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July 15, 2015

TO: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM: Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Meeting Announcement

The Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board will meet **Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.** in the A & A Transport Office located at the Union County Transportation Facility, 255 SW 9th Avenue, Lake Butler, Florida. All Board members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Attached is the meeting agenda and supporting materials. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 110.

Attachments

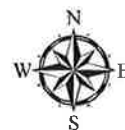
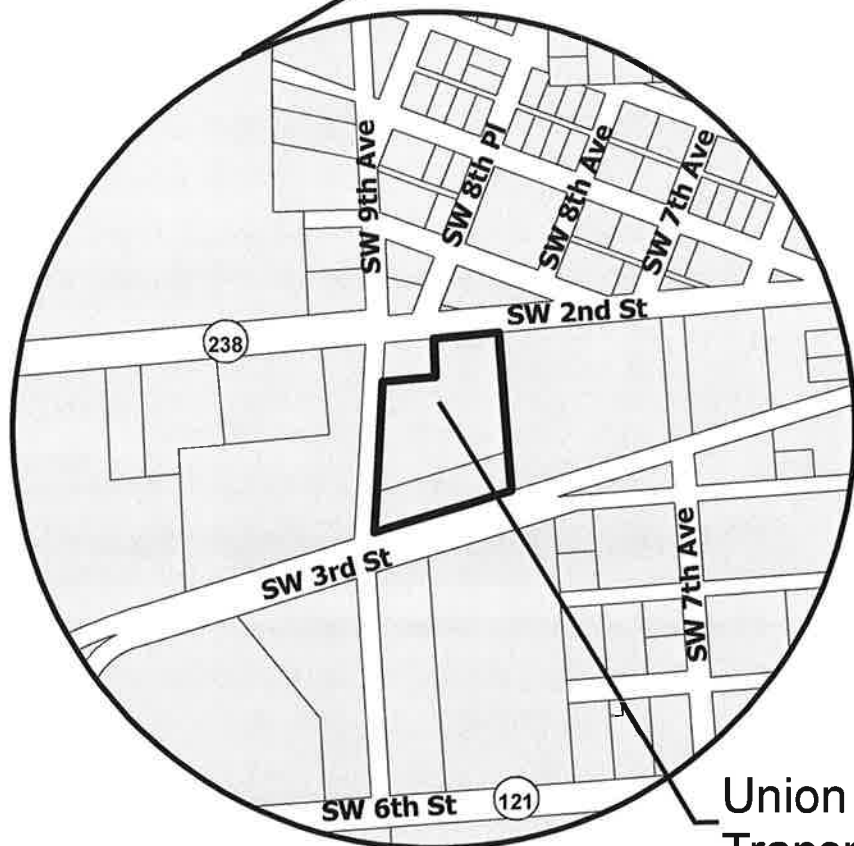
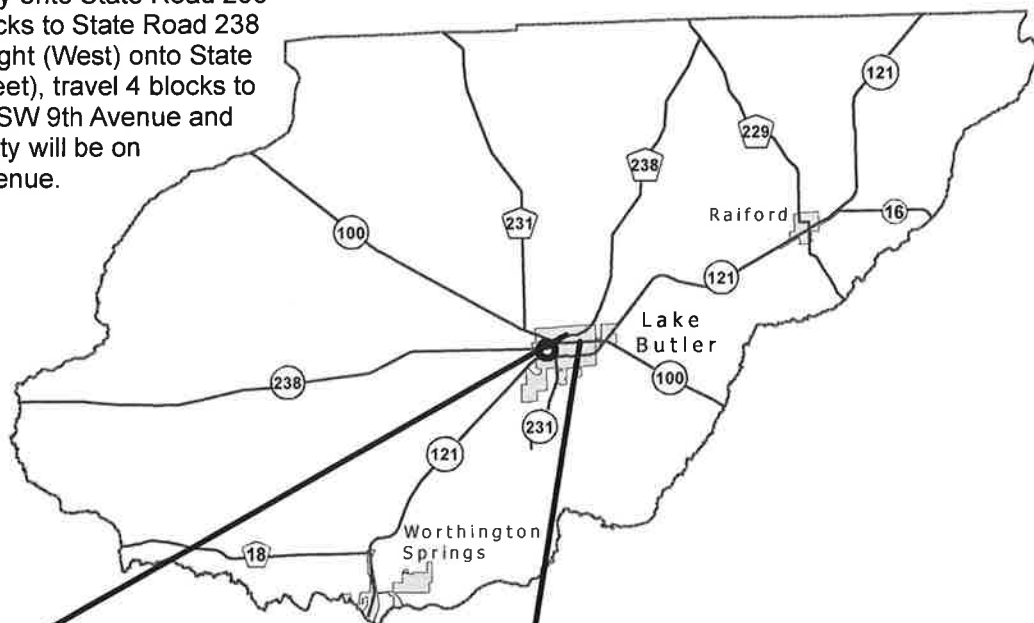
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Union County Transportation Facility

A & A Transport Office

255 SW 9th Avenue
Lake Butler, Florida 32054

Directions: From the intersection of State Road 100 (also known as Main St) and State Road 238 (also known as 6th Ave) in the City of Lake Butler, head Southwesterly onto State Road 238 (also known as 6th Ave) travel two blocks to State Road 238 (also known as SW 2nd Street), turn right (West) onto State Road 238 (also known as SW 2nd Street), travel 4 blocks to SW 9th Avenue, turn left (South) onto SW 9th Avenue and the Union County Transportation Facility will be on the left, on the East side of SW 9th Avenue.



1 inch = 500 feet

Union County
Transportation Facility





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**UNION COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA**

**Union County Transportation Facility
255 SW 9th Avenue
Lake Butler, Florida**

**Wednesday
July 22, 2015
1:15 p.m.**

I. BUSINESS MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

A. Introductions

B. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

ACTION REQUIRED

**C. Approval of the April 14, 2015
Minutes**

Page 7

ACTION REQUIRED

II. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Community Transportation Coordinator
Resignation**

Page 11

NO ACTION REQUIRED

Enclosed is information regarding the resignation of A & A Transport as the Union County Community Transportation Coordinator

**B. Union County Transportation
Disadvantaged Service Plan**

Page 25

ACTION REQUIRED

The Board needs to review and approve the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

C. Bylaws

Page 85

ACTION REQUIRED

The Board needs to review and approve the Bylaws

D. Grievance Procedures

Page 103

ACTION REQUIRED

The Board needs to review and approve the Grievance Procedures

E. Appoint Grievance Committee Members Page 121 ACTION REQUIRED

The Chair needs to appoint two members to the Grievance Committee

F. Elect Vice-Chair Page 123 ACTION REQUIRED

The Board needs to elect a new Vice-Chair

G. Community Transportation Coordinator Report NO ACTION REQUIRED

Suwannee River Economic Council staff will report on the Community Transportation Coordinator transition

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Comments

1. Members

2. Citizens

IV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

A. October 13, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.

B. January 12, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

C. April 12, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

* Please note that this is a tentative meeting schedule, all dates and times are subject to change.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed materials, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-226-0690, extension 110.

**UNION COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD**

MEMBER/REPRESENTING	ALTERNATE/REPRESENTING
Commissioner Woody Kitler Local Elected Official/Chair	
Sandra Collins Florida Department of Transportation Grievance Committee Member	Janell Damato Florida Department of Transportation
Jaime Sanchez-Bianchi Florida Department of Children and Families	Vacant Florida Department of Children and Families
Vacant Florida Department of Education	Jeff Aboumrad Florida Department of Education Grievance Committee Member
Vacant Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Vacant Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Vacant Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Jeannie Carr Regional Workforce Board	Vacant Regional Workforce Board
Vacant Florida Association for Community Action Term ending June 30, 2017	Vacant Florida Association for Community Action Term ending June 30, 2017
Mike Pittman Public Education	Vacant Public Education
Barbara Fischer Veterans Grievance Committee Member Term ending June 30, 2017	Vacant Veterans Term ending June 30, 2017
Doyle Archer Citizen Advocate Term ending June 30, 2018	Vernon Dukes, Vice-Chair Citizen Advocate Term ending June 30, 2018
Vacant Citizen Advocate - User Term ending June 30, 2018	Vacant Citizen Advocate - User Term ending June 30, 2018
Bill McGill Persons with Disabilities Term ending June 30, 2018	Vacant Persons with Disabilities Term ending June 30, 2018
Donald Pettit Elderly Term ending June 30, 2017	Vacant Elderly Term ending June 30, 2017
Vacant Medical Community Term ending June 30, 2016	Vacant Medical Community Term ending June 30, 2016
Vacant Children at Risk Term ending June 30, 2016	Vacant Children at Risk Term ending June 30, 2016
Vacant Private Transit Term ending June 30, 2016	Vacant Private Transit Term ending June 30, 2016

Note: Unless specified, members and alternates serve at the pleasure of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

**UNION COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD**

MEETING MINUTES

A & A Transport Office
Union County Transportation Facility
255 SW 9th Avenue
Lake Butler, Florida

Tuesday
April 14, 2015
1:15 p.m.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Woody Kitler, Chairman
Barbara Fischer, Veterans Representative
Jeff Aboumrad, Florida Department of Education
Bill McGill, Persons with Disabilities Representative
Matthew Pearson, Community Action Agency
Donald Pettit, Elderly Representative
Jaime Sanchez-Bianchi, Florida Department of Children and Families
Andrew Singer representing, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration – Medicaid

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Doyle Archer, Citizen Advocate
Sandra Collins, Florida Department of Transportation
Mike Pittman, Public Education Representative

OTHERS PRESENT

Curtis Allen, A & A Transport
Vince Brown, Union County Times
Jeannie Carr, Workforce Board
Bill Hearndon, Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
Steve Holmes, Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
Shantel Prats, Workforce Board
Dan Zeruto, Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

STAFF PRESENT

Lynn Godfrey, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

I. PUBLIC HEARING CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kitler called the public hearing to order at 1:15 p.m.

A. Introductions

Chairman Kitler asked everyone to introduce themselves.

B. Receive Public Testimony

There was no public testimony received.

C. Close Public Hearing

Chairman Kitler closed the public hearing at 1:16 p.m.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kitler called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

A. Introductions

Chairman Kitler asked everyone to introduce themselves.

B. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

ACTION: Matthew Pearson moved to approve the meeting agenda. Andrew Singer seconded; motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of the January 6, 2015 Minutes

ACTION: Andrew Singer moved to approve the January 6, 2015 meeting minutes. Barbara Fischer seconded; motion passed unanimously.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Community Transportation Coordinator Annual Performance Evaluation

Ms. Lynn Godfrey, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Senior Planner, stated that a revised annual performance evaluation of A & A Transport is included in the meeting materials. She said revisions were made to the evaluation based on recommendations made by the Board, Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged staff and Florida Department of Transportation reviews.

The Board asked if there was a timeline for corrective action.

Ms. Godfrey said the Rate Model worksheets must be submitted prior to June 30, 2015. She said the Florida Department of Transportation will set deadlines for their review findings.

Mr. Steve Holmes, Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Executive Director, encouraged A & A Transport to complete their Fiscal Year 2014/15 U.S.C. Section 5311 grant application in order to start invoicing their operating expenses.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Ms. Godfrey stated that Chapter 427, Florida Statutes requires A & A Transport to prepare a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan in cooperation with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the Board's approval. She said this plan provides information needed by the Board to continually review and assess transportation disadvantaged needs for the service area. She said the Service Plan must be submitted to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged annually.

Ms. Godfrey said the Fiscal Year 2015/16 rates, vehicle inventory and contracts need to be updated by A & A Transport. She said the Board may have to meet again prior to June 30, 2015 to approve A & A Transport's Fiscal Year 2015/16 rates.

Mr. Holmes said he will work with A & A Transport and the Planning Council staff to streamline the process of approving new rates.

ACTION: Matthew Pearson moved to approve the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. Andrew Singer seconded; motion passed unanimously.

B. 2015 Florida Legislative Session

Mr. Steve Holmes stated that an additional \$2.1 million was added to the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. He said as long as there are no changes to the Transportation Disadvantaged Program funding during the next few weeks of the Florida Legislative Session, Union County should receive approximately the same allocation as they received in Fiscal Year 2014/15.

C. Operations Reports

Ms. Godfrey said Mr. Allen provided the most recent reports to her at the meeting. She said she will email the reports to the Board members. Mr. Allen apologized for not having the reports ready prior to the meeting.

Mr. Pearson requested all reports be submitted to staff a week prior to the meetings for inclusion in the meeting packets.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Comments

1. Members

There were no member comments.

2. Citizens

Mr. Holmes said the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged staff have concerns about the operations of A & A Transport. He said he will bring these concerns to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged at their meeting in June. He said his staff will work with A & A Transport staff to make sure all information needed to evaluate services is available.

VI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Chairman Kitler stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Coordinating Board Chair

Date



II.A
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July 15, 2015

TO: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
FROM: Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: Community Transportation Coordinator Resignation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For information only. No action is required.

BACKGROUND

Due to financial reasons, A & A Transport, Inc. resigned as the Union County Community Transportation Coordinator effective July 1, 2015. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged declared an emergency and issued a Request for Qualifications of Interested Parties for the designation of an emergency Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County.

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designated Suwannee River Economic Council the emergency Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Attached is correspondence regarding A & A Transport's resignation and emergency Community Transportation Coordinator designation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 110.

Attachments

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by coordinating growth management, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

**A & A TRANSPORT, INC.
255 SOUTHWEST 9TH AVENUE
LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA 32054
Telephone 386-496-2056 - Fax 386-496-2961**

**Curtis E. Allen
President**

May 27, 2015

**Mr. David Darm, Chairman
Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
605 Suwannee Street, MS-49
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450**

Dear Chair Darm:

Please accept this letter as formal notification that A & A Transport, Inc. will resign as the designated Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County effective July 01, 2015. Due to the implementation of Florida's Managed Medical Care Program, A & A Transport no longer has the financial resources to continue providing transportation services under Florida's Coordinated Transportation System.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County since 1991. It has been a pleasure working with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to provide much needed transportation services to Union County residents.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Curtis E. Allen, President

xc: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

Lynn Godfrey

From: Holmes, Steven [Steven.Holmes@dot.state.fl.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 3:03 PM
To: Lynn Godfrey
Cc: CO-CTD Staff
Subject: Union County

Lynn,
Please pass along to the members of the LCB.

