

## LEE COUNTY

### LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED

Staff services provided by Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization -- TD Planning Program

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Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting  
**Friday, September 30, 2008; 1:30 PM**  
 Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council offices  
 1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901

#### Attendance

<b>A Representative of:</b>	<b>present</b>
The MPO shall appoint one elected official to serve as the official Chairperson for all Coordinating Board meetings.	Absent-excused
A. A local representative of the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT)	Julia B. Davis
B. A local representative of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)	Vacant
C. A local representative of the Public Education Community which could include, but not be limited to, a representative of the District School Board, School Board Transportation Office, or Headstart Program in areas where the School District is responsible	Absent
D. In areas where they exist, a local representative of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services or the Division of Blind Services, representing the Department of Education	Flora Gonzalez
E. A person recommended by the local Veterans Service Office, representing Veterans of the county	Absent
F. A person recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action (President) representing the economically disadvantaged	Absent-excused
G. A person representing the Elderly in the county	Virginia Kraft Fran Theberge
H. A person with a disability representing the disabled in the county	Brian Powers Linda Carter
I-- 1.[One of Two] Citizen Advocates in the County	Michael Pierce
I--2. [One of two] Citizen Advocates this one must be a person who uses the transportation service(s) of the system as their primary means of transportation.	Absent-excused
J. A local representative for children at risk	Vacant
K. In areas where they exist, the Chairperson or designee of the local Mass Transit or Public Transit System's Board, except in cases where they are also the Community Transportation Coordinator.	Peter Gajdjis
L. A local representative of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Absent-excused
M. An experienced representative of the local private for profit transportation industry. In areas where such representative is not	Vacant



Mr. Bryant of Good Wheels stated that he understood that there was a 50/50 match on that grant.

Ms. Barnett replied that there was a 50% match on operating costs and 20% on capital costs.

Mr. Bryant stated that Good Wheels had not applied for this grant as they did not have the ability to match the 50% grant. They had inquired of Lee County if they could provide assistance and Good Wheels was told that they could not do so. He asked where the 50% match came from.

Ms. Barnett stated that Lee Tran was using toll revenue credits and transit and the circulator using a combination of staff time and purchase or lease of vehicles as part of their match. The Transportation Disadvantaged funds are eligible match.

Mr. Bryant stated that they had been told that they had to generate money from the community as match and that they had approached Lee Tran, Untied Way and the Community Foundation and were told “no”. There is a significant number of individuals that need medical trips they can’t receive. He felt that the process was disconnected from its priority. The Lee County Local Coordinating Board ranks medical trips as its highest priority.

Discussion continued on subsidized van pools, toll revenue credits and cash match.

Ms. Davis said that JARC funds are only for employment related trips.

Mr. Bryant commented that there is a lot of confusion about the match.

Discussion ensued on update of plans and addressing the needs due to the difficult economy.

Discussion ensued on expanding areas of service by Lee Tran.

Ms. Carter stated that a directory of definitions and summary of them should be provided. Disabled should be reflected as “persons with disabilities”, “handicapped” should be eliminated, and should refer to “ADA compliant” when talking about accessibility in most cases.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Major Update of the TDSP**

Ms. Kooi asked for comments from the board members.

Ms. Theberge asked if this was necessary to approve the plan today as Ms. Davis had suggested comments that had not been able to be reviewed by the board.

Ms. Davis asked if everyone had received the TDSP and asked if the board members had had time to read it.

Ms. Kooi stated that she had worked with Good Wheels staff on the contents of the TDSP. The TDSP is to be completed and sent to the TD Commission by the end of October.

Ms. Davis said that she had read several plans over the past few days. FDOT has offered to help in the review of this document but had not received a draft until last week.

Ms. Theberge asked for a motion to table the approval of the TDSP until the next meeting.

#### **MS. CARTER MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE APPROVAL OF THE MAJOR UPDATE OF THE TDSP UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. MR. POWERS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Ms. Theberge said that in the past a committee had been formed to review the document and suggested that perhaps a committee should be formed for this purpose. The committee would bring their recommendations and changes to the LCB board at their meeting.

