



**LAKEXPRESS TASKFORCE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday February 27, 2008
Tavares Civic Center, Tavares, Florida**

Members Present:

Commissioner Sanna Henderson
Commissioner James Rotella
Councilmember Robert Thielhelm, alt.

Representing:

City of Leesburg
City of Eustis
City of Mount Dora

Members Absent:

Commissioner Jennifer Hill,
Commissioner Elaine Renick
Commissioner Linda Stewart
Commissioner Welton Cadwell
Commissioner Ty Miller
Mayor Sandy Gamble
Commissioner Sharon Kelly

Representing:

Lake County BCC
Lake County BCC
Lake County BCC
Lake County BCC
Town of Lady Lake
City of Tavares
City of Fruitland Park

Staff:

T. J. Fish
Michael Woods
Sandy Minkoff
Nancy Valenzano
David Hope
Alisha Sullivan

Representing:

LSMPO Executive Director
LSMPO Transportation Planner
LSMPO Attorney
LSMPO Office Assistant
MV Transportation, Inc.
City of Tavares

Commissioner Rotella, MPO 2nd Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. It was noted that the meeting was properly noticed.

- I. **Status Report on LakeXpress Ridership - David Hope, Lake County**
David Hope reported the ridership is 14.06% higher than expected. The Leesburg circulator continues to be the highest per ridership.
- II. **Status of Vehicle Purchase**
David Hope shared the BCC approved the request from the LakeXpress Taskforce to purchase new vehicles. They plan to purchase two 30 foot Eldorado EZ Rider II buses with sign boards for the fixed route. The buses are similar to the Bluebird buses they are currently using.
- III. **Update on 2020 Transit Development Plan - T.J. Fish, MPO**
T.J. Fish reported the TDP will be wrapped up by September with plans to build in connectivity between Lake & Sumter counties included. Discussion ensued reference

spine route and he commented on a possible express route from Mount Dora to Apopka. Robert Thielhelm will follow up with possible locations for connection in Mount Dora.

IV. County/Municipal Cooperation

T.J. Fish gave update on status of the letters previously sent to six cities requesting consideration of funding for marketing. Members agreed to follow up with their cities if not responded yet.

V. Marketing Partnership Status

David Hope reported as of this date there has been one submittal for advertising. Discussion ensued reference advertising countywide and past issues.

VI. Staff Report / Comments

T.J. Fish introduced Diane Poitras, D5 liaison. He added David Hope is now employed by the county and the MPO offered to pay ½ of the position with county for one year. He shared David dedicates his time to the fixed route and will also be working on a portion of the TDP.

David Hope shared there will be 300 locations around the county that will eventually have bus signs.

VII. Taskforce Members / Comments

T.J. Fish introduced TAC member Alisha Sullivan, who is a planner for the City of Tavares.

VIII. Public Comments

MPO member and Minneola Mayor David Yeager suggested the County consider a public/private partnership to fund the bus shelters and benches. Discussion ensued. MPO staff agreed to find other successful models of this implementation. Sandy Minkoff stated need approval by MPO then he can go further with it.

IX. Adjournment