Due to financial reasons A&A Transport, Inc. will no longer provide transportation services as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) to residents of Union County beginning July 1, 2015.

A&A Transport has been a valued partner in Florida's Coordinated Transportation System for many years. The Commission thanks Curtis Allen and A&A Transport for their efforts in providing coordinated transportation to older adults, persons with disabilities and people with low incomes in Union County.

This afternoon the Commission declared an emergency in Union County and we will soon release a Request for Qualification of Interested Parties. We want to select an organization to be the new CTC by the end of the first week June. Then A&A Transport will begin transitioning services to the new CTC for it to deliver transportation disadvantaged services on July 1, 2015.

Thanks

Steve Holmes
Executive Director
Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
850 688-2953 (c)



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June 6, 2015

Rick Scott
Governor

David Darm
Chairperson

Mike Willingham
Vice Chairperson

Steve Holmes
Executive Director

Mr. Matt Pearson
Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 70
Live Oak, Florida 32064

RE: Union County Community Transportation Coordinator Designation
Emergency Memorandum of Agreement #TD1539

Dear: Mr. Pearson

Congratulations! The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged approved Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. to serve as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County. This designation is effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Please execute the enclosed Memorandums of Agreement and return both original copies to our office. We will return one executed Agreement for your records.

The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged appreciates your continued support and participation in the coordinated transportation system of Union County. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at (850) 410-5704.

Sincerely,

Daniel Zeruto

Daniel Zeruto
Area 3 Project Manager

Enclosure: Memorandums of Agreement

cc: Lynn Franson-Godfrey

Contract # TD1539

Effective: July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED
EMERGENCY MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum of Agreement is between the COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED, hereby referred to as the "Commission," and Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc., Post Office Box 70, Live Oak, Florida 32064, the COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR, designated pursuant to Chapter 427, F.S., to serve the transportation disadvantaged for the community that includes the entire area of Union county(ies), and hereafter referred to as the "Coordinator."

This Agreement is made in consideration of the mutual benefits to both parties; said consideration acknowledged hereto by the parties as good and valuable consideration.

The Parties Agree:

- I. The Coordinator Shall:
 - A. Become and remain totally apprised of all of the Transportation Disadvantaged resources available or planned in their designated service area. This knowledge will be used to plan, coordinate, and implement the most cost effective transportation disadvantaged transit system possible under the economic and other conditions that exist in the designated service area.
 - B. Plan and work with Community Transportation Coordinators in adjacent and other areas of the state to coordinate the provision of community trips that might be handled at a lower overall cost to the community by another Coordinator. This includes honoring any Commission-approved statewide certification program that allows for intercounty transportation opportunities.
 - C. Arrange for all services in accordance with Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, FAC, and as further required by the Commission and the local Coordinating Board approved Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.
 - D. Return any acquired profits or surplus funds originating through the course of business as the Coordinator that are beyond the amounts(s) specifically identified and approved in the accompanying Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. Such profits or funds shall be returned to the Coordinator's transportation system or to any subsequent Coordinator, as a total transportation system subsidy, to be applied to the immediate following operational year. The Coordinator will include similar language in all coordination contracts to assure that transportation disadvantaged related revenues are put back into transportation disadvantaged services.

E. Accomplish this Project by:

1. Developing a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan for approval by the local Coordinating Board and the Commission. Coordinators who are newly designated to a particular service area shall submit a local Coordinating Board approved Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan, within 120 calendar days following the execution of the Coordinator's initial memorandum of agreement with the Commission, for approval by the Commission. All subsequent Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plans shall be submitted and approved with the corresponding memorandum of agreement. The approved Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan will be implemented and monitored to provide for community-wide transportation services for purchase by non-sponsored transportation disadvantaged persons, contracting social service agencies, and other entities that use local, state, or federal government funds for the purchase of transportation for the transportation disadvantaged.
2. Maximizing the use of available public school transportation resources and public fixed route or fixed schedule transit services and assuring that private or public transit, paratransit operators, and school boards have been afforded a fair opportunity to participate to the maximum extent feasible in the planning process and in the development of the provisions of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan for the transportation disadvantaged.
3. Providing or arranging 24-hour, 7-day per week transportation disadvantaged service as required in the designated service area by any Federal, State or Local Government agency sponsoring such services. The provision of said services shall be furnished in accordance with the prior notification requirements identified in the local Coordinating Board and Commission approved Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.
4. Complying with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations that apply to the provision of transportation disadvantaged services.
5. Submitting to the Commission an Annual Operating Report detailing demographic, operational, and financial data regarding coordination activities in the designated service area. The report shall be prepared on forms provided by the Commission and according to the instructions of said forms.

F. Comply with Audit and Record Keeping Requirements by:

1. Utilizing the Commission recognized Chart of Accounts defined in the *Transportation Accounting Consortium Model Uniform Accounting System for Rural and Specialized Transportation Providers* (uniform accounting system) for all transportation disadvantaged accounting and reporting purposes. Community Transportation Coordinators with existing and equivalent accounting systems are not required to adopt the Chart of Accounts in lieu of their existing Chart of Accounts but shall prepare all reports, invoices, and fiscal documents relating to the transportation disadvantaged functions and activities using the chart of accounts and accounting definitions as outlined in the above referenced manual.

2. Assuming the responsibility of invoicing for any transportation services arranged, unless otherwise stipulated by a purchase of service contract or coordination contract.
 3. Maintaining and filing with the Commission, local Coordinating Board, and all purchasing agencies/entities such progress, fiscal, inventory, and other reports as those entities may require during the period of this Agreement.
 4. Providing copies of finance and compliance audits to the Commission and local Coordinating Board as requested by the Commission or local Coordinating Board.
- G. Retain all financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and any other documents pertinent to this Agreement for a period of five (5) years after termination of this Agreement. If an audit has been initiated and audit findings have not been resolved at the end of five (5) years, the records shall be retained until resolution of the audit findings. The Coordinator shall assure that these records shall be subject to inspection, review, or audit at all reasonable times by persons duly authorized by the Commission or this Agreement. They shall have full access to and the right to examine any of the said records and documents during the retention period.
- H. Comply with Safety Requirements by:
1. Complying with Section 341.061, F.S., and Rule 14-90, FAC, concerning System Safety; or complying with Chapter 234.051, F.S., regarding school bus safety requirements for those services provided through a school board; and
 2. Assuring compliance with local, state, and federal laws, and Commission policies relating to drug testing. Conduct drug and alcohol testing for safety sensitive job positions within the coordinated system regarding pre-employment, randomization, post-accident, and reasonable suspicion as required by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.
- I. Comply with Commission insurance requirements by maintaining at least minimum liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$200,000 for any one person and \$300,000 per occurrence at all times during the existence of this Agreement for all transportation services purchased or provided for the transportation disadvantaged through the Community Transportation Coordinator. Upon the execution of this Agreement, the Coordinator shall add the Commission as an additional **named Insured** to all insurance policies covering vehicles transporting the transportation disadvantaged. In the event of any cancellation or changes in the limits of liability in the insurance policy, the insurance agent or broker shall notify the Commission. The Coordinator shall insure that contracting transportation operators and coordination contractors also maintain the same minimum liability insurance, or an equal governmental insurance program. Insurance coverage in excess of \$1 million per occurrence must be approved by the Commission and the local Coordinating Board before inclusion in the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan or in the justification of rates and fare structures. Such coverage may be provided by a self-insurance program established and operating under the laws of the State of Florida and written verification of insurance protection in accordance with Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, shall be provided to the Commission upon request.

- J. Safeguard information by not using or disclosing any information concerning a user of services under this Agreement for any purpose not in conformity with the local, state and federal regulations (45 CFR, Part 205.50), except upon order of a court, written consent of the recipient, or his/her responsible parent or guardian when authorized by law.
- K. Protect Civil Rights by:
1. Complying with state and federal laws including but not limited to laws regarding discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin. The Coordinator gives this assurance in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining federal grants, loans, contracts (except contracts of insurance or guaranty), property, discounts, or other federal financial assistance to programs or activities receiving or benefiting from federal financial assistance and agreeing to complete a Civil Rights Compliance Questionnaire if so requested by the Commission.
 2. Agreeing that compliance with this assurance constitutes a condition of continued receipt of or benefit from federal financial assistance, and that it is binding upon the Coordinator, its successors, subcontractors, transferee, and assignees for the period during which such assistance is provided. Assure that all operators, subcontractors, subgrantee, or others with whom the Coordinator arranges to provide services or benefits to participants or employees in connection with any of its programs and activities are not discriminating against those participants or employees in violation of the above statutes, regulations, guidelines, and standards. In the event of failure to comply, the Coordinator agrees that the Commission may, at its discretion, seek a court order requiring compliance with the terms of this assurance or seek other appropriate judicial or administrative relief, to include assistance being terminated and further assistance being denied.
- L. To the extent allowed by Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and only to the monetary and other limitations contained therein, indemnify and hold harmless the Commission and all of the Commission's members, officers, agents, and employees; purchasing agency/entity officers, agents, and employees; and the local, state, and federal governments from any claim, loss, damage, cost, charge or expense arising out of any act, action, neglect or omission by the Coordinator during the performance of this Agreement, whether direct or indirect, and whether to any person or property to which the Commission or said parties may be subject, except that neither the Coordinator nor any of its sub-contractors will be liable under this section for damages arising out of injury or damage to persons or property directly caused or resulting from the sole negligence of the Commission or any of its members, officers, agents or employees; purchasing agency/entity, officers, agents, and employees; and local, state, or federal governments. Nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity by any agency/entity or Coordinator to which sovereign immunity may be applicable. Nothing herein shall be construed as consent by a state agency/entity or political subdivision of the State of Florida or the federal government to be sued by third parties in any matter arising out of any Agreement or contract. Notwithstanding the foregoing, pursuant to Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, no agency or subdivision of the state shall be required to indemnify, insure, or assume any liability for the Commission's negligence.

- M. Comply with standards and performance requirements of the Commission, the local Coordinating Board approved Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan, and any purchase of service contracting agencies/entities. Failure to meet the requirements or obligations set forth in this MOA, and performance requirements established and monitored by the local Coordinating Board in the approved Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan, shall be due cause for non-payment of reimbursement invoices until such deficiencies have been addressed or corrected to the satisfaction of the Commission.
- N. Comply with subcontracting requirements by executing or negotiating contracts for transportation services with Transportation Operators and Coordination Contractors, and assuring that the conditions of such contracts are maintained. The requirements of Part 1, Paragraph E.5. through M are to be included in all contracts, subcontracts, coordination contracts, and assignments made by the Coordinator for services under this Agreement. Said contracts, subcontracts, coordination contracts, and assignments will be reviewed and approved annually by the Coordinator and local Coordinating Board for conformance with the requirements of this Agreement.
- O. Comply with the following requirements concerning drivers and vehicles:
1. Drivers for paratransit services, including coordination contractors, shall be required to announce and identify themselves by name and company in a manner that is conducive to communications with the specific passenger, upon pickup of each rider, group of riders, or representative, guardian, or associate of the rider, except in situations where the driver regularly transports the rider on a recurring basis. Each driver must have photo identification that is in view of the passenger. Name patches, inscriptions or badges that affix to driver clothing are acceptable. For transit services, the driver photo identification shall be in a conspicuous location in the vehicle.
 2. The paratransit driver shall provide the passenger with boarding assistance, if necessary or requested, to the seating portion of the vehicle. The boarding assistance shall include opening the vehicle door, fastening the seat belt or utilization of wheelchair securement devices, storage of mobility assistive devices, and closing the vehicle door. In certain paratransit service categories, the driver may also be required to open and close doors to buildings, except in situations in which assistance in opening/closing building doors would not be safe for passengers remaining on the vehicle. Assisted access must be in a dignified manner. Drivers may not assist wheelchair up or down more than one step, unless it can be performed safely as determined by the passenger, guardian, and driver.
 3. All vehicles shall be equipped with two-way communications in good working order and be audible to the driver at all times to the base.
 4. All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system, shall have working air conditioners and heaters in each vehicle. Vehicles that do not have a working air conditioner or heater will be scheduled for repair or replacement as soon as possible.

P. Comply with other requirements as follows:

1. Transport an escort of a passenger and dependent children as locally negotiated and identified in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.
2. Determine locally in the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan, the use, responsibility, and cost of child restraint devices.
3. Transport with the passenger at no additional charge, passenger property that can be carried by the passenger and/or driver in one trip and can be safely stowed on the vehicle. Additional requirements may be negotiated for carrying and loading rider property beyond this amount. Passenger property does not include wheelchairs, child seats, stretchers, secured oxygen, personal assistive devices, or intravenous devices.
4. Provide shelter, security, and safety of passengers at vehicle transfer points.
5. Post a local or other toll-free number for complaints or grievances inside each vehicle. The local complaint process shall be outlined as a section in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan including advising the dissatisfied person about the Commission's Ombudsman Program as a step within the process as approved by the local Coordinating Board.
6. Provide out-of-service-area trips, when determined locally and approved by the local Coordinating Board, except in instances where local ordinances prohibit such trips.
7. Keep interior of all vehicles free from dirt, grime, oil, trash, torn upholstery, damaged or broken seats, protruding metal or other objects or materials which could soil items placed in the vehicle or provide discomfort for the passenger.
8. Determine locally by the local Coordinating Board and provide in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan the billing requirements of the Community Transportation Coordinator. All bills shall be paid to subcontractors within 7 calendar days after receipt of said payment by the Coordinator, in accordance with Section 287.0585, Florida Statutes.
9. Maintain or have access to a passenger/trip database on each rider being transported within the system.
10. Provide each rider and escort, child, or personal care attendant adequate seating for paratransit services. No more passengers than the registered passenger seating capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time. For transit services provided by transit vehicles, adequate seating or standing space will be provided to each rider and escort, child, or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating or standing capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time.
11. First Aid shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

12. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

II. The Commission Shall:

- A. Recognize the Coordinator as the entity described in Section 427.011(5), Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2.002(4), F.A.C.
- B. Attempt to insure that all entities with transportation disadvantaged funds will purchase transportation disadvantaged services through the Coordinator's system.

