

MINUTES

Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Transportation Task Force Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2014
Lake County Administration Building, BCC Chambers
315 W. Main St, Tavares, Florida

Governing Board

Commissioner Tim Sullivan, Lake County, D1
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County, D2
Commissioner Jimmy Conner, Lake County, D3
★Commissioner Leslie Campione, Lake County, D4
★Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County, D5
Mayor Judy Tice, Town of Astatula
Mayor Pro-Tem Ray Goodgame, City of Clermont
Commissioner Kress Muenzmay, City of Eustis
Commissioner Sharon Kelly, City of Fruitland Park
★Council Member Evelyn Wilson, City of Groveland

Councilor David Nebel, Town of Howey-in-the-Hills
★Commissioner Jim Richards, Town of Lady Lake
Commissioner David Knowles, City of Leesburg
Mayor Tony Rosado, City of Mascotte
Mayor Pat Kelley, City of Minneola
Council President Joe Wynkoop, Town of Montverde
★Councilmember Ryan Donovan, City of Mount Dora
Councilmember Norman Hope, City of Tavares
★Council President Eric Olson, City of Umatilla

Administrators

David Heath, Lake County
Kitty Cooper, Town of Astatula
Darren Gray, City of Clermont
Dianne Kramer, City of Eustis
Gary La Venia, City of Fruitland Park
Redmond Jones, City of Groveland
Brenda Brasher, Town of Howey-in-the-Hills
Kris Kollgaard, Town of Lady Lake
Al Minner, City of Leesburg
Jim Gleason, City of Mascotte
Mark Johnson, City of Minneola
Mary Mason, Town of Montverde
Michael Quinn, City of Mount Dora
John Drury, City of Tavares
Glenn Irby, City of Umatilla

TAC/Staff

★Dottie Keedy
Ken Harley
Jim Hitt
Cindy Watson
Thad Carroll
DC Maudlin
★Aaron Mercer
★Mark Reggentin
Jacques Skutt
★Richard Hatfield

★ Member Present

OPENING

Commissioner Jim Richards called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and verified that the meeting was properly noticed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

TASK FORCE ITEMS

1. Status of Para-Transit Services in Lake County

Dottie Keedy gave an updated on the status of para-transit services. Discussion included the changes due to the Medicaid reform effecting Lake County funding. She detailed the impact on the budget for para-transit trips and the effects it will have on the funding for LakeXpress. T.J. Fish discussed the changes on the budget and how it will affect the local municipalities. Ms. Keedy also discussed how the

contracts are handled expressing concerns with the timeline given, since changes will be in effect May 1st, leaving them little time to review all contracts. She also said that unless something changes, they would not be able to maintain the same level of services.

2. Implementation of 2013 Transit Development Plan

a. Proposed Route Changes

David Hope discussed the proposed route changes including those to route 2 (Leesburg Circulator) and route 1 (Spinal Route) on the north end due to the increase of trips in the Villages. Route 3 (Mount Dora Circulator) will have a directional change to improve efficiency and minor changes in route 1 (Eustis). He also discussed changes to route 4 (LYNX) to better service the line and improve bus time. Mike Woods also stated that the proposed changes to route 3 is considered a major update that would require public hearing with a 30-day comments period before adoption.

b. South Lake Fixed-Route Service

T.J. Fish discussed some of the pending issues that would need to be resolved prior to starting the SR 50 (Route 5) service. He stated that the county staff is working on a "Memorandum of Understanding" with LYNX to deal not only with Link 55 and 204 but also with all future partnerships with LYNX. This memorandum would state that Lake County would receive the 5307 funds annually. These funds would then be used in partnership with LYNX to provide specified services. The importance of the having the "Memorandum of Understanding" in place is that it is the 5307 funds that will allow the SR 50 service to begin. So prior to the County Commission approval to purchase new buses, these details would need to be worked out with LYNX first. Additional tasks still need to be completed, such as prepping the bus stops/shelters and ordering the buses and testing them for road-readiness once we have assurance with the 5307 funds. The priority was to get SR 50 (Route 5) operational but with the new issues of the Medicaid reform and Link 55 & 204, implementation may be delayed. The next priority, once SR 50 service starts, is to provide service to the City of Minneola through a new circulator, which would connect to Route 5 and the Park & Ride lot.

3. Status of Transit Services Provided by LYNX

a. Link 55 (US 192 – Four Corners)

T.J. Fish stated that county staff has reached out to Polk County and is working with LYNX on different options. Currently, the issue is cost.

b. Link 204 (Express Route Clermont-Orlando)

T.J. Fish stated that currently Link 204 is operating 2 buses in the morning and 2 buses in the evening and since this adjustment, ridership has decline significantly. Staff will continue to monitor the route's performance but if things do not improve, we may be making a recommendation to the commission to terminate the route.

c. Potential Enhancement of LakeXpress Route 4 with Link 44 (Zellwood/Tangerine)

David Hope discussed the potential enhancement to route 4 to connect with Link 44 and save on miles and time, which would better serve the residents of Lake County.

4. VanPool Program for Lake County

Dottie Keedy discussed the issues with the Lake County's VanPool Program. She stated that LYNX also has a VanPool Program but their rates are much lower since they have federal funds in which to purchase their vans. Lake County relies on private sector vans, which has a much higher rate. She stated that if Link 204 is terminated, then a vanpool program can be an option for those riders.

5. LakeXpress Bus Shelter Program Update

a. Completed Shelters

T.J. Fish stated that 18 shelters have been completed using all the available 2009 stimulus funds.

b. Next Shelters to be Installed

The Lake County Transportation and the MPO worked on a list of priorities stops and shelter locations with each municipality. In the long term, each municipality would be responsible for creating their own list of priorities for additional stops and shelter locations, which would require a 50% match.

c. Pending Policy on Matching Funds Program for Installation of Bus Stops and Bus Shelters

The MPO Board recommended a Policy on Matching Funds Program by resolution to be sent to the Lake County Commission for the Installation of Bus Stops and Bus Shelters. T.J. Fish explained that Lake County would set aside a portion of the 5307 funds to be used in the program and that it would be up to each municipality to participate.

6. Lake County Public Transportation Staff Update

No further updates.

7. MPO Staff Update

T.J. Fish asked if anyone from Lake County staff or FDOT had any updates. Joe Santiago stated that FDOT is currently soliciting service development grant applications for the upcoming fiscal year and that it could be an option for testing a new program. Mr. Fish discussed some of the funding issues with a service development grant. Mike Woods stated that we stopped with the 2013 Transit Development Plan and we are getting ready for the annual update and are starting the process now. He said that a draft will be ready in June with the final document in August and that staff would be taking it through to the committees and to the Board for comments before submitting it to FDOT in September.

TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.