

# CHEROKEE COUNTY TRANSIT

77 HARDIN STREET

MURPHY, NC 28906

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## Transportation Advisory Board Meeting

Date: 03/30/2022

**Attendance/Sign-in:** Dennis Meyers and Lisa Stroud in zoom attendance, in person attendees included Cal Stiles, Maria Hass, Jennifer West, and Rhonda Taylor

### Ridership:

**Deviated-fixed route-** AVERAGE OF 15 TRIPS A DAY, 687 this qtr., decline from last quarter.

**Cal asked if we were making many trips to the casino. We are going less than 10 times a month so it isn't a stop that we would consider adding back to the Downtown & Around route.**

**Demand response** – trips for the quarter are higher than last year, but are trending downward for the year, I anticipate them increasing through the spring and summer.

**Contracted Services:** We have a new contact that has reached out to us. RTI. We have one new agreement with a healthcare research organization. Requested trips for their participants.

**DSS Medicaid-** no new updates

**Medicaid Managed Care** –

One call- One Call is leaving the NEMT world. One Calls contract has been assigned to MTM, Medical Transportation Management, as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. *MTM will assume all terms of the current agreement. We've received communications regarding training on their proprietary scheduling and billing systems.*

\*This will make no change to our current charge for services.

### Grant updates:

NCDOT 5311 CARES- We have received an agreement for a fourth round of 5311 CARES funds. This round was an additional \$122,296. This can be used to reimburse us at 100% of net operating expenditures. POP runs through JUNE 2023

New NCDOT IMD grants: FY22 ARP Operating grant (American Rescue Plan) ---DOT let us know they are planning on sending us an agreement for \$309,319. This is like CARES, it reimburses at 100% of net operating expenditures. POP is through June 2023, as well.

**We had applied for \$500,00.00 based on instructions given by the grantor.**

**The 5311 CARES and the ARP grants don't require a funding match from the county.**

**Section 5311/5310** New updates for 5310 and 5311 grants except that the Call for projects (5310, 5311, and combined capital) for FY24 is opening in April. **The timetable has historically been in the fall.**

**HCCBG** – Home Community Care Block Grant- the current FY's grant has been increased by approx. \$4,0000.

VUD week is next week. This is when vehicle utilization data is collected as a basis for future funding/distribution of grants. This occurs in the spring and fall of each year.

**Employee retention and recruitment was discussed. The pay of surrounding counties verses what we offer as well the competition of other employers in the county for quality employees.**

**The pay rate, the hour stability with the responsibility required to perform the operator position was discussed with the plan to check to see what the surrounding counties that are similar to us in size and scope of operation were offering their operators and the possibility of having a better package to offer potential operators to try to get more applicants for positions that we may have open, while keeping the possibility of less funding after the stimulus funding from the pandemic in mind for future budget changes.**

**The state has been pushing to do away with the fares since they do not add up to large amount over the course of the year and it would make it easier for accounting.**

**There is a plan to do a study to see if the loss of income from fares for local in county trips would be made up by the rise in ridership if there was no fare for these trips with a goal of having the information compiled before April 18<sup>th</sup> . The goal would be to keep the services at the status where we would not have to use county funds to subsidize transit services if these fares were discontinued. Since fare changes must go through the board, any change in the fares would not be done without their approval, whether it be for a potential trial run or a permanent fare change. (Out of county fares would not be changed.)**

**Remaining FY23 TAB meeting dates: 6/30/22**