

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD

TDLCB MINUTES

Thursday, November 20, 2008
Building A, conference Room A1-102
1800 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3365

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joel Herman	Veteran's Service Office
William Lundy Parden	Rep. for the Handicapped, Vice Chair
Ann Viens	FL Dept. of elder Affairs
Dr. Harry Hurst	Citizen Advocate Representative
James Granse	Citizen Advocate Representative
Cindy Barnes	FL Agency for Health Care Administration
Ellen Higinbotham	Department of Children and Families
Toni Purvis Teresi	Representative for Seniors
Al Davis (alternate for George Millar)	Public Education Rep.
Carolyn Geck (via phone)	FL Dept. of Transportation

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Barbara Patten	FL Association of Community Action
Catherine Viggiano	FL Dept. of Education, Div. Voc. Rehab.
Sandra L. Bowden	Commissioner Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Phil Matson	IRC Metropolitan Planning Organization
Karen Deigl	Senior Resource Association (SRA)
Karen Wood	Senior Resource Association (SRA)
Linda G. Howard	Citizen
Beth Casano, Recording Secretary	Assistant/District 5/ Commissioner Solari

(NOTE: The following is a summary with emphasis on motions and decisions requiring action. An audio recording of the meeting can be heard at www.irc.gov/Boards/TDLCB/2008.htm.)

ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING

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1. Vice-Chair Parden called the Public Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Introductory Remarks and Opening

Mr. Matson began the meeting by announcing that a new commissioner would be appointed in January by the BCC to chair future TDLCB meetings

3. DOPA Staff Presentation

Mr. Matson then proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation which gave a state and local overview of the transportation disadvantaged population and system in relation to the following key points: Who is considered transportation disadvantaged, the history of the system, and the future growth and challenges that will be faced. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be found on file in the BCC office. Mr. Matson stated that there was a lot to be proud of in terms of what is being done for the TD population in Florida and that IRC is considered a model for the state and that in research done by the National Center for Urban Transportation IRC was recognized as having an impressive operation.

Discussion points were as follows: Mr. Hurst felt the economic downturn would create a spike in the non-disabled low-income ridership and that providing resources would mean finding more sources for funding. Kudos went to the City of Fellsmere for assisting in funding the bus route to and from Sebastian and board members wondered aloud how such funding could be made a precedent with other municipalities. Mr. Hurst asked if the board could update and inform the other municipalities in hopes that they would "step up to the plate." Ms. Geck thought things were going very well in IRC and that the board might want to also consider getting health care providers to supply some vehicles and centralizing assistance. Mr. Matson felt that the Barefoot Bay route which was increasing in ridership should be a candidate for assistance from Brevard County. Ms. Geck agreed that the board should look for any possible sources of funding as Government assistance is going to be greatly reduced. Mr. Matson said that part of his plan to help involves the state pointing out that DOT district 4 has supported transportation for the last 3 years and that maybe DOT district 5 could do it now. Ms. Geck said to outline the plan in an e-mail, set an appointment with her in January and she would come here to meet and discuss the merits.

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4. Community Transportation Coordinator (SRA) Presentation

Ms. Deigl gave a brief overview of their marketing efforts which included: creating visual differences between the Go-Line and the Community coach, creating a marketing program with an awareness speaking segment. Board members discussed voluntary donations from riders, i.e. signs that read suggested donations \$1 or Adults, .50 for children/seniors tied in with jingles.

Mr. Matson showed the public service announcement being shown on channel 27.

5. Open Discussion Public Input

None.

6. There being no further business, the Public Hearing Meeting closed at 10:40 a.m.

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

1. Vice-Chair Lundy Parden called the meeting to order at 10:41 a.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the August 28, 2008 meeting

ON MOTION BY Ms. Barnes and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hurst the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes

4. TDLCB Chairman's Report

None

5. Planning Status Report

Mr. Matson provided the board with the 2009 meeting schedule.

6. Community Transportation Coordinator Status Report

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Ms. Wood stated that there had been a 12% decrease which included the reduction of services due to budget cuts which mostly affected the door to door shopping. Ms. Deigl interjected that they were monitoring denials from particular areas and if funding becomes available they will put back into those areas with greatest need. Ms. Wood continued her report stating that they would be doubling up on some rides with a “floating” assistant to help with wheelchairs and that the Fellsmere to Sebastian GoLine had an 85% ridership increase. Mr. Hurst wanted to be sure to point out that Ms. Deigl’s GoLine marketing plan had been very helpful to the success of GoLine and Ms. Deigl pointed out that MPO had been most valuable to the line’s success. With that being said Ms. Wood continued her report and discussion turned to a new GoLine Route 12 to be funded by state that would be first regional route going to the south due to a large need for charter and college students to get to the main campus as well as shopping needs for Westside residents – Ms. Deigl said they were looking into cost sharing and details of the route were discussed. Mr. Hurst then inquired as to whether there were funds available that would be similar to funds that are available for regular school transportation. Ms. Deigl said that she had unofficial notice that they would have funding that would tie into the schedule needs of the schools (i.e., Graduate Route.) A discussion ensued concerning vouchers and Ms. Geck explained that they were used for different providers and Mr. Matson added that transportation vouchers were more of a “big city phenomena” and there just weren’t that many transportation options in IRC. At this point, various grants were discussed, specifically the 5317 GRANT (for additional extended hours on route 6 and 7; total \$150,000 - approx.\$ 50,000 over 3 years) and the FREEDOM GRANT (which would fund the Graduate Route for a total of \$548,000 over three years - \$241,000 in ‘09 \$150,00 in ‘10 , and \$157,000 in ‘11.) Ms. Geck said that GRANT 5316 (job access and reverse commute) could be available with a match like the United Way while emphasizing that all groups needed to work together and share statistics on riders. Mr. Hurst suggested that Ms. Wood talk to Mr. Kint from the United Way and Ms. Geyer, Director of school transportation. Discussion returned to the Graduate Route and school age transportation issues. Mr. Davis elaborated on the current busing situation with local Charter schools. Though they service the elementary and middle charters, he said they stopped servicing the High School Charter and Ms. Wood remembered that they had adjusted their routes 6 and 7 to accommodate that change.

7. CTC Evaluation Report

Mr. Matson introduced, Brian Freeman, MPO Planner for IRC. Mr. Freeman explained the purpose of the annual report is to review the performance of the Community Transportation Coordinator (Senior Resource Association) and the action required from the board as to whether or not to continue with or replace SRA. Mr. Freeman summarized the report contents provided by the TDLCB subcommittee, pointing out that overall the subcommittee was very impressed with many of the SRA’s innovative procedures, staff, budgeting decisions and vehicle maintenance. Mr. Hurst, a subcommittee member, praised the SRA for how far they have come in the past couple of years and how proud he is of their work.

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ON MOTION BY Ms. Barnes and **SECONDED** by Mr. Higinbotham, the Board voted unanimously to accept the CTC Evaluation Report and to Retain the services of the Senior Resource Association for another year.

8. Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement Invoice #1 for the 2008 Planning Grant.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Davis and **SECONDED** by Ms. Barnes, the Board voted unanimously to approve Reimbursement Invoice #1.

9. New Business

None

10. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

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