

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 18, 2010 in the Building A Conference Room "A1-102" of the County Administration Building, 1801 26th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman **Bob Solari**, IRC Commissioner; **Joel Herman**, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Representative, IRC; **Ellen Higinbotham**, Florida Department of Children and Families (FDC&F) Representative; **Cathy Viggiano**, Florida Department of Education (FDE) Representative; **Dr. Harry Hurst**, Citizen Advocate Representative; **Cindy Barnes**, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (FAHCA) Representative; **Jayne Pietrowski**, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Representative; **Sue Rux**, Economic Opportunities Council Representative; and **William Lundy Parden**, Handicapped Representative.

Absent were **Kathleen "Cookie" Geyer**, Citizen Advocate Representative; **George Millar**, Public Education Representative; **Toni Teresi**, Seniors Representative; **Laurie Sang**, State Coordinating Council of Early Childhood Services (CCECS); and **Dalia Dillon**, Florida Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA) Representative, (all excused).

Also present were IRC staff: Phil Matson, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Staff Director; Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner; Karen Wood, Senior Resource Association (SRA); and Beth Casano, Commissioner Assistant, District 5.

Call to Order

Chairman Solari called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes of the August 26, 2010 Meeting

Ms. Rux wished the minutes be corrected to show she was present at the August 26, 2010 meeting and the agenda indicated she represented the Florida Association of Community Action (FACA); but should be corrected to state she represented the Economic Opportunities Council.

ON MOTION BY Ms. Rux, SECONDED BY Dr. Hurst, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the minutes of August 26, 2010 as amended.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

New Business

TDLCB Chairman's Report: There was not a report for this meeting.

Dr. Hurst brought forward a complaint he had heard regarding neighbors not being happy with the bus hub located in the Original Town neighborhood, on the property of the old Administration Building.

Chairman Solari replied there had been complaints coming to the County from the residents in Original Town stating they felt it increased crime, brought in undesirable people, and had asked for the hub location to be changed.

Mr. Phil Matson, MPO Staff Director, interjected the buses were now being parked behind the Health Department building which addressed the concerns of crime during the night, but the complaint regarding having the hub located where it was still existed.

Mr. Matson reported the County was trying to find a different hub location, although it was extremely difficult due to bus connections and a centralized location for a hub.

Other locations were discussed and the pros and cons for each of those. Mr. Matson noted the residents of Original Town had legitimate concerns, and they should be addressed; he also felt the TDLCB should provide their comments.

Chairman Solari asked to have the item on the next agenda and invite a member of the City of Vero Beach Council to see if there were alternatives.

ON MOTION BY Dr. Hurst, SECONDED BY Ms. Rux, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to ask staff to proceed with their efforts in finding solutions to the problem with the current hub location, while educating and informing the public the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board supports the current hub location and invite a member of the City of Vero Beach Council to attend our next meeting scheduled for February 24, 2011.

Planning Status Report:

Mr. Matson asked to defer this item until after Item #7, Annual CTC Evaluation Report.

Community Transportation Coordinator Status Report

Ms. Karen Wood, Senior Resource Association (SRA), reviewed her handout, which is on file in the Commission Office. Highlights were as follows:

- Community Coach door-to-door services provided approximately 11,410 one way trips in this reporting quarter; a 6% decrease from the same reporting quarter as last year.
- GoLine public transportation provided approximately 219,548 one way trips in this reporting quarter; a 23% increase from the same reporting quarter as last year.
- In the 3rd quarter of 2010 Community Coach received five new Dodge minivans with wheelchair stations to transport Medicaid customers out of IRC for medical trips. Two of the vans were purchased with FDOT 5310 funds and three were purchased with County 5307 funds.
- The main transit hub location was still being disputed by the residents of Original Town. IRC, City of Vero Beach and SRA staff continue to look for a multi-use location to establish a main hub and overnight parking for seven to eight GoLine buses.

Chairman Solari inquired if ridership would increase over the next few months due to the northerners returning to Florida. Ms. Wood responded she recently added an overload bus to the routes and may need to add another bus between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Dr. Hurst asked about increasing gas prices and how they affect the operating costs. Ms. Wood replied the prices have leveled off for the time being and had they had projected \$3.50 per gallon for budgeting purposes which would hopefully provide some cushion.

