

CHEROKEE COUNTY TRANSIT

77 HARDIN STREET
MURPHY, NC 28906
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Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

Date: 03/31/2021

Attendance: Jennifer West, Cal Stiles, Lisa Stroud, Robin Caldwell, Randy Wiggins, Maria Hass, Tom Brownback, Rhonda Taylor, Denise Cross

DEVIATED-FIXED ROUTE

- D&A averaging 20 trips/day, there is an ebb and flow, but overall its about 20 trips/day
 - Still staying steady
- Andrews Here & There- Steadily declined in February/Mar. We are trying a new approach-
- Our Andrews senior route had evolved to going shopping on Fridays. So, we thought, why not offer that senior route along with a deviated fixed route "shopping" route from Andrews Murphy.
- We are already coming down to Murphy with the senior route. So, we have started that on Fridays – we have pick-ups at the usual Here and There stops, and then we leave Andrews by 10am. We continue to Walmart, then Ingles, Sav-a-lot, \$Tree. Passengers can request deviations past there if they have other needs... the van then returns to Andrews by one and the rest of the day until 2:30 is spent making stops there. We are trying to be flexible to see what the needs are so we can service more of our residents' transportation needs.

Demand Response- Similar to last quarter around 1,100/month. (in the past years over 2,000/month)

Grant Updates

FY21 NIMble-

- Nantahala Health Foundation immediate needs grant up to \$10,000.
- We need a fence for the property.
- Jennifer applied for \$9,500.00 we will know in May if we were approved

DHHS Vaccine \$\$- Free trips to transport people for Covid vaccine related trips.

- 18,274 GIVEN TO US FOR FREE VACCINE TRANSPORTATION.
- ENDS JUNE 2021.
- HAVE TO PAY BACK WHAT WE DON'T USE.
- WE ARE PUSHING THE VACCINE TRIPS.
- ONLY PERFORMED ABOUT 15 TRIPS, THAT'S about \$500 in REIMBURSEMENT.
- Outreach-WKRK COMMERCIAL, DENISE'S SENIOR SERVICES WKRK SPOT, FLYERS AT LOCAL BUSINESSES, TALKED TO VACCINE SITES AND DOCTORS OFFICES TO GET WORD OUT

CARES NCDOT

- ROUND 3- \$64,834.00 GRANT.
- \$38776.00 IS ALLOCATED FOR OPERATIONAL USE.
- \$4398.00 IS GOING TO BE USED TO PURCHASE NEW LAPTOPS, WE CURRENTLY ONLY HAVE ONE AND IT IS OBSOLETE, A 2009 WINDOWS VISTA.
- THE REMAINDER OF \$21,660 WILL COVER VACCINE TRANSPORTATION.
- ALL NCDOT CARES IS NOW EXTENDED THRU FY22.
- MONEY IS ALSO IN THERE FOR VACCINE TRIPS TOO, BUT WE WANT TO USE DHHS FIRST SINCE THE DATE LINE FOR THAT RUNS OUT EARLIER.
- CAL ASKED ABOUT THE BUDGET STATUS BEING IN THE BLACK SINCE TRIPS HAD REDUCED DUE TO COVID.
- JENNIFER STATED THAT TRANSIT WOULD BE IN THE BLACK. EXTRA FUNDING WAS ISSUED THROUGH CARES THIS YEAR. SURPLUS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE STATE LEVEL AND IT WAS OK AS LONG AS SURPLUS WAS SPENT ON TRANSIT.
- CAL ASKED IF THE FUNDS WOULD BE HELD OR STAYING IN THE DEPARTMENT OR IF IT WAS MOVED TO GENERAL FUNDS, RANDY SAID THAT THE MONEY WOULD BE IN THE GENERAL BUT IT WAS TRACKED AND TO BE ALLOCATED FOR USE BY TRANSIT.

5311 Community Transportation Program (CTP) – Admin: FTA TRIENNIAL REVIEW

WE WERE CHOSEN THIS YEAR FOR A VIRTUAL REVIEW THAT WILL OCCUR AT THE END OF MAY.

5310 Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities- Operating Grant:

- TO DATE EXPENDED 77% OF THE GRANT. USUALLY, WE ARE AT 75% AT THIS POINT SO WE ARE IN A GOOD PLACE ON THIS EVEN WITH THE LOWER RIDERSHIP CAUSED BY COVID.
- WE HAVE ASKED FOR \$13,000.00 MORE FOR NEXT YEAR THAN WE RECEIVED THIS YEAR.

Combined Capital Grant

- WE WERE ABLE TO ORDER RAISED ROOF HIGTOP VAN WITH A LIFT.
- NCDOT HAS EXTENDED PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE SINCE EVERYONE HAD TO ORDER LATE SO THE FUNDING FROM THIS FY WILL BE ALLOWED TO PAY FOR THE PURCHASES.

VTCLI Veteran's Grant- HBSS upgrade to 8.0- it has capabilities to bill the NEMT brokers, has capabilities for the drivers to do their pre-trip inspection, also can help us schedule free vaccine trips. Lisa described the current pre-trip inspection procedure and the hope of being able to get the glitches worked out so the tablet can be used for this and various other functions.

HCCBG- TRIPS ARE AVERAGING BETWEEN 300-500 TRIPS/MONTH

- WE ARE STILL TRYING EVERYTHING WE CAN THINK OF FOR OUTREACH.
- MARK IS WORKING HARD AND DOING A GREAT JOB MAKING COLD CALLS FOR CUSTOMERS WHO MAY HAVE USED THE SENIOR SERVICE IN THE PAST BUT CURRENTLY DO NOT, AS WELL AS REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE WHO USE OUR SERVICE AND MAY NOT KNOW OR HAVE JUST BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE SENIOR PROGRAM.

Medicaid Managed Care NEMT Agreements

- There are currently 2 brokers wanting to contract with us, one looks hopeful.
- 15% of Medicaid recipients are transitioning to managed care this year but we are looking for more over the course of the next few years.
- Transit would like to move forward with at least one of them to “dip our toes in the water” so to speak so we will be ready should all of Medicaid recipients be transitioned to managed care.
- We are still discussing contracts at the county level.
- Randy stated that Jennifer is doing a great job with these and they are very nerve racking to sort through, but she has made great progress toward getting one of the brokers to the point that the contract seems to be workable for us.

Tentative TAB meeting dates for FY21: 6/30/2021