



## Flagler County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Northeast Florida  
Regional Council  
Brian D. Teeple, Executive Director

Flagler County Commission  
Hon. Jim Darby, Chair

State of Florida Transportation  
Disadvantaged Commission  
Peter Gianino, Chairman

### MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Flagler County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board was held Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 10 a.m., at the Flagler County Administration Building, 2729 East Moody Blvd., Bunnell, Florida. Chairman Darby called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. with the following members present:

Comm. Jim Darby  
Talena Hicks  
DeWeece Ogden  
Diane Poitras  
Sal Rutigliano

Others Present: Tammy Bong from Flagler County, Jesus Lopez from Flagler Senior Services, Shalawn Vickers from NFAAA and Others

Staff Present: Stephen L. Jones and Jeanie Palmer from NEFRC

#### Announcements

There were no announcements.

#### Additions, Deletions, Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Jones added an item under New Business: 2003 Flagler County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

#### \*Approval of Minutes

**Mr. Rutigliano moved approval of the minutes of the quarterly LCB meeting of December 9, 2003; seconded by Ms. Poitras; motion unanimously carried.**

#### Old Business

##### CTC Transition Update

- Review of the MOA Contract – Mr. Jones made the Board aware that as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners became the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for the Flagler TD program. There was a transition meeting on Friday to work out details. He thanked Ms. Bong and all involved with the transition for all of their hard work, and said there are a lot of loose ends to tie up in the next few months.
- Schedule of Deliverables (TDSP & CTC Evaluation) – Mr. Jones said the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the County and the TD Commission is now a 5-year contract. There is a schedule of deliverables that the CTC will be required to perform for the Commission, including the service plan, evaluations, etc. In the next couple of days, Mr. Jones will put together a schedule for presentation. The County has 120 days to submit a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP), which Mr. Jones agreed to help put together.

There will be no required evaluation of the CTC this year because of the change-over. Mr. Jones explained the evaluation process.

- Update on Transit Director Position – The interviewing process has begun for the position of Transit Director.

##### Northeast Florida Regional Council Update

##### Update on Recent and Upcoming Statewide CTD Activities

- CTD Executive Director Termination/Interim Replacement – Mr. Jones reported that the TD Commission met on December 19 in Orlando and terminated John Stanley as its executive director. Lisa Bacot was placed as interim executive director. Ms. Bacot has worked with Joanne Hutchinson for several years and is very knowledgeable about how the legislative process works. Mr. Jones said the Commission is very comfortable having her in that position for now, and it is unknown if the Commission will offer her the position permanently or if it will look for someone else.

Mr. Jones made the Board aware that last Friday the Commission had a conference call meeting whereas they mentioned that at their next scheduled meeting on March 16 they want to put on the agenda an interim review of Ms. Bacot's position. They were happy with the job she was doing so far.

- 2004 TD Day at the Capitol – Mr. Jones said that TD Day will be March 17 in Tallahassee, and the Commission has a partner in sponsoring the luncheon this year. If anyone intends to go, there is a form in the packet that needs to be filled out and sent in so there can be a head-count of attendees by March 5. Mr. Jones noted that although he has never attended TD Day before, he is planning on attending this year.
- FY 2004-05 TDTF Allocations – Mr. Jones stated that these are funds that come from the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund at the State level. Flagler County's allocation for the upcoming 2004-05 fiscal year is \$164,550. All of the TD grant allocations for the coordinators were down this year due to the lowering of the interest income into the TD Trust Fund.
- 2004 CTD Award Nominations - Mr. Jones made the Board aware that the TD Commission is again asking for nominations for numerous awards which will be given out at its annual conference in Orlando on July 26-28. He said the CTC really needs to attend this function (the TD Conference) this year because it is probably the most important networking and training exercise they will go through. Receipt of the award nominations is due April 1.

Update on Statewide Medicaid Crisis/RFP - Mr. Jones said he got an e-mail this morning from Shirley Conroy, representative from the Florida Association of Coordinated Transportation Systems (FACTS), stating that Medicaid has delayed its bid announcement of who is going to be awarded the Medicaid contract. He added that Logisticare and MV Transportation had submitted bids, and although the Commission had submitted a bid, they were told that they were non-responsive because they didn't post a bond. There are numerous issues surrounding the bonding requirements. Mr. Jones said Rep. Carol Green from South Florida has a meeting with Gov. Jeb Bush tomorrow, and he will keep the Board updated on the outcome of that meeting. Mr. Jones explained if Medicaid decides to go outside the Coordinated System and contract with a single entity, who will then sub-contract to another entity or entities, that could make other agencies want to go outside the coordinated system also. He said this has the potential of bringing down the entire coordinated system statewide.