Review of Progress Report and Reimbursement of Invoice #1 for the 2010 Planning Grant

Mr. Brian Freeman, MPO Senior Planner, recapped this was a standard item which provided reimbursement, as part of the Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant contract between the IRC MPO as the Designated Official Planning Agency and the State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). To comply with the CTD's requirements, staff prepared a progress report and an invoice for the period from July 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010. This information is included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office.

ON MOTION BY Ms. Higinbotham, SECONDED BY Ms. Viggiano, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the submitted progress report and Invoice #1 for the 2010 Planning Grant.

Annual CTC Evaluation Report

Mr. Freeman stated evaluation of the performance of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) was one of the most important tasks given to the TDLCB. He reviewed the evaluation included in the agenda packet and on file in the Commission Office. A subcommittee was formed at the May, 2010 meeting and a review was conducted.

The four areas reviewed were:

- Coordination and Planning
- Operations
- Costs and Financial Management
- Utilization

Mr. Freeman noted the CTC earned high marks in all areas. Overall the subcommittee recommended the MPO retain the Senior Resource Association as IRC's CTC.

ON MOTION BY Ms. Viggiano, SECONDED BY Ms. Barnes, the members voted unanimously (9-0) to approve the Annual Evaluation Report as submitted by the subcommittee and recommend the MPO retain the Senior Resource Association as the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Other New Business

Calendars listing the 2011 TDLCB meetings were distributed and are on file in the Commission Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m. to move on to the Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

Part II – Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Coordinating Board

Mr. Matson called this portion of the meeting at 10:22 a.m. and explained the CTD was housed under FDOT and was an independent commission responsible for all things relating to Transportation Disadvantaged in the state. This agency was a grant funding and providing agency and was the agency the SRA had their contract with.

Mr. Matson gave an update on what was state-wide from the CTD and what had been accomplished locally. He noted Florida was the leader in transportation issues for the disabled and elderly and the population was projected to be 22 million people by 2020 with half that amount being transportation disadvantaged.

The state was concerned with regionalism and the CTD in July, 2010 directed their staff to perform a cross analysis of regionalizing transportation disadvantaged traffic by January, 2011.

Mr. Matson reported a few counties were refusing to sign their Medicaid provider contracts and the local CTC's were having to come up with the Medicaid service from other funding sources. The state was considering eliminating CTC status from anyone who does not sign the Medicaid contract.

Locally, things are going well. IRC MPO was named the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) for IRC in 1999 and the SRA was our Community Transportation Coordinator and provider and was recently renewed as our contracted provider with the CTD until 2013.

The population is growing but stabilizing in the County. According to research, IRC had an 18% increase in population since 2000 with a very high percentage of people aged 60 and up; a high percentage of disabled and low income residents.

Efficiency-wise IRC was doing well. Awards received by TDLCB members were announced and IRC won four Public Transit Association marketing awards.

Mr. Matson commended Sharon Schalm, MPO Staff Assistant, for the in-house work she does in producing the MPO brochures.

Chairman Solari opened the meeting up to the public for input at 10:37 a.m. After ample opportunity, and no response, the meeting resumed.

Other Matters

Dr. Hurst wished to return to the issue of the residents in Original Town objecting to the current location of the hub. He related he was a property owner in that area, living across from First Baptist Church, and he had not been contacted by anyone concerning the hub issue. He was also a member at the church and on many occasions people come in off the streets to get a meal. Some people were not comfortable around homeless people and he pointed out other community mission work the church provides such as a food bank, help with paying utilities, etc. Dr. Hurst wondered if working with the local law enforcement agencies in getting them to rotate more frequently in the areas where the transportation hub was located. He felt it was important to reassure everyone and let them know everyone was doing the best they could with the situation.

Ms. Wood reported she had personally made site visits on a regular basis and had been working with law enforcement regarding the hub.

Chairman Solari also felt there was more and more NIMBY-ism (Not In My Backyard) with limited tolerance for anything new or changes in routines. Sometimes people forget by choosing to live the luxury of urban living also comes burdens and we must work together to tolerate the adjustments and changes needed to care for all residents.

Mr. Matson thanked Mr. Freeman for a job well done.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.