussion, it was decided to change the

designation to Senior or Retired Persons' Representative and approach Mrs. Geyer to see if she would be interested in serving in that position. Dr. Hurst suggested writing a thank you letter to Mrs. Geyer and Mr. Buchanan, the former Elderly Representative, in appreciation of their past participation on the TDLCB, and Mr. Matson agreed to do so.

Ms. Viggiano noticed on the agenda she was listed as working for FDLES, but actually she worked for the Florida Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Mr. Matson observed Ms. Viens was listed as the FDEA Representative, but she worked for the AAA, also Mr. Merritt was listed wrongly as the FDVR Representative, and had been replaced by Ms. Scott. He promised these corrections would be made by the next meeting.

Ms. Deigl advised the COA would likely have a new name by the next TDLCB meeting, although she could not divulge what it would be until it went before their Board. She stated IRT would probably have a tag name to identify the fixed route buses from the community coaches, so there would be a difference in the appearance of the buses to help with ridership and marketing.

Mr. Matson introduced and welcomed Ms. Karen Hamilton, a new MPO Planner with the IRC Community Development Department. Chairman Bowden announced the next TDLCB meeting would be held on May 24, 2007.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Tesnow, SECONDED BY
Dr. Hurst, the Board voted unanimously (11-0)
to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m.**