#### Federal/State Legislative Issues

- TEA-21 Re-authorization Update – Mr. Jones said the interim extension of the omnibus bill expires at the end of this month and there will be an extension of it again, but it is unknown how long that extension will be. There is a problem regarding how to fund this bill. He explained that the omnibus package is what funds the Section 5310, Section 5311, and Section 5311F monies that Baker County gets from the FDOT. Those funds are federal dollars that come down through the State. Mr. Jones will keep the Board informed as to the progress of this funding package.

Comm. Darby explained that the State has cut the funding for the transportation needs of special cases from Flagler County to Halifax Hospital in Volusia County -- out-of-county non-emergency transportation for Medicaid. The legislature said that counties needed to turn to their public transportation systems to fill in for special transportation.

Flagler County does not have public transportation system, but Comm. Darby said there is interest in the County to establish one. It has been tried in the past, but didn't work very well for various reasons, and ridership didn't materialize over a six-month period. He asked if part of the funding that they do have can be used for the special cases going to Halifax Hospital, or wherever in Volusia County, to invite and secure some kind of three-times-per-week service with Votran, who comes almost to the county line now. The local FCT service vehicles could bring clients to centers to get on Votran – with a return trip that same day.

Mr. Jones said Comm. Darby's idea is exactly what he wanted to suggest to the Board. He gave an example stating that Putnam County has a deviated flex route – one that has a schedule of times and stops, but can deviate off that set route and go pick up someone else. That route runs from Crescent City and connects with Votran. He said Flagler County could work with Ms. Poitras to utilize the FDOT service development monies

earmarked for Flagler County. Perhaps the CTC could approach Votran and see if there is some 5307 monies that Flagler could utilize for some type of service to run from the Flagler Beach area down into Volusia to connect with Votran.

Comm. Darby asked Mr. Jones to explore this with Votran. Once things get settled with the transition, Mr. Jones agreed to set up a meeting with Flagler County, Votran and Volusia County MPO, to discuss this issue. A lengthy discussion ensued.

#### Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) System Update

Quarterly Non-Sponsored Trip Report – There was no CTC report today. Ms. Bong said they were in the process of piloting the February/March takeover and identifying and gathering information to make a submittal. Mr. Jones gave the CTC some sample reports to follow in the future.

#### New Business

LCB Vacancies – Mr. Jones pointed out the current list of LCB members in the packet, of which there were many vacancies. He explained that individuals who are interested in serving on this Board need to submit a brief letter to him stating that they would like to be appointed to the Board and state which position they would like to serve. Mr. Jones will then take those recommendations to the Regional Council's Board for approval. He requested the Board members' assistance in helping find individuals to fill the vacancies. He explained some of the requirements that are assigned to each of the seats for the Board.

Rural Transportation Planning Initiative – Included in the packet was an informational item regarding overall transportation input in the rural counties. Recently Congress changed the way that State DOTs garner input at the local level in rural areas for transportation decisions, particularly in regards to funding. Now, every year the FDOT goes to the rural counties asking for their "wish" lists of projects and issues that they would like DOT to consider. In the future, the Regional Council will work more closely with DOT to try to expand on that public information and public input process. This will create an opportunity for transit issues in Flagler County to get a little more attention from the DOT than in the past.

LCB Letter to Congressman Mica – Mr. Jones stated that recently Congressman Mica was very gracious in providing \$125,000 for buses for the TD program, and he suggested that the Board submit a letter to Congressman Mica's office thanking him for his efforts. Mr. Jones had a sample letter and agreed to compose a similar one from Flagler County.

**Mr. Rutigliano moved to submit a letter to Congressman Mica's office thanking him for his efforts in providing funds for the TD program; seconded by Ms. Poitras; motion passed unanimously.**

2003 Flagler County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan – Mr. Jones distributed the last evaluation that Flagler County received from the TD Commission, and said their Service Plan needs to be updated. He provided copies of service plans from Putnam and Clay counties to help guide the process. Mr. Jones said this Board also needs to rework its priorities for TD funds.

#### Member and Department Reports

Status of FDOT 5310 Grant Application – Ms. Poitras said Flagler County was awarded one replacement vehicle. The award notices will be sent out in April, but the funds are not available until July 1.

#### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 1, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Flagler County Administration Building, Main Conference Room, 2729 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell, Florida.

#### Adjournment

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