III. The Coordinator and the Commission Further Agree:

- A. Nothing in this Agreement shall require the Commission to observe or enforce compliance with any provision thereof, perform any other act or do any other thing in contravention of any applicable state law. If any of the provisions of this Agreement is found by a court of law to violate any applicable state law, the purchasing agency/entity will at once notify the Commission in writing in order that appropriate changes and modifications may be made by the Commission and the Coordinator to the end that the Coordinator may proceed as soon as possible with the provision of transportation services.
- B. If any part or provision of this Agreement is held invalid, the remainder of this Agreement shall be binding on the parties hereto.
- C. Termination Conditions:
 1. Termination at Will - This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon no less than thirty (30) days notice, without cause. Said notice shall be delivered by certified mail, return receipt required, or in person with proof of delivery.
 2. Termination for Breach - Unless the Coordinator's breach is waived by the Commission in writing, the Commission may, by written notice to the Coordinator, terminate this Agreement upon no less than twenty-four (24) hours notice. Said notice shall be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person with proof of delivery. Waiver by the Commission of breach of any provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any other breach and shall not be construed to be a modification of the terms of this Agreement, and shall not act as a waiver or estoppel to enforcement of any provision of this Agreement. The provisions herein do not limit the Commission's right to remedies at law or to damages.
- D. This agreement will expire unless an extension is granted to the Coordinator in writing by the Commission, in accordance with Chapter 287, Florida Statutes.
- E. Renegotiations or Modifications of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, duly approved by the Commission, and signed by both parties hereto.

F Notice and Contact:

The name and address of the contract manager for the Commission for this Agreement is: **Executive Director, 605 Suwannee Street, MS-49, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450.** The representative/position of the Coordinator responsible for administration of the program under this Agreement is:

Matt Pearson, Executive Director

In the event that either party designates different representatives after execution of this Agreement, notice of the name and address of the new representative will be rendered in writing to the other party and said notification attached to originals of this Agreement.

This document has been reviewed in its entirety and approved by the local Coordinating Board at its official meeting held on _____


Coordinating Board Chairperson

WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION
COORDINATOR:

Suwannee River Economic Council
Agency Name

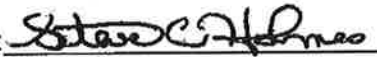
Matt Pearson
Typed Name of Authorized Individual

Signature: 

Title: Executive Director

STATE OF FLORIDA, COMMISSION FOR
THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED:

Steven Holmes
Typed Name of Authorized Individual

Signature: 

Title: Executive Director



II.B

Serving

Alachua • Union

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Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

July 15, 2015

TO: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM: Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 427, Florida Statutes requires the Community Transportation Coordinator to prepare a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan in cooperation with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the local Coordinating Board's approval. This plan provides information needed by the local Coordinating Board to continually review and assess transportation disadvantaged needs for the service area. The Service Plan must be submitted to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged annually.

Attached is the draft Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. If you have any questions concerning the Plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 110.

Attachment

t:\lynn\td2015\union\memos\tdpsrec.docx

Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Union County Transportation Disadvantaged
Coordinating Board



Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Approved by the

Union County
Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo
352.955.2000

Woody Kitler, Chair

with Assistance from

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
www.ncfrpc.org
352.955.2200

and

Suwannee River Economic Council
P.O. Box 70
Live Oak, FL 32060
386.362.4115

July 22, 2015



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Table of Contents

Chapter I: Development Plan.....	1
A. Introduction to The Service Area	1
B. Service Area Profile and Demographics.....	9
C. Service Analysis	14
Chapter II: Service Plan	23
A. Operations.....	23
B. Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure Justification	34
Chapter III: Quality Assurance.....	35
A. Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation Process	35

Appendices

Appendix A: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures	A-1
Appendix B: Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure Justification	B-1
Appendix C: Vehicle Inventory	C-1
Appendix D: Safety Compliance Self Certification	D-1

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Chapter I: Development Plan

A. Introduction to The Service Area

The purpose of this section is to provide information about the organization and development of Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program in Union County. This Plan shall serve as the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan under the federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

1. Background of Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program

Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program began in 1979 with the adoption of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. The Florida Legislature adopted this legislation to provide transportation disadvantaged services in a coordinated fashion.

The transportation disadvantaged are defined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, as:

"those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent on others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in s. 411.202, Florida Statutes."

In 1989, the Florida Legislature reviewed Chapter 427, Florida Statutes according to the State's Regulatory Sunset Act (Section 11.61, Florida Statutes). During this legislative review, the Legislature decided to reenact Chapter 427, Florida Statutes with several revisions.

In 1990, Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code was adopted to implement the provisions of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. In addition, Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code assigns the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged with the responsibility to accomplish the coordination of transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

The following sections discuss each of the major components of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

a. Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged is independent and reports to the Governor and the Legislature. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes states that:

"the purpose of the Commission is to accomplish the coordination of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged."

The Governor appoints seven members to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. Five of the members must have significant experience in the operation of a business and two of the members must have a disability and use the transportation disadvantaged system. The Chair is appointed by the Governor and Vice-Chair is elected annually from the membership of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

b. Designated Official Planning Agency

The Designated Official Planning Agency is responsible for transportation disadvantaged planning in a given area. In the urbanized areas of the state, the planning agencies are metropolitan planning organizations. In the rural areas of the state, organizations which are eligible to be planning agencies are:

- county or city governments
- regional planning councils
- metropolitan planning organizations
- local planning organizations who are currently performing planning activities in the service area

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is the Designated Official Planning Agency for Union County. According to Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code, responsibilities of the Designated Official Planning Agency include:

- Appointment of members to the local coordinating boards.
- Provision of staff support to the local coordinating boards.
- Recommendation to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged regarding the initial selection or re-designation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

c. Local Coordinating Boards

The Designated Official Planning Agency is responsible for appointing a local coordinating board in each county. The purpose of the coordinating board is to provide advice and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator concerning the coordination of transportation services.

According to Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code, the Designated Official Planning Agency appoints an elected official, to serve as the official chairperson for all local coordinating board meetings. The Board shall elect a Vice-Chair.

In addition to the Chair, the following agencies or other groups serve on the local coordinating boards as voting members:

- An elected official from Union County.
- A representative of the Florida Department of Transportation.
- A representative of the Florida Department of Children and Family Services.
- A representative of the Public Education Community.

- A representative of the Florida Department of Education.
- A person recommended by the local Veterans Service Office representing veterans of the county.
- A person who is recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action as representing the economically disadvantaged.
- A person over age sixty representing the elderly.
- A person with a disability representing the disabled.
- Two citizen advocate representatives in the county; one who must be a person who uses the transportation services of the system as their primary means of transportation.
- A local representative for children at risk.
- In areas where they exist, the Chairperson or designee of the local mass transit or public transit system's Board.
- A representative of the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs.
- An experienced representative of the local private for profit transportation industry.
- A representative of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.
- A representative of the Regional Workforce Development Board.
- A representative of the local medical community.

The following are some of the duties of the local coordinating board:

- Approving the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.
- Annually evaluating the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance.
- Reviewing all applications for local, state and federal transportation disadvantaged funds.

d. Community Transportation Coordinator

The Community Transportation Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that coordinated transportation services are provided to serve the transportation disadvantaged. Suwannee River Economic Council is the designated Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County.

Suwannee River Economic Council may provide all or a portion of transportation service in a designated service area. Suwannee River Economic Council may subcontract or broker services if it is cost effective and efficient. The following are some responsibilities of Suwannee River Economic Council:

- In cooperation with the planning agency, develop and implement a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.
- Execute contracts for service with transportation operators.

- Review all applications for federal, state and local funding (in conjunction with the local coordinating board).
- Prepare an annual operating report.

2. Designation Date/History

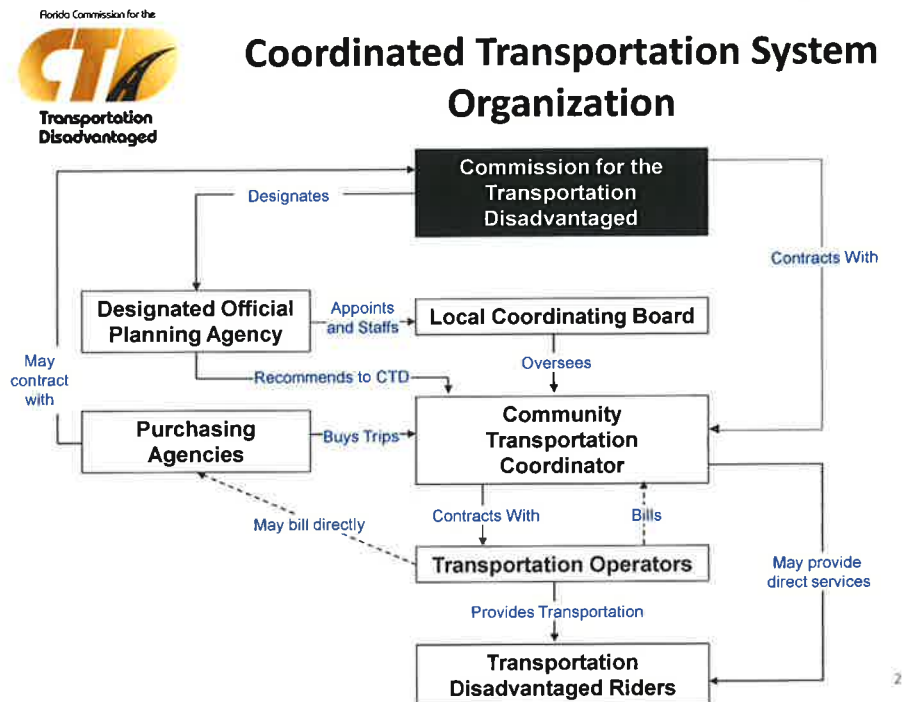
Suwannee River Economic Council is a private non-profit corporation, chartered by the State of Florida in 1966. In 1972, Suwannee River Economic Council began the Suwannee Valley Transit System in Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee and Lafayette Counties. In 1974, Suwannee Valley Transit Authority was created to serve Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties. Suwannee River Economic Council continues to operate as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Lafayette County.

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designated Suwannee River Economic Council the interim Community Transportation Coordinator for Union County on an emergency basis beginning July 1, 2015. Suwannee River Economic Council was designated the interim Community Transportation Coordinator through a request for qualifications process.

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was designated the official planning agency for Union County in April 1990. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was selected through a non-competitive selection process.

3. Organization Chart

The following chart identifies the partners involved in Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.



4. Consistency Review of Other Plans

a. Local Government Comprehensive Plans

The local comprehensive planning process involves essentially four basic steps:

1. the collection and analysis of pertinent data concerning the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the study area;
2. the formulation of goals for future growth and development;
3. the development of objectives and policies guided by the goals which are the essence of the Comprehensive Plan;
4. the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the Union County Comprehensive Plan.

b. Regional Policy Plans

The North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan as adopted by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is a long-range guide for the physical, economic and social development of a planning region which identifies regional goals and policies. The plan serves as a basis for the review of the resources and facilities found in local government comprehensive plans originating in the region. Public transit is addressed in Section V of the plan.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

c. Transit Development Plans

Not applicable.

d. Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 5-Year/20-Year Plan

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 5-Year/20-Year Plan establishes goals, objectives and a plan of action for the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. The plan presents forecasts of demand for transportation disadvantaged services, the cost of meeting the forecasted demand, forecasts of future funding for transportation disadvantaged services and approaches to balancing the supply and demand for these services. The plan also provides forecasts of the transportation disadvantaged population, demand for trips, number of trips supplied, unmet demand for trips and operating expenses.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 5-Year/20-Year Plan.

e. Metropolitan Planning Organization Long-Range Transportation Plans

Not applicable.

f. Transportation Improvement Program

Not applicable.

5. Public Participation

The Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Board includes representatives of public, private and non-profit transportation and human services providers as well as the public to participate in the development and update of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is developed through input of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Board whose membership includes citizens and human service providers.

6. Union County Coordinating Board Membership Certification

UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION

Name: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Address: 2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and
2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local community.

