

**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, December 19, 2008; 1:30 PM**  
 Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council offices  
 1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901

<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	Donna Ramirez
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 representing the economically disadvantaged	Absent-excused
G. A person representing the Elderly in the county	Virginia Kraft (excused) 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.	David Lane
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 available, a local private non-profit representative will be appointed, except where said representative is also the Community Transportation Coordinator	Vacant
N. A local representative of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Joe Martinez
O. A representative of the Regional Workforce Development Board established in Chapter 445, <i>Florida Statutes</i> .	Absent – excused
P. A representative of the local medical community, which may include, but not be limited to, kidney dialysis centers, long term care facilities, hospitals, local health department or other home and community based services, etc.	Absent - excused

**Other People Attending:**

Gary Bryant  
Rosalie Berlin

Good Wheels, Inc.  
Citizen

**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order and Introductions**

Vice-Chairman David Lane welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

**Agenda Item #2 – Public Hearing**

Ms. Berlin reiterated her concerns with transportation to the Tony Rotino Senior Center and the Lee Civic Center.

**Agenda Item #3 – Minutes of September 30, 2008**

**MOTION BY MS. CARTER AND SECONDED BY MS. THEBERGE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2008. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #4 – Annual Operating Report of CTC**

Mr. Bryant gave a brief presentation on Good Wheels’ Annual Operating Report.

Ms. Ramirez asked about the history of the AOR and why it was in this format.

Mr. Bryant said that it was originally intended for the schools to get funding to help with transporting School District passengers.

Ms. Davis said that this worked in some counties and in some it does not.

Ms. Carter asked about the 134,000 figures on Page 2 and asked what it represented.

Mr. Bryant said that it was the total for the county for the year.

**MOTION BY MS. CARTER AND SECONDED BY MS. THEBERGE TO APPROVE THE AOR AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON TO**

**EXECUTE THE ANNUAL OPERATING REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE TD COMMISSION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #5 – Review of the Bylaws**

Ms. Carter stated that with respect to the vacancies, should state “need as mandatory filled” and that the clients not being represented.

Ms. Hustad said that “President” should be eliminated from the agency listing. With respect to the vacancies, it is incumbent upon state agencies to appoint a member to fill these vacancies.

Ms. Carter suggested that staff send a letter to all organizations to provide a representative.

Mr. Martinez suggested that the letter should also state that these agencies are in violation of the state statute.

Ms. Davis said that staff should work with the agencies to find members.

**MOTION BY MS. DAVIS AND SECONDED BY MS. THEBERGE TO APPROVE THE BY-LAWS WITH THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES BY THE LCB. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #6 – Election of Vice-Chairperson**

Vice-Chairman Lane asked for nominations from the floor for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

Ms. Carter stated that she would like to put her name in for the position of Vice-Chairman.

**MOTION BY MS. DAVIS TO NOMINATE DAVID LANE AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON. SECONDED BY MS. THEBERGE. MOTION CARRIED 7 TO 1 WITH MS. CARTER AND MR. LANE ABSTAINING.**

By a vote of 7 to 1, Mr. Lane was elected Vice-Chairperson.

**Agenda Item #7 – Annual Evaluation of CTC**

Ms. Kooi, Planning Agency Staff, said that it was time to begin the annual process of evaluating the Community Transportation Coordinator and asked for volunteers from the LCB to serve on the Evaluation Committee. She stated that Ms. Reardon had already volunteered.

Ms. Carter and Ms. Theberge also volunteered to serve on the committee. Ms. Kooi said that she would contact the committee members to schedule the date for conducting the evaluation at Good Wheels’ offices and would provide an update to the board at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item #8 – Florida Coordinated Transportation Program Issues & Distribution Items**

Mr. Bryant said that they had received a new six-year long Medicaid Contract with the TD Commission. He stated that it was not an easy contract as the requirements for performance are very significant. The TD program is for non-emergency transport. For the six-month period of July to December, there was a demand placed on our organization which created a \$96,000

shortfall. Mr. Bryant said that his staff was looking at every trip and every possible avenue for raising additional revenue.

### **Agenda Item #9 – CTC News & Reports**

Mr. Bryant said that Good Wheels had also began offering private charters which helped increase their revenue and that they were working on increasing their advertising. He also stated that it had been necessary to cut some of the employee benefits. The TD non-sponsored funds only provided for minimal Medicaid service and non-sponsored life sustaining trips only.

Mr. Bryant reported that he had met with Commissioner Bigelow to enlighten him about the TD program and difficulties that Good Wheel was currently experiencing funding and service wise.

### **Agenda Item #10 – Members' Announcements and Comments**

Ms. Theberge asked Mr. Bryant about his meeting with Commissioner Bigelow. Mr. Bryant said that Commissioner Bigelow expressed his thoughts that wanted to bring influential individuals to the board as members and that would be looking for assistance to help us

Mr. Hutchinson stated that the Planning Agency was working in conjunction with the NCRPC to complete the TDSP, which would be finalized and sent to the TD Commission in April.

Ms. Davis addressed the topic of the Economic Stimulus projects which were discussed at the MPO meeting earlier today. She explained that the Transportation Disadvantaged dollars should be treated like a project also.

Mr. Scott said that the economic stimulus projects were approved with the understanding that it is a work in progress. He explained that the list would be sent to the legislators, but that Lee Tran had not submitted any projects.

Ms. Hustad asked about the creation of jobs and how this would happen.

Mr. Scott said that the number of jobs would be based on the REMI model.

Mr. Pierce said that it was very important to help people get employed or upgrade their employment so that they can get work everyday.

Mr. Bryant said that there is a significant population outside of ¾ mile and that there is no funding in our state.

Ms. Carter said that people would like to work.

Ms. Davis asked how would the LCB participate.

Discussion ensued on infrastructure, energy efficiency, and transit available to more people.

Mr. Scott said that this could be initiated through a lobbying effort.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that this was beyond just a local problem.

Discussion ensued on formulating a letter to send to the legislature encompassing the fact that jobs are in jeopardy with the current 9.8% unemployment rate.

Mr. Lane thanked Lee Tran for the nice job their company has done with respect to customer service.

Mr. Bryant said that after four rings, the answering service system picks up at Good Wheels.

Discussion ensued on the issuance of ID cards for the clientele.

Ms. Brown said that there is 2 ½ minute hold time. New plastic ID cards with expiration dates for ADA clients will be issued.

Mr. Bryant said that if Good Wheels hired enough employees to be able to answer all the incoming calls that Good Wheels would not be able to provide trips.

Mr. Lane asked Ms. Brown about Lee Tran's no show policy.

Ms. Brown replied that their organization had a rule that if a client had 3 no shows in 30 days that there would be a hearing prior to suspension.

Ms. Hustad stated that perhaps more support services are needed.

Ms. Brown said that they have referred cases to Senior Services.

#### **Agenda Item #11 – Date and Time for Next Meeting**

Ms. Kooi said that the next meeting would be a joint meeting with the Collier County LCB on January 23, 2009 in Estero.

#### **Agenda Item #12 – Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY MS. CARTER AND SECONDED BY MS. DAVIS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.