

Durham County
Transportation Advisory Board Meeting
August 9, 2011

Present:

David Keaveney
Joe Kilsheimer
Joan Pelletier
James R Sanders

Others Present:

Linda Crawford, RSVP
Stephani Deberry, DCSL
Margaret Scully, DCA
Willie Williams, First Transit

Meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Board approved minutes from May 10, 2011 meeting (Motion made by Kilsheimer, seconded by Keaveney, passed unanimously)

Performance Reports:

ACCESS STATS and EDTAP spent table were reviewed. Pelletier asked for explanation of spikes in number of complaints last October. Williams explained that complaints were often result of phone system and some improvements have been made since the spike. Williams also reported that First Transit is increasing staff to help improve on-time performance.

New Business:

Scully reported a 17.3 % cut to the FY12 EDTAP, a 27% cut to the RGP, and a minor increase to the EMPL portion of the ROAP grant, and noted that the TAB should be prepared at the September meeting to discuss and approve annual allocations in light of the availability of funds. A handout illustrating potential cuts to EDTAP allocations for agencies was discussed.

The FTA is conducting a Drug and Alcohol Program audit of DCA/First Transit. Several mock interviews, site visits and trainings have been conducted in preparation for the FTA site visit on August 29th.

The NCDHHS had planned to release an RFP in July, 2011 that would have developed a statewide brokerage system for all Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation. Approximately 67% of DCA trips are Medicaid-funded trips. After much discussion/negotiation with NCPTA, NCDOT and others, the NCDHHS has agreed to study the situation throughout FY12, and issue the RFP in July 2013 only if current transportation systems are found to be inadequate.

Kilsheimer plans to bring this issue to the attention of the Consumer Family Advisory Committee for the Durham Center.

Updates:

Three separate grants (New Freedoms - 5317, Job Access - 5316, Elderly and Disabled- 5310) have been awarded to Durham County to provide additional trips to residents. However, none of the grants have funded any service to date as the contracts for two (5316 and 5317) have not yet been received and the rfp for purchasing service under the third (5310) is awaiting approval from the NCDOT. If any of these grants are operational in 2012, they could help mitigate loss of service due to cuts in EDTAP and RGP. However, local matches are required for the 5316 and 5317 from our ROAP allocation. NCDOT has suggested EMPL funds as the match.

Two new lift-equipped vans have been delivered. Scully is in the process of disposing of twelve previously retired vans.

Announcements:

There will be a November 2011 referendum on the question of a ½ percent sales tax for public transportation. This would support the implementation of the Durham County Bus and Rail Investment Plan recently developed and approved by the BOCC.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.