Signature:


Carolyn B. Spooner, Chair

Date: 3/26/15

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
Chairperson	Woody Kitler	Vacant	No Term
Elderly	Donald Petit	Vacant	6/30/2017
Disabled	Bill McGill	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate	Doyle Archer	Vacant	6/30/2015
Citizen Advocate/User	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2015
Children at Risk	Alberta Hampton	Vacant	6/30/2016
Community Action	Matthew Pearson	Vacant	6/30/2017
Public Education	Mike Pittman	Vacant	No Term
Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	Janell Damato	No Term
Department of Children and Families	Jaime Sanchez-Bianchi	Vacant	No Term
Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Department of Education	Jeff Aboumrad	Vacant	No Term
Agency for Health Care Administration	Alana McKay	Andrew Singer	No Term
Regional Workforce Development Board	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Veteran Services	Barbara Fischer	Vacant	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Transportation Industry	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016
Local Medical Community	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2016

Union County Transportation Coordinating Board Membership

MEMBER/REPRESENTING	ALTERNATE/REPRESENTING
Commissioner Woody Kitler Local Elected Official/Chair	
Sandra Collins Florida Department of Transportation	Janell Damato Florida Department of Transportation
Jaime Sanchez-Bianchi Florida Department of Children and Families	Vacant Florida Department of Children and Families
Vacant Florida Department of Education	Jeff Aboumrad Florida Department of Education
Vacant Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Vacant Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Vacant Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Jeannie Carr Regional Workforce Board	Vacant Regional Workforce Board
Vacant Florida Association for Community Action Term ending June 30, 2017	Vacant Florida Association for Community Action Term ending June 30, 2017
Mike Pittman Public Education	Vacant Public Education
Barbara Fischer Veterans Term ending June 30, 2017	Vacant Veterans Term ending June 30, 2017
Doyle Archer Citizen Advocate Term ending June 30, 2018	Vacant Citizen Advocate Term ending June 30, 2018
Vacant Citizen Advocate - User Term ending June 30, 2018	Vacant Citizen Advocate - User Term ending June 30, 2018
Bill McGill Persons with Disabilities Term ending June 30, 2018	Vacant Persons with Disabilities Term ending June 30, 2018
Donald Pettit Elderly Term ending June 30, 2017	Vacant Elderly Term ending June 30, 2017
Vacant Medical Community Term ending June 30, 2016	Vacant Medical Community Term ending June 30, 2016
Alberta Hampton Children at Risk Term ending June 30, 2016	Vacant Children at Risk Term ending June 30, 2016
Vacant Private Transit Term ending June 30, 2016	Vacant Private Transit Term ending June 30, 2016

B. Service Area Profile and Demographics

1. Union County Service Area Description

Union County has a land area of approximately 240 square miles or 155,730 acres. The County is located in the north central portion of the State of Florida and is bordered on the north by Baker County, on the east by Bradford County, on the south by Alachua County and on the west by Columbia County.

2. Demographics

a. Land Use

The purpose of this section is to provide information concerning Union County's existing land use. This information was obtained from Union County's Comprehensive Plan. The land use for approximately 77 percent of the acreage within the unincorporated area of the County has been designated as agricultural and approximately 2 percent is residential. Union County has four urban development areas surrounding the incorporated municipalities of Lake Butler, Raiford and Worthington Springs, as well as the unincorporated community of Providence.

Within the unincorporated areas of the County, four types of growth have occurred. The first type of land use pattern is concentrated within existing public facility service areas immediately surrounding the municipal urban areas. The second form of development concentrates around the unincorporated market centers which, although minus public facilities, have developed over time into urbanizing settlements. The third type of land use pattern is the development of residential lots along the Santa Fe River within the County. This type of rural residential development has occurred in varying degrees with lot sizes ranging from one-half acre to 10 acre lots. The fourth pattern is radial growth along major roadways throughout the County.

b. Population/Composition

The Bureau of Economic and Business Research estimated Union County's total population in 2013 as 15,483. The Bureau of Economic and Business Research also estimated the population of the City of Lake Butler as 1,872, the Town of Raiford as 244, the Town of Worthington Springs as 391 and the unincorporated area as 12,976.

As Table 1 shows, 82 percent of the County's population is located within the unincorporated areas. Table 2 indicates that Union County's population is not evenly distributed. In 2010-, approximately 57 percent of the population lived in the Lake Butler census division which covers 46 percent of the County's land area. Population/land area percentages for the Raiford census division and the Worthington census division are 21.4/26.3 and 22.1/27.2 respectively.

TABLE 1
POPULATION COUNTS AND ESTIMATES
UNION COUNTY

AREA	POPULATION COUNT 2010	POPULATION ESTIMATE 2013
Union County	15,535	15,483
City of Lake Butler	1,897	1,872
Town of Raiford	255	244
Town of Worthington Springs	181	391
Unincorporated Area	13,202	12,976

Source: 2010 U.S. Census/Bureau of Economic and Business Research

It is important to note that, according to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 4,809 individuals in Union County are inmates and patients residing in federal and state government-operated institutions. They are considered nonresidents of the local area for revenue-sharing purposes. Institutionalized individuals are counted as part of the general population, so they are reflected in statistics on age. However, they are not included in the statistics for income or poverty levels for households.

c. Population Densities

Table 2 shows the Union County population distribution.

TABLE 2
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
UNION COUNTY

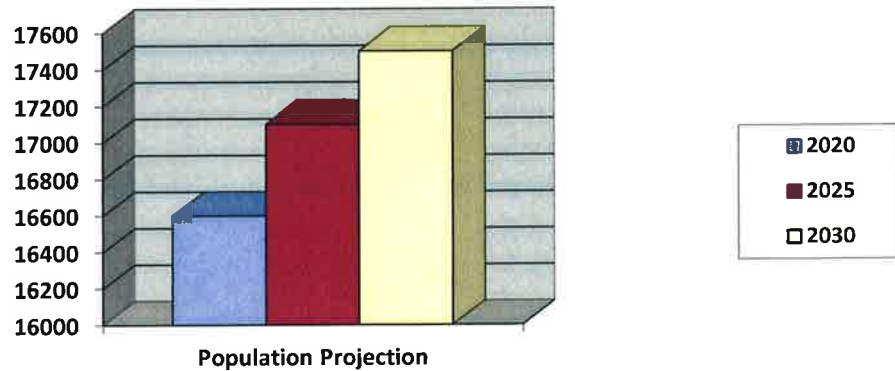
2010 U.S. CENSUS POPULATION	SQUARE MILES	PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE
15,535	243	64

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2010 State and County Quick Facts

d. Population Projections

According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, by the year 2020, Union County will have a total population of 16,600 and by the year 2025, the total County population will be 17,100. Illustration I shows population projections for 2020, 2025 and 2030.

ILLUSTRATION I



Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

e. Population Age Distribution

Population age distribution is useful in determining mobility needs which transit might meet. The elderly typically are less likely to have access to a vehicle and thus are more dependent on the transit system for their travel needs. Table 3 shows estimates of the County's population by age group.

TABLE 3
Population Estimates By Age Group
Union County
April 2013

Age Group	Population
0-4	810
5-17	2,125
18-24	1,450
25-54	7,010
55-64	2,409
65-79	1,390
80+	289

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

f. Disability and Self Care Limitations

The 2010 Census Community Survey 2009-2013 reported 1,474 civilian residents of Union County have disabilities.

g. Employment

The Bureau of Economic and Business Research reports that Union County's monthly labor force (individuals who are able to work but may not be employed) in 2015 was 4,552 with 261 unemployed. The monthly unemployment rate for Union County in 2015 was 5.7 percent.

h. Income

The 2010 U.S. Census Bureau estimates the median household income for Union County 2009-2013 was \$42,660. Table 4 characterizes the levels of household income in Union County. Table 5 shows income levels that are currently used to define the federal poverty level.

TABLE 4

**HOUSEHOLD INCOME
UNION COUNTY, 2009**

HOUSEHOLDS	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL
3,807	\$42,660	19.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2010, State & County Quick Facts

TABLE 5

**2015 Poverty Guidelines For The 48 Contiguous States
And The District of Columbia**

PERSONS IN FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$11,770
2	\$15,930
3	\$20,090
4	\$24,250
5	\$28,410
6	\$32,570
7	\$36,730
8	\$40,890

* For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Table 6 shows income and poverty status data for cities and designated census places.

TABLE 6

**INCOME AND POVERTY STATUS DATA
UNION COUNTY**

PER CAPITA INCOME 2013	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2013	PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL 2013
\$13,590	\$42,660	19.6%

Source: Bureau of the Census, 2010, State and County Quick Facts

Low-income households often have no mobility choice other than public transportation and thus generally have high potential to use public transportation. According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research the total number of Union County Medicaid Program recipients in 2013 was 3,089. Table 7 shows individuals who received Supplemental Security Income.

TABLE 7

**PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: AVERAGE MONTHLY
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) BENEFICIARIES
UNION COUNTY, 2014**

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	AVERAGE MONTHLY CASES
Aged Assistance	75
Aid to the Blind and Disabled	369
Total	386

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

i. Housing

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in 2013, the total number of households in Union County was 3,807 and that the average household size was 2.79. Table 8 presents data on Union County housing units.

TABLE 8

**HOUSING OCCUPANCY
UNION COUNTY, 2013**

HOUSING UNITS	HOME OWNERSHIP RATE
4,419	67%

Source: Bureau of the Census, 2010, State and County Quick Facts

j. Health

One hospital is located in Union County. According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, there are 7 licensed doctors of medicine and 222 nurses.

k. Transportation

According to the 2010 Census 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 269 households had no vehicle available.

l. Major Trip Generators/Attractors

Major trip generators/attractors include the North Florida Reception Center, local government offices, Lake Butler Hospital, Suwannee River Economic Council's meal site and the Industrial Complex of Raiford.

Travel to Gainesville continues to be necessary for many County residents, particularly for medical and employment purposes.

C. Service Analysis

1. General and Critical Need Transportation Disadvantaged Populations

The National Center for Transit Research Center for Urban Transportation Research developed a methodology for estimating the general and critical need Transportation Disadvantaged population based on the most current U.S. Census Bureau demographic and socio-economic data available. The general Transportation Disadvantaged population includes the estimates of all disabled, elderly, low income persons and children who are "high-risk" or "at-risk."

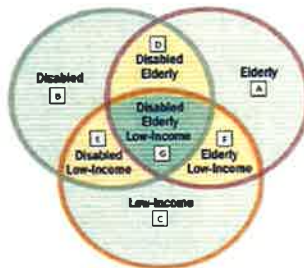
The critical need Transportation Disadvantaged population includes individuals who, due to severe physical limitations or low incomes, are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation and are dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life sustaining activities.

The following tables show general and critical need Transportation Disadvantaged population estimates for Union County.

FORECAST OF GENERAL AND CRITICAL NEED TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS

Union County

General TD Population Forecast	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Overlapping Circle Component											
E - Estimate non-elderly/disabled/ low income	431	434	437	439	442	445	448	450	453	456	459
B - Estimate non-elderly/ disabled/not low income	1,420	1,429	1,438	1,447	1,456	1,465	1,474	1,483	1,492	1,501	1,511
G - Estimate elderly/disabled/low income	112	113	113	114	115	115	116	117	118	118	119
D - Estimate elderly/ disabled/not low income	639	643	647	651	655	659	663	667	671	675	679
F - Estimate elderly/non-disabled/low income	90	91	91	92	92	93	94	94	95	95	96
A - Estimate elderly/non-disabled/not low income	713	718	722	727	731	736	740	745	750	754	759
C - Estimate low income/not elderly/not disabled	1,446	1,455	1,464	1,473	1,482	1,491	1,500	1,510	1,519	1,529	1,538
TOTAL GENERAL TD POPULATION	4,851	4,881	4,911	4,942	4,973	5,003	5,035	5,066	5,097	5,129	5,161
TOTAL POPULATION	15,535	15,631	15,729	15,826	15,925	16,023	16,123	16,223	16,324	16,425	16,527



Union County

Critical Need TD Population Forecast	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Critical TD Population											
Disabled	543	547	550	553	557	560	564	567	571	574	578
Low Income Not Disabled No Auto/Transit	416	420	423	426	428	431	434	436	439	442	444
Total Critical Need TD Population	961	967	973	979	985	991	997	1,003	1,010	1,016	1,022
Daily Trips - Critical Need TD Population											
Severely Disabled	27	27	27	27	27	27	28	28	28	28	28
Low Income - Not Disabled - No Access	793	798	803	808	813	818	823	828	834	839	844
Total Daily Trips Critical Need TD Population	820	834	848	862	877	892	908	924	941	957	972
Annual Trips	299,270	304,328	309,471	314,701	320,020	325,684	331,449	337,315	343,286	349,362	354,847

Assumes Annual Service Days = 365

Annual Population Growth (as a percent) 0.62%

2. Paratransit Service Demand Estimation

The National Center for Transit Research Center for Urban Transportation Research developed a paratransit service demand estimation tool based on the most current U.S. Census Bureau demographic and socio-economic data available. The following table shows trip demand for the critical Transportation Disadvantaged population.

CALCULATION OF CRITICAL NEED TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED POPULATION

Union County

Census Data from: 2013

County Pop. By Age	Total Population with a Disability by Age	% with a Severe Disability by Age	Total Population with a Severe Disability by Age	% of Total Pop with Severe Disability by Age
<18	184	6.10%	69	2.30%
18-64	1,668	15.20%	362	3.30%
Total Non Elderly	1,851	13.24%	431	3.08%
65+	751	48.30%	112	7.20%
Total Elderly	751	48.30%	112	7.20%
Total	2,602	16.75%	543	3.50%

% of Severe Disability Below Poverty Level	Total Severe Disability Below Poverty Level
28.60%	123
11.70%	13
	136

Critical Need - Severely Disabled TD Population			
	Not Low Income	Low Income	Totals
Non-Elderly	308	123	431
Elderly	99	13	112
TOTAL	407	136	543

TRIP RATES USED	
Low Income Non Disabled Trip Rate	
Total	2.400
Less	
Transit	0.389
School Bus	0.063
Special Transit	0.049
	1.899
Severely Disabled Trip Rate	
Special Transit	0.049

Low Income & Not Disabled = C + F		CALCULATION OF DAILY TRIPS FOR THE CRITICAL NEED TD POPULATION	
<i>Assumes</i>	1,536		
27.2%			
	418		
100%			
	418		
		Calculation of Daily Trips	
		Daily Trip Rates Per Person	Total Daily Trips
Total Actual Critical TD Population			
Severely Disabled	543	0.049	27
Low Income ND	418	1.899	793
Totals	961		820

3. Barriers to Coordination

Medicaid non-emergency transportation services are no longer coordinated through Florida's Coordinated Transportation System in Union County. In May 2014, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration implemented Florida's Managed Medical Care Program. The Managed Medical Care Program requires Managed Medical Assistance Plans to provide transportation to their enrollees who have no other means of transportation available.

The Managed Medical Assistance Plans provide transportation services directly through their own network of transportation providers. According Chapter 2 of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Transportation Coverage, Limitations and Reimbursement Handbook, July 1997, "Medicaid is required by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes to purchase transportation services through the designated Community Transportation Coordinator, unless those services are not cost effective or the Community Transportation Coordinator does not coordinate Medicaid transportation services."