Ms. Kooi asked Ms. Davis to give a history of this process. Ms. Davis said that a committee should have been formed in the summer to look at what was in place. Planning Agency staff would present the instructions and the changes to Florida Statutes 427 and 41-2. The Committee would look for the changes and place them into the draft document. The draft would be sent well in advance of the meeting. A backup meeting should be scheduled to allow time for additional comments. The plan would then be presented at the next LCB meeting.

Ms. Davis recommended that for future updates of the TDSP that a committee should be formed and that Planning Agency staff schedule an additional LCB meeting ahead of when the plan must be adopted. Planning Agency staff should when scheduling the timeframes for preparation of the document to back up 30 days from their the TD Commission's deadline for receipt of the adopted plan, 30 days for the Local Coordinating Board to finalize the document and then another 30 days for the draft of the document. This plan ties into the MPO long range planning process and anything that changes is part of that process.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chairman Theberge asked for a motion to form a committee to review the TDSP.

**MOTION BY MS. CARTER TO FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE TDSP.  
SECONDED BY MR. GAJDJIS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Carter and Mr. Gajdjis volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Ms. Davis stated that she could not serve on the subcommittee.

Ms. Theberge asked for comments to be sent via e-mail to Ms. Kooi at [dkooi@swfrpc.org](mailto:dkooi@swfrpc.org).

Ms. Davis said that these meetings must be advertised as they are open to the public.

**Agenda Item #6 – Florida Coordinated Transportation Program Issues & Distribution Items**

Mr. Bryant stated that the TD program is in a precarious dangerous position due to severe funding cuts. There has been an increased demand for service by the agencies, but significant contract changes have caused us to face significant costs. The only way to deal with this situation is to provide less trips. The reporting requirements will require hiring of additional staff to render the administrative reports to the state agencies. Good Wheels was doing everything they can to offset the cuts.

Mr. Bryant thanked Lee County for allowing them to purchase fuel from Lee County. Good Wheels does not currently have TD sponsored funding for service to any random passengers. It is only for standing reservations for life sustaining trips.

Mr. Bryant reported that Lisa Bacot, the Executive Director of the TD Commission, has resigned. An Interim Director will be appointed soon. He stated that he foresees the possibility that the TD system could fade due to lack of funding. The current economic situation severely inhibits their ability to provide trips.

**Agenda Item #7 – Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) News and Reports**

Mr. Bryant reviewed the Ridership and Complaint reports.

**Agenda Item #8 – Members' Announcements and Comments**

Mr. Martinez stated that Gary Bryant had been called upon to handle challenging situations recently and that Medicaid was pleased with the exceptional service of Good Wheels on the short notice for out of state urgent matters.

Mr. Pierce stated that he was also supportive of the job that Gary Bryant and Good Wheels was doing and offered whatever help they could provide with respect to funding issues.

Mr. Gajdjis said that the local match issue in the first year is somewhat confusing.

Discussion on match funds continued.

**Agenda Item #9 – Date and Time for next meeting**

Ms. Theberge said that Planning Agency staff would schedule next meeting. She asked the board to look the TDSP over and send e-mail comments to Ms. Kooi.

Mr. Gajdjis said that the Executive Summary of the TLC should be incorporated into TDSP.

Ms. Davis said that she had shown Ms. Kooi that maps from previous TDSP documents to be included in the document, as well as the standards section. Information needed to be included about the public involvement process of the TLC plan, how much funding was available and the results of the public meetings.

Ms. Monroy said that she would provide a copy to the subcommittee members of the TLC plan. The next meeting of the LCB will be on December 12, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. If additional meetings are scheduled, Ms. Kooi will notify the board members well in advance of the scheduled meeting.

**Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment**

**MOTION BY MS. CARTER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:45 P.M. SECONDED  
BY MR. MARTINEZ AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**