

COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

CHAIR –SUSAN JOHNSON · VICE CHAIR –RYAN MARSHALL · PLANNING MANAGER –CURT HUTCHINGS

MINUTES

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning
Committee Meeting
February 23, 2011
10:00 am
Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South Bldg B, St George UT

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Johnson
Fayann Christensen
Ed Rogers
Vince McFadden
Carrie Schonlaw
Sherri Dial

REPRESENTING

Turn Community, St George
Kane Co. Senior Citizens Center
Dixie Applied Technology College
Christine Holliday, Wash. Co. Senior Center
Five County Association of Governments
Five County Association of Governments

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE BY PHONE

Tammy Nay

REPRESENTING

Cedar Area Transportation System

MEMBERS ABSENT

Connie Lloyd
Pam McMullin
Donna Chynoweth
Carl Mangum
William Campbell
Roger Bundy
Launi Schmutz
Ryan Marshall
Chris Dial
Todd Edwards

Iron County Senior Citizen Center
Beaver Co. Senior Citizens Center
Garfield Co. Senior Citizens Center
Southwest Behavioral Center
Department of Workforce Services
Washington City
Washington Co. School District
Sun Tran, City of St George
Red Rock Center for Independence
Washington County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doni Pack
Curt Hutchings

Five County Association of Governments
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I. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Ms. Susan Johnson opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. There was not a quorum present. One member, Ms. Tammy Nay, participated by telephone.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 25, 2010, OCTOBER 27, 2010 MINUTES

There was not a vote on the Minutes due to lack of a quorum present. This vote will be deferred until the next meeting.

III. COA DIRECTOR REPORTS – Ms. Fayanne Christensen, Kane County

A. General Operations

Ms. Fayanne Christensen explained that the Kane County Council on Aging has two vehicles for transportation of Seniors and those with disabilities, both acquired through Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) FTA grants. These are high topper vans with handicap lifts. Lifts are necessary for passengers using wheelchairs, but also for those using walkers and canes. One van holds five wheelchairs or 12 passengers. The other holds two wheelchairs or 12 passengers.

The vans are used five days out of the week to collect individuals for lunch at the Senior Citizens' Center. Local shopping is done weekly, on Tuesdays. The Orderville Senior Center sends people weekly to Kanab for shopping as well.

Orderville and Kanab riders travel once a week into St George City. In addition, various recreational trips are provided. A minimum of six passengers is required. If there is room in the van, then someone under 60 years of age is allowed to ride. Usually the vans are fairly full.

There is no formal Dial-a-Ride or paratransit system in Kane County, but people with paratransit needs are transported as necessary.

Commissioner Jim Madsen is a newly elected official for Kane County and more amiable to the transportation program but has not been in office very long yet. He is over the Senior Centers in Kane County.

B. Challenges

Money is always a challenge. The transportation program takes some passengers to doctors' visits. The drivers are paid, so finding qualified drivers and the money to pay them is an ongoing effort. The drivers work between 15-20 hours, part-time.

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C. Strategies

Ms. Christensen arranged to have driver trainers brought right to Kane County to work with their drivers. This is necessary on a regular basis and URSTA (Urban Rural Specialized Transportation Association) is willing to provide training locally.

COA DIRECTOR REPORTS – Mr. Vince McFadden, Washington County

A. General Operations

Washington County also uses paid drivers, who are CDL trained. The transportation supervisors rotate the drivers between different routes to maintain cross training. Drivers pick up people for multiple purposes on a route; such as lunch, paratransit, or shopping. The coordination is done by each Center supervisor. From Jan 1 – Feb 19 2011 their vehicles ran 8,868 miles and carried 1, 989 riders. There are no vehicles or time to add recreational trips such as provided by Kane County.

B. General Operations

Dial-a-Ride, or paratransit, requests are increasing proportionally on a daily basis. All vehicles need to have lifts not just for wheelchairs but also for those riders using walkers and canes.

C. General Operations

Washington County prefers that their vehicles be used for transporting Seniors. The costs are built into one operation with the Senior Center operations, because transportation is such a large part of the workings of the Center. Ms. Johnson asked if the Seniors use public paratransit. Mr. McFadden responded that very few use public transit, mostly due to the distances and locations where the Seniors live; Mr. McFadden guessed that 80% of their riders are beyond the paratransit boundaries. Public transit can only deviate ¼'s of a mile off of the set transit routes. Also, the paperwork required to qualify them for using public transit is too overwhelming for many Seniors. Mr. McFadden said that no one has ever asked for assistance to qualify for public transit.

Ms. Johnson said that TURN Community Services wants to train more people with disabilities to use public transit or paratransit. Mr. McFadden responded that Seniors and people with disabilities are different types of people. Seniors are uncomfortable with change or something new. Travel training could be difficult, but Ms. Johnson suggested that there be a real effort to attempt it.

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Ms. Carrie Schonlaw suggested that the population currently becoming Seniors may be more comfortable with learning public transit. Travel training may become a necessity due to the large wave of ‘baby boomers’ transitioning into the category of Seniors.

IV. FTA GRANT APPLICATION TRAINING

Ms. Pack asked for this item to be deferred until a following meeting when more participants would be present. This deferment was accepted.

V. TITLE VI REQUIREMENTS

All of the Five County Councils of Aging Directors and Mr. Curt Hutchings were required to attend a UDOT meeting in order to be introduced to Title VI requirements. Mr. Hutchings will be attending a follow-up meeting to get more information, which he will disseminate. Title VI deals with civil rights and access to public information by all members of a community.

VI. WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS

A. Insurance Issues

Mr. Curt Hutchings informed the Committee that Ms. Launi Schmutz was currently involved with legislative issues up in Salt Lake City and it would be better to defer this item until the next meeting. This deferment was accepted.

B. Travel Training

Ms. Doni Pack introduced a non-profit organization, the Association of Travel Instruction (ATI) that is focused on travel training. ATI has connected with Easter Seals and created a program called Easter Seals Project Action (ESPA).

ESPA provides numerous free materials on travel training, rider assessments, targeted driver skills, and more. Ms. Pack provided examples of some of the materials available through ATI.

The Public Transit Team at UDOT has funds set aside that could be applied to travel training. It would work best if this training program could be done by a hired mobility manager.

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VII. OTHER/NEXT MEETING ITEMS

The next meeting of the CHSTP Committee will be held April 27, 2011 at 10:00 am at the Five County Association of Governments.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 am.