4. Needs Assessment

U.S.C. Section 5311 Grant Program

PROJECT	PROJECT YEAR	LOCATION	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Operating assistance.	2015/16	Union County	\$97,026 Federal \$97,026 Local	U.S.C. Section 5311 Program Suwannee River Economic Council

Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Grant

PROJECT	PROJECT YEAR	LOCATION	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Provide trips to transportation disadvantaged individuals.	2015/16	Union County	\$94,303 \$10,478	Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Suwannee River Economic Council

5. Goals, Objectives and Strategies

GOAL I: Coordinate transportation disadvantaged services that are funded with local, state and/or federal government funds.

OBJECTIVE: Identify agencies that receive local, state and/or federal government transportation funds that are not coordinated through the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Strategy a: Identify agencies in Union County that receive local, state and/or federal funds to transport clients or purchase vehicles.

- Strategy b:** Contact agencies to obtain information about coordination opportunities.
- Strategy c:** Determine whether a purchase of service contract, coordination contract or subcontract should be executed with the identified agencies to coordinate the transportation services that are being provided.
- GOAL II:** **Identify unmet transportation needs in Union County.**
- OBJECTIVE:** Identify unmet transportation needs and discuss ways to meet these needs at each local Coordinating Board meeting.
- Strategy:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall report quarterly the number and types of transportation services that are requested which it is unable to provide.
- GOAL III:** **The Community Transportation Coordinator shall provide transportation services that are consumer oriented and effectively coordinate trips.**
- OBJECTIVE:** Provide transportation services that maximize the use of all vehicles to eliminate duplication of service without unduly inconveniencing the rider.
- Strategy a:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall report on a quarterly basis the number of single passenger trips provided.
- Strategy b:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall work with purchasing agencies and service providers (doctors' offices, hospitals, etc.) to arrange appointments to group trips.
- Strategy c:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall document the reduction of single passenger trips.
- Strategy d:** The local Coordinating Board shall measure the total passenger trips per vehicles quarterly.
- GOAL IV:** **The Community Transportation Coordinator shall ensure that the demand responsive transportation services offered to individuals with disabilities is equivalent to the level and quality of transportation services offered to individuals without disabilities.**
- OBJECTIVE:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with the requirements of the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* regarding the access to and provision of transportation services.
- Strategy a:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall eliminate physical barriers preventing the use of transportation services by persons who are elderly and/or disabled.
- Strategy b):** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall train its staff members regarding the utilization of special equipment for persons with disabilities as well as the abilities of persons with disabilities.

- GOAL V:** **The local Coordinating Board shall annually evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance based on specific criteria.**
- OBJECTIVE:** The local Coordinating Board shall annually evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance in general and relative to Commission standards as referenced in *Rule 41-2.006 of the Florida Administrative Code*.
- GOAL VI:** **The Community Transportation Coordinator shall utilize the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund allocation in the most cost efficient manner.**
- OBJECTIVE:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall adhere to a strict budget of Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds to ensure that these funds are spent in the most efficient manner.
- Strategy a:** The Community Transportation Coordinator and Local Coordinating Board shall determine the most efficient manner to expend the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds.
- Strategy b:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall inform the Local Coordinating Board of any difficulties experienced concerning the under expenditure or over expenditure of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds.
- GOAL VII:** **The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with all reporting requirements of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the Local Coordinating Board.**
- OBJECTIVE:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall complete all reports which require Local Coordinating Board review and/or approval.
- Strategy:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall complete and submit all final reports to the planning agency staff a minimum of two weeks prior to the meeting date to be reviewed and included in the Local Coordinating Board's meeting packet.
- GOAL VIII:** **The Community Transportation Coordinator shall promote cost and service efficiency through efficient routing, scheduling and operation procedures.**
- OBJECTIVE:** The local Coordinating Board shall encourage the Community Transportation Coordinator to provide the greatest number of trips using the most cost effective methods possible.
- Strategy:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall maintain a database with pertinent information relative to clients' needs and limitations.
- GOAL IX:** **The Community Transportation Coordinator shall insure the provision of safe transportation services.**
- OBJECTIVE:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall insure the safety and well being of passengers through inspection and maintenance of all vehicles in the coordinated system and driver training.

Strategy: The System Safety Program Plan shall meet all established requirements and adhere to *Chapter 341 Florida Statutes* and *Rule 14-90, Florida Administrative Code*.

6. Implementation Plan

STRATEGIES	IMPLEMENTATION DATE
(1) Identify agencies located in Union County receiving local, state and/or federal funds to transport clients or purchase vehicles. (2) Contact the identified agencies to obtain information about the funding they receive. (3) Determine type of contract to execute to coordinate transportation services.	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing (3) Ongoing
(1) Discuss transportation needs at local Coordinating Board meetings. (2) Report unmet trip requests.	(1) Quarterly (2) Quarterly
(1) Maximize the use of vehicles without unduly inconveniencing the rider. (2) Work with purchasing agencies and service providers to arrange appointments to group trips. (3) Document the reduction of single passenger trips. (4) Measure total passenger trips per vehicle.	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing (3) 2015 (4) 2015
(1) Ensure that the demand responsive transportation services offered to individuals with disabilities is equivalent to the level and quality of services offered to individuals without disabilities. (2) Provide alternative methods for accessing transportation services for individuals with disabilities. (3) Train staff members regarding the utilization of special equipment for persons with disabilities.	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing (3) Ongoing
Evaluate the performance of the Community Transportation Coordinator in general and relative to Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged standards, completion of service plan elements and Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged workbook modules.	2015
(1) Adhere to a strict budget of Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds to insure that the Trust Funds are spent in the most efficient manner. (2) Determine the most efficient manner to expend the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds. (3) Inform the local Coordinating Board of any difficulties experienced concerning the expenditure of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds.	(1) Ongoing (2) Annually (3) Quarterly
(1) Complete all reports for review and/or approval. (2) Final reports shall be completed and submitted to planning agency staff a minimum of two weeks prior to next local Coordinating Board meeting.	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing

(1) Monitor the quality of service. (2) Make recommendations to improve the quality of service. (3) Provide courteous and professional service. (4) Provide sensitivity and courtesy training annually. (5) Collect on-time performance data.	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing (3) Ongoing (4) Ongoing (5) Annually
(1) Maintain a data base with pertinent information relative to clients needs and limitations.	(1) Ongoing
The System Safety Program Plan shall meet all established requirements and adhere to Chapter 341, Florida Statutes and Rule 14-90, Florida Administrative Code.	Annually

Chapter II: Service Plan

A. Operations

The operations element is a profile of the Union County coordinated transportation system. This element is intended to provide basic information about the daily operations of Suwannee River Economic Council and its contracted transportation operators.

1. Types, Hours and Days of Service

Provider	Ambulatory	Wheelchair	Stretcher	Advance Reservation	Subscription	Door to Door
<u>Suwannee River Economic Council</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

a. Bariatric Transportation

Suwannee River Economic Council will transport all "common wheelchairs. A common wheelchair is defined as a device which does not exceed 30 inches in width and 48 inches in length measured two inches above the ground and does not weigh more than 600 pounds when occupied. Wheelchairs that exceed these dimensions and weight may not to be transported.

b. Hours and Days of Service

Transportation Disadvantaged Program sponsored service is provided Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. excluding holidays (see below).

c. Holidays

Transportation Disadvantaged Program sponsored service will not be provided on the following observed holidays.

Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day
New Year's Day
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day

2. Accessing Services

a. Office Hours

Suwannee River Economic Council's office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

b. Phone Number

904.964.6696.

c. Advance Notification Time

Twenty-four hours advance notification must be given for trips provided Tuesday through Friday. Seventy-two hours advance notification must be given for trips provided on Mondays.

d. Trip Cancellation Process

Trip cancellations should be made to Suwannee River Economic Council with 24-hour advance notification. However, a no-show will not be credited to a rider if the cancellation is received before the vehicle is dispatched.

e. No-Show Policies

Transportation Disadvantaged Program sponsored trips must be canceled a minimum of two hours before the scheduled pick-up time. If trips are not cancelled at least two hours in advance, the passenger will be considered a no-show. Cancellations at the door will be considered no-shows. If an individual is charged with frequent no-shows, they may be temporarily suspended from service.

On the first "no-show," the driver will leave a "no-show" notice on the client's door. On the second "no-show" occurrence, a letter of warning will be sent from the Community Transportation Coordinator. If a third infraction occurs within 60 days, the Community Transportation Coordinator will send a letter notifying the client that they have been suspended from service for a 30 day period. When the client is again reinstated to the program, and if three (3) infractions occur within 60 days, the suspension will be 45 days. When the client is again reinstated to the program and if three (3) infractions occur within 60 days, the suspension will be 60 days.

f. After Hours Service

After hours service is not provided through the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

g. Passenger Fares

Suwannee River Economic Council will not charge fares to passengers sponsored by the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

h. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Eligibility

Suwannee River Economic Council will use the following criteria when determining Transportation Disadvantaged Program eligibility:

Unable to transport themselves: Individual is not sponsored by any agency for their transportation or is unable to purchase transportation.

Unable to obtain transportation: Individual does not have an operational vehicle in the household; or the ability to operate a vehicle; or the ability to find transportation from other sources.

Individuals must apply for Transportation Disadvantaged Program eligibility for their transportation to be sponsored by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. Suwannee River Economic Council determines eligibility by conducting phone interviews at the time assistance is requested. Additional eligibility verification may be required by Suwannee River Economic Council.

i. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Trip Priorities

Suwannee River Economic Council in cooperation with the local Coordinating Board has established the following Transportation Disadvantaged Program trip priorities:

- Life Sustaining Medical Trips
- General Medical Trips
- Employment Trips
- Essential Business Trips
- Education/Training Trips
- Nutrition/Mealsite Trips
- Recreational/Social Trips

3. Transportation Operators And Coordination Contractors

Suwannee River Economic Council does not have any operator or coordination contracts.

4. Public Transit Utilization

Not applicable. There is no fixed route, public transit system operating in Union County.

5. School Bus Utilization

Currently, there is no need to use school buses at this time. If Suwannee River Economic Council determines a need to use school buses in the future, the Union County School Board will be contacted for assistance.

6. Vehicle Inventory

Suwannee River Economic Council's vehicle inventory is shown as Exhibit C.

7. System Safety Program Plan Certification

Suwannee River Economic Council's System Safety Program Plan Certification is shown as Exhibit D.

8. Inter-County Services

Suwannee River Economic Council does not have any inter-county agreements with other Community Transportation Coordinators at this time.

9. Natural Disaster/Emergency Preparedness

The Union County Emergency Management Department does not have a formal agreement with Suwannee River Economic Council to provide transportation during natural disasters.

10. Marketing

Currently, there are no efforts to market the availability of transportation services sponsored by Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds due to the limited availability of these funds.

11. Acceptable Alternatives

There have been no acceptable alternatives for the provision of transportation service identified in Union County.

12. Service Standards

The Community Transportation Coordinator and any transportation operator from whom service is purchased or arranged by the Community Transportation Coordinator shall adhere to Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged approved standards. These standards include:

a. Drug and Alcohol Policy

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (a), F.A.C.: Drug and alcohol testing for safety sensitive job positions within the coordinated system regarding pre-employment, randomization, post accident and reasonable suspicion as required by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

b. Transport of Escorts and Dependent Children

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (b), F.A.C.: An escort of a passenger and dependent children are to be transported as locally negotiated and identified in the local Service Plan.

Local Policy: Children under age 16 will be required to be accompanied by an escort. Escorts must be provided by the passenger. Escorts must be able to provide the necessary assistance to the passenger. Escorts will be transported at the regular rate.

c. Use, Responsibility and Cost of Child Restraint Devices

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (c), F.A.C.: Use of child restraint devices shall be determined locally as to their responsibility, and cost of such device in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: All passengers under the age of 4 and/or under 50 pounds will be required to use a child restraint device. This device will be provided by the passenger.

d. Passenger Property

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (d), F.A.C.: Passenger property that can be carried by the passenger and/or driver in one trip and can be safely stowed on the vehicle, shall be allowed to be transported with the passenger at no additional charge. Additional requirements may be negotiated for carrying and loading rider property beyond this amount. Passenger property does not include wheelchairs, child seats, stretchers, secured oxygen, personal assistive devices, or intravenous devices.

Local Policy: Passengers shall be allowed to have two pieces of personal property which they can place in their lap or stow under the seat. Passengers must be able to independently carry all items brought onto the vehicle.

e. Vehicle Transfer Points

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (e), F.A.C.: Vehicle transfer points shall provide shelter, security and safety of passengers.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

f. Local Toll Free Phone Number

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (f), F.A.C.: A local toll free phone number for complaints or grievances shall be posted inside the vehicle. The Transportation Disadvantaged Helpline phone number (1-800-983-2435) shall also be posted inside all vehicles of the coordinated system. The local complaint process shall be outlined as a section in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan including, advising the dissatisfied person about the Commission's Ombudsman Program as a step within the process as approved by the local Coordinating Board. All rider information/materials (brochures, user's guides, etc.) Will include the Transportation Disadvantaged Helpline phone number.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

g. Out-Of-Service Area Trips

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (g), F.A.C.: Out of service area trips shall be provided when determined locally and approved by the local Coordinating Board, except in instances where local ordinances prohibit such trips.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council may require medical provider certification for any out of county trip.

h. Vehicle Cleanliness

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (h), F.A.C. Interior of all vehicles shall be free of dirt, grime, oil, trash, torn upholstery, damaged or broken seats, protruding metal or other objects or materials which could soil items placed in the vehicle or provide discomfort for the passenger.

