

SUMMARY

Transportation Coordination Network

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Regional Transportation Authority Board Room

5658 Bear Lane

Members Present:

Pam Miles, WorkSource of the Coastal Bend
Robert Gonzales, SERCO
Betty Lamb, Area Agency on Aging
Barbara Johnson, WorkSource of the Coastal Bend
Irene Martinez, WorkSource-Disability Program Navigator
Linda Stover, RTA Manager of Paratransit and ADA
Ed Carrion, RTA Director of Planning and Development
Judy Telge, Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
David Ramos, Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
Stephen Ndimma, TxDOT District Office
Carol Cornelison, Health and Human Services Commission
Tom Ginter, Aransas Pass City Manager

Overview:

Coordinator is now in the process of completing introductions with providers and critical staff. We are now at the point of moving from the conceptual planning level to the implementation stage of our coordination plan.

Issues of discussion:

RTA is interested in partnering with participants in order to build awareness or opportunity to assist seasonal workers needing to travel from Aransas Pass to seasonal work on the island. Coordination would involve getting folks to the ferry landing site in order to connect with seasonal RTA service on the Port Aransas Ferry Shuttle and #65 Padre Island Connector.

Input serves as an example of the purpose for the group. Members may sometimes be working in isolation and our intent is to assemble in order to provide each other with information to help us better serve our audience. We are working to develop a marketing initiative that will provide a mechanism that allows the flow of information.

I. Group Composition

Group held discussion on name, composition, and meeting schedule. The group name select was **Transportation Coordination Network**. Committee composition was addressed by giving consideration to elected officials, state reps, i.e. state senator who has a local staff person that has been interested in transportation – could be a candidate for the group, operational staff, and core stakeholders. While not restrictive, it was outlined that someone within the organization that would be able to offer decision making input and who could help us affect outcomes would be the

candidates of choice. A consensus to hold bi-monthly meetings with a minimum of every 3rd meeting to occur in the outlying communities was recommended. RTA's Board Room was established as the location for future local meetings. The following is a forecast of our upcoming bi-monthly meeting dates:

MONTH	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
MAR	19 th	RTA	2 p.m.
MAY	21 st	Outlying community	
JUL	16 th	RTA	2 p.m.
SEP	17 th	RTA	2 p.m.
NOV	19 th	Outlying community	

The use of technology (web site with FAQs, Current Events, etc.) was endorsed to help us get and share information. Public access, as well as a protected networking/technical web site section that will allow an exchange of specific transportation information for participants was offered.

II. Group Directory of Services

Presentations on each agency's profile were encouraged as they will assist members to better understand each other's role. Members will be contacted to schedule presentations.

III. JARC and New Freedom Grant Update

Two categories of funding (JARC and New Freedom) are available to this area for a total of approximately \$582K with the RTA as the urban designated recipient and TxDOT as the rural recipient. In our most recent call for proposals, we only had one proposal submitted by the Council of Governments for the Regional Transportation Coordinator position. Because monies remain available, TxDOT is receptive to offering a second call for projects. Coordination with RTA will be considered. Dialogue on a major funding impediment – local applicants coming up with the local match – was shared along with the need for creative thinking on how to solve this issue.

IV. Coordination Ideas

Centralized dispatching – coordination where urban and rural providers share trip information, and resources to better serve consumers.

Centralized maintenance – RTA is in the process of evaluating the feasibility of shared maintenance services with rural providers.

Service alignment – integrating the ADA paratransit component for rural passengers in order to provide them with access to services within the RTA service area.

Marketing initiatives – coordinated program for improving the public understanding and awareness of transit