



**LAKEXPRESS TASKFORCE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 24, 2007
Tavares Civic Center, Tavares, Florida**

Members Present:

Commissioner Jennifer Hill,
Commissioner Elaine Renick
Commissioner Linda Stewart
Commissioner Welton Cadwell
Commissioner Ty Miller
Mayor Sanna Henderson
Commissioner Sharon Kelly
Mayor James Rotella
Mayor James Yatsuk

Representing:

Lake County BCC
Lake County BCC
Lake County BCC
Lake County BCC
Town of Lady Lake
City of Leesburg
City of Fruitland Park
City of Eustis
City of Mount Dora

Members Absent:

Commissioner Debbie Stivender
Mayor Sandy Gamble

Representing:

Lake County BCC
City of Tavares

Staff:

T. J. Fish
Michael Woods
Sandy Minkoff
Nancy Valenzano
Mark Reggentin
Ken Harley
David Hope
Bill Wiley
Ralph Bowers

Representing:

LSMPO Executive Director
LSMPO Transportation Planner
LSMPO Attorney
LSMPO Office Assistant
City of Mount Dora, Planning & Development Director
Lake County Public Transportation Manager
MV Transportation, Inc.
City of Leesburg, Community Development Director
City of Fruitland Park, City Manager

Commissioner Cadwell, MPO Chairman-elect called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. It was noted that the meeting was properly noticed.

I. PURPOSE OF LAKEXPRESS TASKFORCE

T.J. Fish thanked members for attending the meeting and stated in attempting to coordinate planning efforts for transit in Lake County, staff has determined a serious need for an advisory body that would monitor the progress of the LakeXpress along the US 441 corridor. It was agreed the elected officials of the taskforce will convene quarterly and that staff meet regularly as a taskforce, serving as the designees of the elected officials.

II. CURRENT STATUS OF LAKEXPRESS

Ken Harley shared Lake County will be purchasing new buses. Discussion ensued referencing the Bluebird or International. Taskforce agreed to recommend to the BCC that they should consider purchasing all Internationals due to the cost savings. Ken added they have manual fare boxes and stated most transit agencies start off with this type due to the expense. Mike Woods questioned whether the International buses were ADA compliant. Ken replied they have ramps just like the Bluebirds. Sandy Minkoff added the taskforce is to recommend to the BCC.

III. COUNTY/MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

T.J. Fish stated staff has been working with Lake County staff on a marketing approach for the LakeXpress. Lake County has, thus far, committed \$30,000 to marketing the new fixed-route transit service, which began May 21. TJ Fish discussed the request of the municipalities to contribute to the marketing campaign. A letter was mailed out in May to each of the six cities explaining how the funding would be divided among the six municipalities. Discussion ensued. To date only a few of the cities have replied. Letter will be sent again. Discussion ensued reference alternative funding sources including donations by civic clubs and organizations.

Sandy Minkoff led discussion referencing county and city codes and stated the codes were amended to eliminate advertising.

IV. MARKETING

Sharon Kelly questioned the one way bus stop and the low ridership in Fruitland Park and requested Ken Harley to review the possibility of adding more stops to make it more convenient for residents.

T.J. Fish offered to attend council meetings to educate leaders on the need for municipalities to help fund the fixed route system.

V. BUS STOP SHELTER PRESENTATION - None

VI. STAFF REPORT/COMMENTS

Ken Harley reported the Public Hearing for the LakeXpress will be held on Monday, November 19th at the Leesburg Community Center. Invitations will be e-mailed shortly. T.J. Fish asked members to solicit comments from their council members to bring to the Public Hearing.

VII. TASKFORCE MEMBERS / COMMENTS

Sanna Henderson questioned whether TD riders were guided if switching over to the fixed route system. Ken Harley replied yes.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor David Yeager expressed his concerns regarding the buses. He asked the county to consider purchasing the Bluebird buses as opposed to the International buses and to add street furniture to build the system.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.