Local Policy: All vehicles shall be cleaned (interior and exterior) on a regular schedule (minimum once a week).

i. Billing Requirements

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (I), F.A.C. Billing requirements of the Community Transportation Coordinator to subcontractors shall be determined locally by the local Coordinating Board and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. All bills shall be paid within seven (7) calendar days to subcontractors, after receipt of said payment by the Community Transportation Coordinator, in accordance with Section 287.0585, Florida Statutes.

Local Policy: If Suwannee River Economic Council without reasonable cause fails to make payments to the subcontractors and suppliers within seven (7) working days after the receipt by the Community Transportation Coordinator of full or partial payment, the Community Transportation Coordinator shall pay to the subcontractors and suppliers a penalty in the amount of one-half of one percent of the amount due, per day, from the expiration of the period allowed herein for payment. (F.S. 2000/ Ch 287/Part I/287.0585 Late payments by contractors to subcontractors and suppliers; penalty.)

j. Passenger/Trip Database

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (j), F.A.C.: Passenger/trip data base must be maintained or accessible by the Community Transportation Coordinator on each rider being transported within the system.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

k. Adequate Seating

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (k), F.A.C.: Adequate seating for paratransit services shall be provided to each rider and escort, child or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time. For transit services provided by transit vehicles, adequate seating or standing space will be provided to each rider and escort, child, or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating or standing capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

I. Driver Identification

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (l), F.A.C.: Drivers for paratransit services, including coordination contractors, shall be required to announce and identify themselves by name and company in a manner that is conducive to communications with specific passengers, upon pickup of each rider, group of riders, or representative, guardian, or associate of the rider, except in situations where the driver regularly transports the rider on a recurring basis. Each driver must have photo identification that is in view of the passenger. Name patches, inscriptions or badges that affix to driver clothing are acceptable. For transit services, the driver photo identification shall be in a conspicuous location in the vehicle.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

m. Passenger Assistance

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (m), F.A.C.: The paratransit driver shall provide the passenger with boarding assistance, if necessary or requested, to the seating portion of the vehicle. The boarding assistance shall include opening the vehicle door, fastening the seat belt or wheelchair securement devices, storage of mobility assistive devices and closing the vehicle door. In the door-through-door paratransit service category, the driver shall be required to open and close doors to buildings, except in situations in which assistance in opening/closing building doors would not be safe for passengers remaining on the vehicle. Assisted access must be in a dignified manner. Drivers may not assist wheelchairs up or down more than one step, unless it can be performed safely as determined by the passenger, guardian and driver.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

n. Smoking, Eating, and Drinking

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (n), F.A.C.: Smoking is prohibited in any vehicle. Requirements for drinking and eating on board the vehicle will be addressed in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: Eating and drinking on board the vehicle will not be allowed. Stops may be made to accommodate the needs of the passengers at the discretion of the driver.

o. Passenger No-Shows

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (o), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board shall jointly develop a policy on passenger no shows. Assessing fines to passengers for no shows is acceptable but such policy and process shall be identified in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy - Suwannee River Economic Council shall attempt to reduce the number of no-shows annually.

p. Two-Way Communications

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (p), F.A.C.: All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system shall be equipped with two-way communications in good working order and audible to the driver at all times to the base.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

q. Air Conditioning/Heating

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (q), F.A.C.: All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system shall have working air conditioners and heaters in each vehicle. Vehicles that do not have a working air conditioner or heater will be scheduled for repair or replacement as soon as possible.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

r. First Aid

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (r), F.A.C.: First Aid policy shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: All vehicles will be equipped with first aid kits and bio-hazard kits as required by state and federal regulations.

s. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (s), F.A.C.: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation policy shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: Drivers are not required to be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

t. Driver Criminal Background Screening

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (t), F.A.C.: Driver background screening shall be determined locally, dependent up on purchasing agencies' requirements and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Local Policy: All drivers in the coordinated system must have a criminal background check with local law enforcement and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. All drivers must also have a driving records check.

u. Fixed Route Transit Utilization

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (u), F.A.C.: In areas where fixed route transportation is available, the Community Transportation Coordinator should jointly establish with the local Coordinating Board a percentage of total trips that will be placed on the fixed route system.

Local Policy: Not applicable.

v. Pick-Up Window

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (v), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator should establish and address the passenger pick-up windows in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This policy should also be communicated to contracted operators, drivers, purchasing agencies and passengers.

Local Policy: There is a thirty (30) minute pickup window in place for all intra-county trips based on the arrival/departure time of the passenger. The passenger is given a pick-up time at the time of scheduling the ride.

w. On-Time Performance

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (w), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and local Coordinating Board should jointly establish and address the percentage of trips that will be on-time in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This performance measure should be communicated to contracted operators, drivers, purchasing agencies and passengers. This measure should also be included as part of the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of its contracted operators and the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Local Policy: Suwannee River Economic Council shall have a 90 percent on-time performance rate for all completed trips. On-time performance will be measured by random sampling of trips.

x. Advance Reservation Requirement

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (x), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator should establish and address in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan a minimum 24 hour advanced notification time to obtain services. This policy should be communicated to contracted operators, purchasing agencies and passengers.

Local Policy: Twenty-four hours advanced notice is required for all trips scheduled within the coordinated system. Monday service requires 72 hours advance notice.

y. Safety

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (y), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the safety of the coordinated system. This measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators and the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Local Policy: There shall be no more than 1 accident per 100,000 miles during the evaluation period.

z. Reliability

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (z), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the reliability of the vehicles utilized in the coordinated system. This measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators and the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Local Policy: There shall be no more than 5 roadcalls during the evaluation period.

aa. Call-Hold Time

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (aa), F.A.C.: This performance measure can be used to address the accessibility of the service. The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board should jointly determine if a standard for a call hold time is needed in the coordinated system and address this in the local service plan. If determined to be necessary, this standard should be included in the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

This standard is not applicable to this service area.

bb. Quality of Service

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (bb), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the quality of service provided within the coordinated system. The measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of contracted operators and the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Local Policy: There shall be no more than one complaint per 1,000 trips during the evaluation period.

13. Local Grievance Procedure/Process

The Transportation Disadvantaged Program Grievance Procedures are shown in Appendix A.

14. Passenger Code of Conduct

For everyone's safety, drivers and riders of the system are expected to act in an appropriate manner at all times and abide by the policies of Suwannee River Economic Council.

- Riders shall be ready to board the vehicle within 5 minutes of its arrival.
- Riders shall be prepared to share their ride with other passengers.
- No person may eat, drink or smoke on board any vehicle.
- No passenger may operate or tamper with any equipment on board any vehicle.
- Riders may not have radios, cassette tape players, CD players or other sound generating devices in operation while on board a vehicle, UNLESS it is connected to a headset.
- Disruptive behavior, which results in a distraction to the driver is deemed a safety hazard. Such behavior will not be tolerated and shall be grounds for suspension of transportation privileges.

a. Verbal Abuse

Verbal abuse by a rider against staff, drivers or other clients will not be tolerated. Verbal abuse includes but is not limited to use of profanity, obscene gestures, yelling or screaming. Riders who verbally abuse staff, drivers or other clients may be suspended from service.

b. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse of either a rider to another rider or rider to a driver will not be tolerated. Physical abuse includes but is not limited to grabbing, hitting or touching. Such abuse shall be deemed as assault. In such cases, the local police shall be notified, and the rider shall be issued a notice of suspension from service.

c. Substance Abuse

No passenger who is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will be transported. If a passenger is scheduled to be returned home and they are under the influence, they will be required to find alternative means of transportation. If a pattern of such behavior exists, a suspension of transportation privileges shall be invoked.

d. Penalties

The following penalties shall apply to service sponsored by Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program. Service suspension for Medicaid NET sponsored passengers must follow the Medicaid Program guidelines.

Verbal Abuse

First offense – written warning
Second offense – one week suspension of services
Third offense – 30 day suspension of services
Fourth offense – 90 day suspension of services
Fifth offense – permanently removed from service

Physical Abuse

First offense - Suwannee River Economic Council will issue a written notice of suspension for 90 days by certified mail. The notice will advise the rider that Suwannee River Economic Council intends to suspend his or her riding privileges and the reason for such action.

Second offense – 180 day suspension of services

Third offense - permanently removed from service

e. Appeals

A rider has ten (10) calendar days from the date of issuance of suspension notice to request a reconsideration hearing on the suspension. If a reconsideration hearing is requested, the hearing will be held by the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee if the suspension involves transportation provided under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program. All requests for reconsideration must be in writing and delivered to:

Suwannee River Economic Council
P.O. Box 70
Live Oak, FL 32060

and

Transportation Disadvantaged Program
Coordinating Board Grievance Committee
2009 N.W. 67 Place, Suite A
Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The written request must include the name and address of the person who is requesting the hearing and a statement as to why his or her riding privileges should not be suspended. If the request is not received within ten (10) calendar days from the issue date of the suspension, then the suspension becomes effective ten (10) calendar days from the date of issue. Upon receipt of letter requesting the reconsideration hearing, a hearing shall be held within 10 working days. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will advise the person requesting the reconsideration hearing by return correspondence of the date, time and location of the hearing.

The person will be given the opportunity to present the reasons why they believe the suspension should not take place. The Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee will make a recommendation whether or not to uphold the suspension. A written statement of the recommendation shall be forwarded to the person requesting the hearing within two (2) working days after the hearing by the Grievance Committee. A written statement of the decision whether or not to uphold the suspension shall be forwarded by certified mail within two (2) working days by Suwannee River Economic Council to the person requesting the hearing.

15. Evaluation Process

Suwannee River Economic Council in cooperation with the local Coordinating Board will determine whether agencies, from a total system approach, can perform more effectively and more efficiently their own transportation.

B. Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure Justification

See Appendix B.

Chapter III: Quality Assurance

This section contains the steps the local Coordinating Board will take to monitor and evaluate the services provided by or coordinated through the Community Transportation Coordinator, based on the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged standards and the locally established service standards.

A. Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation Process

The local Coordinating Board will evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance on an annual basis using the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Quality Assurance Program Evaluation/Local Coordinating Board, Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation Workbook. This evaluation workbook was created to provide a formal process for evaluating the performance of the Coordinator (and its operators). The Commission requires worksheets regarding Cost, Competition and Coordination be completed during this review.

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Appendix A: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures

A. Preamble

The following sets forth the procedures for the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board to address grievances from agencies, users, potential users, sub-contractors, and other interested parties concerning Florida's Coordinated Transportation System.

B. Agency Description

The Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, herein after referred to as the Board, is a public body appointed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency as authorized by Section 427.015, Florida Statutes.

C. Definitions

Transportation disadvantaged means those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in Section 411.202, Florida Statutes.

Agency means an official, officer, commission, authority, council, committee, department, division, bureau, board, section, or any other unit or entity of the state or of a city, town, municipality, county, or other local governing body or a private nonprofit transportation service-providing agency.

Community Transportation Coordinator means a transportation entity recommended by a metropolitan planning organization, or by the appropriate designated official planning agency as provided for in Section 427.011, Florida Statutes in an area outside the purview of a metropolitan planning organization, to ensure that coordinated transportation services are provided to the transportation disadvantaged population in a designated service area.

Coordinating Board means an advisory entity in each designated service area composed of representatives appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency, to provide assistance to the community transportation coordinator relative to the coordination of transportation services.

Coordination means the arrangement for the provision of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective, efficient and reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

Designated Official Planning Agency means the official body or agency designated by the Commission to fulfill the functions of transportation disadvantaged planning in areas not covered by a Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Metropolitan Planning Organization shall serve as the designated official planning agency in areas covered by such organizations.

Designated Service Area means a geographical area recommended by a designated official planning agency, subject to approval by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, which defines the community where coordinated transportation services will be provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

Florida's Coordinated Transportation System means a transportation system responsible for coordination and service provisions for the transportation disadvantaged as outlined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes.

Grievance means a written complaint to document any concerns regarding the operation or administration of services provided by Florida's Coordinated Transportation System by the Community Transportation Coordinator, subcontracted transportation operators, the Designated Official Planning Agency, or the Board. A grievance may also be a service complaint that has been left unresolved for more than 45 days.

Memorandum of Agreement is the state contract for transportation disadvantaged services purchased with federal, state or local government transportation disadvantaged funds. This agreement is between the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the Community Transportation Coordinator and recognizes the Community Transportation Coordinator as being responsible for the arrangement of the provision of transportation disadvantaged services for a designated service area.

Service complaint means routine incidents that occur on a daily basis, are reported to the driver or dispatcher, or to other individuals involved with the daily operations, and are resolved within the course of a reasonable time period suitable to the complainant. All service complaints shall be recorded and a summary of complaints should be provided by the Community Transportation Coordinator on a quarterly basis, to the Board.

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan means an annually updated plan jointly developed by the Designated Official Planning Agency and the Community Transportation Coordinator which contains a development plan, service plan and quality assurance components. The plan shall be approved and used by the local Coordinating Board to evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator.

D. Purpose

- (1) The Board shall appoint a Grievance Committee to serve as a mediator to process, and investigate complaints from agencies, users, potential users of the system and the Community Transportation Coordinator in the designated service area, and make recommendations to the Board for the improvement of service.
- (2) The Board shall establish procedures to provide regular opportunities for issues to be brought before the Grievance Committee and to address them in a timely manner. Members appointed to the Grievance Committee shall be voting members of the Board.

- (3) The Grievance Committee and the Board shall have the authority to hear and advise on grievances. When an entity makes a determination of the rights, duties, privileges, benefits, or legal relationships of a specified person or persons, it is exercising "adjudicative" or "determinative" powers. Deciding a grievance between two independent parties may fall within these parameters, depending on the nature of the grievance. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes grants no adjudicative powers to anyone.

E. Membership

- (1) The Chair, subject to approval by the Board, shall appoint five (5) voting members to a Grievance Committee. The membership of the Grievance Committee shall include broad geographic representation from members of the local Coordinating Board representing the County in the service area.
- (2) Term limits on the Grievance Committee may coincide with term limits on the Board.

F. Officers

- (1) The Grievance Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.

G. Meetings

- (1) The Grievance Committee may meet as often as necessary to fulfill their responsibilities. The Grievance Committee may meet following Board meetings to hear complaints. All meetings will function under the "Government in the Sunshine Law." All meetings will provide opportunity for public comments on the agenda.
- (2) Notice of Meetings. Notices and tentative agendas shall be provided to the Florida Commission for the Transportation, Committee members and other interested parties at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Meeting notices shall include the date, time, location, general nature/subject of the meeting, a contact person and phone number to call for additional information and to request accessible formats.
- (3) Notice of Meetings. Notices and agendas shall be sent to all Grievance Committee members and other interested parties at least two (2) weeks prior to each Grievance Committee meeting. Such notice shall state the date, time and the place of the meeting.
- (4) Quorum. At all meetings of the Grievance Committee, the presence in person of a majority of the voting members shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, those present may, without notice other than by announcement at the meeting, recess the meeting from time to time, until a quorum shall be present. At any such recessed meeting, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called.
- (5) Voting. A majority vote is required for actions by the Grievance Committee. As required by Section 286.012, Florida Statutes, all Grievance Committee members, including the Chair, must vote on all official actions taken by the Grievance Committee except when there appears to be a possible conflict of interest with a member or members of the Grievance Committee.

- (6) **Conflict of Interest.** In accordance with Chapter 112 (Part III), Florida Statutes, "No county, municipal, or other public office shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss, or which the officer know would inure to the special private gain or loss of a principal by whom he or she is retained, of the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal which he or she is retained, of a relative or of a business associate. The officer must publicly announce the nature of his or her interest before the vote and must file a memorandum of voting conflict on Ethics Commission Form 8B with the meeting's recording officer within 15 days after the vote occurs disclosing the nature of his or her interest in the matter."

In cases where a grievance involves the private or personal interests of a member of the Grievance Committee, such member shall be disqualified from hearing such grievance. If a Grievant claims a conflict between the Grievant and a Grievance Committee member, the Grievance Committee member identified as having a conflict shall recuses themselves from hearing the grievance. No member of the Grievance Committee shall appear before the Grievance Committee as an agent or attorney for any person.

- (7) **Proxy Voting.** Proxy voting is not permitted.
- (8) **Parliamentary Procedures.** The Grievance Committee will conduct business using parliamentary procedures according to Robert's Rules of Order, except when in conflict with these Grievance Procedures.

H. Administration

- (1) **Staff Support.** The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall provide the Grievance Committee with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the Grievance Committee to fulfill their responsibilities.
- (2) **Minutes.** The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is responsible for maintaining an official set of minutes for each Grievance Committee meeting.

I. Duties

The Grievance Committee shall make recommendations to the Board, the Community Transportation Coordinator, and/or to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for improvement of service.

J. Procedures

- (1) The grievance procedures shall be open to addressing concerns by any person or agency including but not limited to: purchasing agencies, users, potential users, private-for-profit operators, private-nonprofit operators, Community Transportation Coordinators, Designated Official Planning Agencies, elected officials, and drivers. The grievant, in their formal complaint, should demonstrate or establish their concerns as clearly as possible.

- (2) The Board must make a written copy of the grievance procedures available to anyone, upon request. All documents pertaining to the grievance process will be made available, upon request, in accessible format. The following procedures are established to provide regular opportunities for grievances to be brought before the Grievance Committee.
- (3) Should an interested party wish to file a grievance with the Board, that grievance must be filed in writing within ninety (90) days after the occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance. The grievance shall be sent to:

Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
Grievance Committee
2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
- (4) If requested, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff will provide assistance individuals to prepare written grievances.
- (5) The grievance should try to demonstrate or establish a clear violation of a specific law, regulation, or contractual arrangement. Copies of pertinent laws and regulations may be obtained from North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff.
- (6) The grievance shall include:
 - a. the name, address and telephone number of the Complainant;
 - b. a statement of the grounds for the grievance and be supplemented by supporting documentation, made in a clear and concise manner; and
 - c. an explanation by the Complainant of the improvements needed to address the complaint.
- (7) If the Board receives a grievance pertaining to the operation of services by the Community Transportation Coordinator, that grievance shall be forwarded to the Community Transportation Coordinator for a written response. The Community Transportation Coordinator's written response shall be provided to the Grievance Committee at least one week prior to the Grievance Committee meeting to hear such grievance.
- (8) If the Complainant does not want to be contacted by the Community Transportation Coordinator concerning the grievance before the grievance is heard, the Community Transportation Coordinator is prohibited from contacting the Complainant.
- (9) Within fifteen (15) working days following the date of receipt of the formal grievance, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff shall advise the Grievance Committee of the grievance to schedule a hearing on the grievance and inform the Complainant of the hearing date.
- (10) The Grievance Committee shall meet to hear the grievance within forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of receipt of the grievance.
- (11) North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff shall send notice of the Grievance Committee's scheduled hearing in writing to the local newspaper of greatest circulation, the Complainant and other interested parties.

- (12) All involved parties have a right to present their views to the Grievance Committee, either orally or in writing. In addition, all parties may present evidence. The Community Transportation Coordinator shall provide transportation to and from Grievance Committee meetings at no charge to complainants who cannot transport themselves to the meetings.
- (13) A written report and any recommendations of the Grievance Committee shall be provided to the Board. A copy of this report shall be provided to the concerned parties within ten (10) working days after the hearing on the grievance and no more than sixty (60) calendar days from the date of receipt of the formal grievance. The Grievance Committee's recommendation will stand unless the recommendation is changed by the Board.
- (14) A written report shall also be provided to the Community Transportation Coordinator's Governing Board.

K. Appeals

- (1) Appeals of recommendations by the Grievance Committee to the Board shall be made within twenty (20) working days from the date when the Grievance Committee makes a recommendation regarding a grievance. The appeal shall be mailed to:

Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

- (2) The Complainant will be notified in writing of the date, time and place of the Board meeting where the appeal will be heard. This written notice will be mailed at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the meeting.
- (3) The Board will meet to hear the appeal and render its recommendation within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the appeal was filed. A written copy of the recommendation will be mailed to all parties involved within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the recommendation.
- (4) Should a Complainant remain dissatisfied with the Board's decision, he or she may contact the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged at the following address:

Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
605 Suwannee Street, MS-49
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

- (5) The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged also has an Ombudsman Program to assist individuals with complaints. The toll-free Ombudsman Hotline is 1-800-983-2435. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes does not expressly confer the power or authority for the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to "hear and determine" a grievance between two (2) third parties. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged may choose to listen to grievances and it can investigate them from a fact-finding perspective. It cannot be the "judge" or "arbiter" of the grievance in the sense of determining that one party's version of the facts is right and the other is wrong, and order the wrong party to somehow compensate the right party. On the other hand, the grievance may bring to light a problem within "the system."

- (6) If the grievance showed that one (1) of the parties with whom the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged contracts was acting so aberrantly as to not be in compliance with its contract, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged could exercise whatever contractual rights it has to correct the problem.
- (7) The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged may take part in the grievance process, if it wants to, for purposes of listening to the grieving parties and gathering the facts of the matter. It may not decide the grievance, where doing so would amount to an exercise of adjudicative powers.

M. Suspension Reconsideration

- (1) If a rider has been issued a notice of suspension by the Community Transportation Coordinator, they have ten (10) calendar days from the date of issuance of suspension notice to request a reconsideration hearing on the suspension. If a reconsideration hearing is requested, the hearing will be held by the Grievance Committee if the suspension involves transportation provided under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.
- (2) The written request must include the name, address and telephone number of the person who is requesting the hearing and a statement as to why his or her riding privileges should not be suspended. If the request is not received within ten (10) calendar days from the issue date of the suspension, then the suspension becomes effective ten (10) calendar days from the date of issue.
- (3) Upon receipt of letter requesting the reconsideration hearing, a hearing shall be held within ten (10) working days. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will advise the person requesting the reconsideration hearing by return correspondence of the date, time and location of the hearing.
- (4) The person will be given the opportunity to present the reasons why they believe the suspension should not take place. The Grievance Committee will make a recommendation whether or not to uphold the suspension. A written statement of the recommendation shall be forwarded to the person requesting the hearing within two (2) working days after the hearing by the Grievance Committee. A written statement of the decision whether or not to uphold the suspension shall be forwarded by certified mail within two (2) working days by the Community Transportation Coordinator to the person requesting the hearing.

N. Prohibition Against Retaliation

No individual shall be unlawfully denied Transportation Disadvantaged Program services because such individual has filed a grievance related to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or investigation related to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

O. Alternative Recourse

Apart from these grievance processes, aggrieved parties with proper standing, may also have recourse through Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, administrative hearings process or the judicial court system.

Appendix B: Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure Justification

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR: Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc.

COUNTY: Union

CONTRACT PERIOD: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

PURCHASING AGENCY: Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

PROGRAM/SERVICE TYPE	COST PER UNIT
Transportation Disadvantaged Program Ambulatory	\$1.98/passenger mile
Transportation Disadvantaged Program Wheelchair	\$3.40/passenger mile
Transportation Disadvantaged Program Stretcher	\$7.08/passenger mile

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Appendix C: Vehicle Inventory

<u>Year</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>VIN#</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
2009	Chevy/Turtle Top Bus	1GBJG31K691107325	78,137	FDOT
2010	Ford/Van	1FMNE1BW8ADA00526	93,673	FDOT
2012	Ford/Bus	1FTNE2EL2CDA32368	90,267	FDOT
2012	Ford E450 Turtle Top Bus	1FDXE4FL5BDA29977	60,615	CTD

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Appendix D: Safety Compliance Self Certification



Bus Transit System Annual Safety and Security Certification

*Certifying Compliance with Rule 14-90, FAC to the
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)*

Certification Date (Current): 2015

Certification Year: (Previous): 2014

Name and Address of Bus Transit System: Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc.
PO Box 70
Live Oak, FL 32064

The Bus Transit System (Agency) named above hereby certifies the following:

- 1. The Agency has adopted a System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) and a Security Program Plan (SPP) pursuant to the standards set forth in Rule Chapter 14-90, Florida Administrative Code.*
- 2. The Agency is in compliance with its adopted SSPP and SPP.*
- 3. The Agency has performed annual safety inspections on all operational vehicles in accordance with Rule Chapter 14-90, Florida Administrative Code.*
- 4. The Agency has conducted reviews of SSPP and SPP and the plans are up to date.*

Blue Ink Signature: Matt Pearson
(Individual Responsible for Assurance of Compliance)

Date: 1/12/15

Name: Matt Pearson Title: Executive Director

Name and address of entity(ies) which has (have) performed bus safety inspections and security assessments:

Name: _____ Site: _____

Address: _____

Name and address of entity(ies) which performed Annual Inspections:

Note: Please do not check this box unless you are a Long Distance Carrier

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North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan Team

Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

- * Marlie Sanderson, AICP, Director of Transportation Planning
- * Lynn Franson-Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

* Primary Responsibility
** Secondary Responsibility



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July 15, 2015

TO: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM: Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Bylaws

RECOMMENDATION**Approve the Board's Bylaws.****BACKGROUND**

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged requires that the Board review and approve the Bylaws annually. Attached are the Board's Bylaws for review and approval.

If you have any questions concerning the Bylaws, please contact me at extension 110.

Attachment

t:\lynn\td2015\union\memos\bylaws.docx

Bylaws

July 22, 2015

Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board



Bylaws

Approved by the
Union County
Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo
352.955.2000

Woody Kitler, Chair

with Assistance from



North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
www.ncfrpc.org
352.955.2200

July 22, 2015

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Table of Contents

Chapter I: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Bylaws	1
A. Preamble	1
B. Agency Description	1
C. Definitions	1
D. Name and Purpose	2
E. Membership	2
F. Officers.....	4
G. Meetings.....	4
H. Administration	6
I. Duties.....	6
J. Committees.....	8
K. Amendments.....	8
L. Certification	8

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Chapter I: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Bylaws

A. Preamble

The following sets forth the bylaws which shall serve to guide the proper functioning of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The intent is to provide procedures and policies for fulfilling the requirements of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code, and subsequent laws setting forth requirements for the coordination of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged.

B. Agency Description

The Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board is a public body appointed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency as authorized by Section 427.015, Florida Statutes.

C. Definitions

Transportation disadvantaged means those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in Section 411.202, Florida Statutes.

Agency means an official, officer, commission, authority, council, committee, department, division, bureau, board, section, or any other unit or entity of the state or of a city, town, municipality, county, or other local governing body or a private nonprofit transportation service-providing agency.

Community Transportation Coordinator means a transportation entity recommended by a metropolitan planning organization, or by the appropriate designated official planning agency as provided for in Section 427.011, Florida Statutes in an area outside the purview of a metropolitan planning organization, to ensure that coordinated transportation services are provided to the transportation disadvantaged population in a designated service area.

Coordinating Board means an advisory entity in each designated service area composed of representatives appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency, to provide assistance to the community transportation coordinator relative to the coordination of transportation services.

Coordination means the arrangement for the provision of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective, efficient and reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

Designated Official Planning Agency means the official body or agency designated by the Commission to fulfill the functions of transportation disadvantaged planning in areas not covered by a Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Metropolitan Planning Organization shall serve as the designated official planning agency in areas covered by such organizations.

Designated Service Area means a geographical area recommended by a designated official planning agency, subject to approval by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, which defines the community where coordinated transportation services will be provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

Florida Coordinated Transportation System means a transportation system responsible for coordination and service provisions for the transportation disadvantaged as outlined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes.

Memorandum of Agreement is the state contract for transportation disadvantaged services purchased with federal, state or local government transportation disadvantaged funds. This agreement is between the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the Community Transportation Coordinator and recognizes the Community Transportation Coordinator as being responsible for the arrangement of the provision of transportation disadvantaged services for a designated service area.

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan means an annually updated plan jointly developed by the Designated Official Planning Agency and the Community Transportation Coordinator which contains a development plan, service plan and quality assurance components. The plan shall be approved and used by the local Coordinating Board to evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator.

D. Name and Purpose

- (1) The name of the Coordinating Board shall be the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board.
- (2) The purpose of the Board is to identify local service needs and provide information, advice and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator on the provision of services to the transportation disadvantaged within the designated service area. In general, the Board is considered an advisory body (Section 427.0157, Florida Statutes).

E. Membership

- (1) Voting Members. In accordance with Section 427.0157, Florida Statutes, all voting members of the Board shall be appointed by the Designated Official Planning Agency. The Designated Official Planning Agency for Union County is the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.
 - (a) An elected official from the service area which the Board serves shall be appointed to the Board.
 - (b) A local representative of the Florida Department of Transportation;
 - (c) A local representative of the Florida Department of Children and Family Services;

- (d) A local representative of the Public Education Community which could include, but not be limited to, a representative of the District School Board, School Board Transportation Office or Headstart Program in areas where the School District is responsible;
- (e) In areas where they exist, a local representative of the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Division of Blind Services, representing the Department of Education;
- (f) A person recommended by the local Veterans Service Office representing the veterans of the service area;
- (g) A person who is recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action (President), representing the economically disadvantaged in the service area;
- (h) A person over age sixty (60) representing the elderly in the service area;
- (i) A person with a disability representing the disabled in the service area;
- (j) Two citizen advocate representatives in the service area; one who must be a person who uses the transportation service(s) of the system as their primary means of transportation;
- (k) A local representative for children at risk;
- (l) In areas where they exist, the Chairperson or designee of the local Mass Transit or Public Transit System's Board, except in cases where they are also the Community Transportation Coordinator;
- (m) A local representative of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs;
- (n) An experienced representative of the local private for profit transportation industry. In areas where such representative is not available, a local private non profit representative shall be appointed, except where said representative is also the Community Transportation Coordinator;
- (o) A local representative of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration;
- (p) A representative of the Regional Workforce Development Board established in Chapter 445, Florida Statutes; and
- (q) A representative of the local medical community, which may include, but not be limited to, kidney dialysis centers, long term care facilities, assisted living facilities, hospitals, local health department or other home and community based services, etc.
- (r) No employee of a Community Transportation Coordinator shall serve as a voting member of the Coordinating Board in an area where the Community Transportation Coordinator serves. However, an elected official serving as a member of the Community Transportation Coordinator's Board of Directors, or other governmental employees that are not employed for the purpose of making provisions for transportation and are not directly supervised by the Community Transportation Coordinator, shall not be precluded from serving as voting members of the Coordinating Board.

It is the intent of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for the membership of the Board to represent to the maximum extent possible a cross section of their local community.

- (2) **Alternate Members.** The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council may appoint one alternate member to represent appointed voting members in their absence. Alternate members may vote only in the absence of the voting member on a one-vote-per-member basis. Alternate members must be a representative of the same interest as the primary member.
- (3) **Terms of Appointment.** Except for the Chair, non-agency members of the Board shall be appointed for three-year staggered terms with initial membership being appointed equally for one, two and three years. The Chair shall serve until elected term of office has expired or otherwise replaced by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. There are no limits to the number of terms served by any member of the Board.
- (4) **Termination of Membership.** Any member of the Board may resign at any time. Each member of the Board is expected to demonstrate his/her interest in the Board's activities through attendance of the scheduled meetings, except for reasons of an unavoidable nature. In each instance of an unavoidable absence, the absent member should ensure that his/her alternate will attend.

F. Officers

- (1) **Chair.** The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall appoint an official Chair for all Board meetings. The appointed Chair shall be an elected official from the designated service area that the Board serves (41-2.012(1), Florida Administrative Code). For a multi-county Board, the Chair shall be from one of the counties in the designated service area. The Chair shall serve until their elected term of office has expired or otherwise replaced by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The Chair shall preside at all meetings.
- (2) **Vice-Chair.** The Board shall hold an organizational meeting each year for the purpose of electing a Vice-Chair (41-2.012(2) Florida Administrative Code). The Vice-Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of a quorum of the members of the Board present and voting at the organizational meeting. The Vice-Chair shall serve a term of one year starting with the first meeting after their election. For a multi-county Board, an elected official not serving as the Chair shall serve as Vice-Chair. In the event of the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chairperson and conduct the meeting. The Vice-Chair may serve more than one term.

G. Meetings

- (1) **Regular Meetings.** The Board shall meet at least quarterly. The Board may meet as often as necessary to fulfill its responsibilities as set forth in Section 427.0157, Florida Statutes. All meetings will function under the "Government in the Sunshine Law." All meetings will provide opportunity for public comments on the agenda. The Board shall conduct business using parliamentary procedures according to Roberts Rules of Order.
- (2) **Emergency Meetings.** The Board may hold emergency meetings in order to transact business necessary to ensure the continuation of services to the transportation disadvantaged population. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by writing by 1/3 of the Board's voting membership.

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff shall give the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Board members and all interested parties one week notice, if possible, of the date, time, location and proposed agenda for the emergency meeting. Meeting materials shall be provided as early as possible. Emergency meetings shall be advertised at a minimum, in the largest general circulation newspaper in the designated service area as soon as possible prior to the meeting.

- (3) Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called for any appropriate purpose by the Chair or by written request of at least seven (7) voting members of the Board.
- (4) Notice of Regular and Special Meetings. Notices and tentative agendas shall be provided to the Florida Commission for the Transportation, Board members and other interested parties at least two weeks prior to each Board meeting. Meeting notices shall include the date, time, location, general nature/subject of the meeting, a contact person and phone number to call for additional information and to request accessible formats.

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall provide the agenda and meeting package to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Board members and all other interested parties prior to the meeting. The agenda shall include a public participation opportunity.

- (5) Quorum. At all meetings of the Board, the presence in person of ~~a majority~~ 40 percent of the voting members shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, those present may, without notice other than by announcement at the meeting, recess the meeting from time to time, until a quorum shall be present. At any such recessed meeting, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called. In the absence of a quorum, the members present may also elect to either:
 - a) Cancel and reschedule the meeting; or
 - b) Continue to meet and discuss agenda items for informational purposes only. Agenda items that require formal action shall be presented at a future meeting where a quorum is present.

Board members can participate (and vote) in meetings via conference call, however, a physical quorum must be present to vote on agenda items that require formal action.

- (6) Voting. At all meetings of the Board at which a quorum is present, all matters, except as otherwise expressly required by law or these Bylaws, shall be decided by the vote of a majority of the members of the Board present. As required by Section 286.012, Florida Statutes, all Board members, including the Chair of the Board, must vote on all official actions taken by the Board except when there appears to be a possible conflict of interest with a member or members of the Board.

- (7) Conflict of Interest. In accordance with Chapter 112 (Part III), Florida Statutes, "No county, municipal, or other public office shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss, or which the officer know would inure to the special private gain or loss of a principal by whom he or she is retained, of the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal which he or she is retained, of a relative or of a business associate. The officer must publicly announce the nature of his or her interest before the vote and must file a memorandum of voting conflict on Ethics Commission Form 8B with the meeting's recording officer within 15 days after the vote occurs disclosing the nature of his or her interest in the matter."
- (8) Proxy Voting. Proxy voting is not permitted.
- (9) Parliamentary Procedures. The Board will conduct business using parliamentary procedures according to Robert's Rules of Order, except when in conflict with these Bylaws.
- (10) Attendance. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall review, and consider rescinding, the appointment of any voting member of the Board who fails to attend three consecutive meetings. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall notify the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged if any state agency voting member or their alternate fails to attend three consecutive meetings. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council must maintain an attendance roster for each meeting. Board members can participate (and vote) at meetings via conference call, however, a physical quorum must be present to vote on action items.

H. Administration

- (1) Staff Support. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall provide the Board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the Board to fulfill its responsibilities as set forth in Section 427.0157, Florida Statutes. These responsibilities include providing sufficient staff to manage and oversee the operations of the Board and assist in the scheduling of meetings, preparing meeting agenda packets and other necessary administrative duties as required by the Board within the limits of the resources available.
- (2) Minutes. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is responsible for maintaining an official set of minutes for each Board meeting regardless of the presence of a quorum. The minutes shall be prepared in a reasonable time following the meeting and shall include an attendance roster indicating what agency, organization or position each member represents and reflect a summary of official actions taken by the Board. Meeting minutes shall be provided at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting for approval.

I. Duties

- (1) Board Duties. The following Board duties are set forth in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code.
 - (a) Maintain official meeting minutes, including an attendance roster, reflecting official actions and provide a copy of same to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

- (b) Review and approve the Memorandum of Agreement and Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.
- (c) Annually evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance in general and relative to Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and local standards as referenced in Rule 41-2.006, Florida Administrative Code, and the performance results of the most recent Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. As part of the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance, the Board shall also set an annual percentage goal increase for the number of trips provided within the system for ridership on public transit, where applicable. In areas where the public transit is being utilized, the Board shall set an annual percentage of the number of trips to be provided on public transit. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged shall provide evaluation criteria for the Board to use relative to the performance of the Community Transportation Coordinator. This evaluation shall be submitted to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged upon approval by the Board.
- (d) In cooperation with the Community Transportation Coordinator, review all applications for local, state or federal funds relating to transportation of the transportation disadvantaged in the service area to ensure that any expenditures within the county are provided in the most cost effective and efficient manner.
- (e) Review coordination strategies for service provision to the transportation disadvantaged in the service area to seek innovative ways to improve cost effectiveness, efficiency, safety, working hours and types of service in an effort to increase ridership to a broader population. Such strategies should also encourage multi-county and regional transportation service agreements between area Community Transportation Coordinators and consolidation of adjacent counties when it is appropriate and cost effective to do so.
- (f) Working with the Community Transportation Coordinator, jointly develop applications for funds that may become available.
- (g) Assist the Community Transportation Coordinator in establishing eligibility guidelines and trip priorities for trips that are purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds.
- (h) Annually review coordination contracts to advise the Community Transportation Coordinator whether the continuation of said contract provides the most cost effective and efficient transportation available.
- (i) Annually review all transportation operator contracts as to the effectiveness and efficiency of the transportation operator and recommend approval or disapproval of such contracts to the Community Transportation Coordinator.
- (j) Annually hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving input on unmet transportation needs or any other areas that relate to the local transportation services.
- (k) Annually review the Annual Operations Report.

J. Committees

The Chair subject to approval by the Board shall appoint a Grievance Committee to process and investigate complaints from agencies, users, transportation operators and potential users of the system in the designated service area. The Grievance Committee shall make recommendations to the Board or to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for improvement of service. The Board shall establish a process and procedures to provide regular opportunities for issues to be brought before the Grievance Committee and to address them in a timely manner. Rider brochures or other documents provided to users or potential users of the system shall provide information about the complaint and grievance process including the publishing of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged's Transportation Disadvantaged Helpline service when local resolution has not occurred. When requested, all materials shall be made available in accessible format. Members appointed to the Grievance Committee shall be voting members of the Board. If a Grievant claims a conflict between the Grievant and a Grievance Committee member, the Grievance Committee member identified as having a conflict shall recuse themselves from hearing the grievance.

If the Community Transportation Coordinator provides Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation through a contract with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, the Board's Grievance Committee shall be responsible for responding to grievances and appeals through the Medicaid Grievance System. A Medicaid Expedited Appeal Committee must also be established to address expedited appeals.

Additional committees shall be appointed by the Chair, subject to approval by the Board, as necessary to investigate and report on specific subject areas of interest to the Board and to deal with administrative and legislative procedures.

K. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of members present at regular meetings.

L. Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is the Chair of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Bylaws of this Board as adopted by the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board the 22nd day of July 2015.

Woody Kitler, Chair
Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

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Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

Bylaws Team

Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

- * Marlie Sanderson, AICP, Director of Transportation Planning
- * Lynn Franson-Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

- * Primary Responsibility
- ** Secondary Responsibility



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Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

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July 15, 2015

TO: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
FROM: Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Board's Grievance Procedures.

BACKGROUND

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged requires that the Board review and approve the Grievance Procedures annually. Attached are the Board's Grievance Procedures for review and approval.

If you have any questions concerning the Grievance Procedures, please contact me at extension 110.

Attachment

t:\lynn\td2015\union\memos\gp.docx

Transportation Disadvantaged Grievance Procedures

July 22, 2015

Union County
Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board



Transportation Disadvantaged Grievance Procedures

Approved by the

Union County
Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo
352.955.2000

Woody Kitler, Chair

with Assistance from



North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
2009 NW 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
www.ncfrpc.org
352.955.2200

July 22, 2015

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Table of Contents

Chapter I: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures.....	1
A. Preamble	1
B. Agency Description	1
C. Definitions	1
D. Purpose	2
E. Membership	3
F. Officers.....	3
G. Meetings.....	3
H. Administration	4
I. Duties.....	4
J. Procedures.....	4
K. Appeals	6
L. Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program Grievance System.....	7
M. Suspension Reconsideration	7
N. Prohibition Against Retaliation	8
O. Alternative Recourse	8
P. Certification	8

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Chapter I: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures

A. Preamble

The following sets forth the procedures for the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board to address grievances from agencies, users, potential users, sub-contractors, and other interested parties concerning Florida's Coordinated Transportation System.

B. Agency Description

The Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, herein after referred to as the Board, is a public body appointed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency as authorized by Section 427.015, Florida Statutes.

C. Definitions

Transportation disadvantaged means those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in Section 411.202, Florida Statutes.

Agency means an official, officer, commission, authority, council, committee, department, division, bureau, board, section, or any other unit or entity of the state or of a city, town, municipality, county, or other local governing body or a private nonprofit transportation service-providing agency.

Community Transportation Coordinator means a transportation entity recommended by a metropolitan planning organization, or by the appropriate designated official planning agency as provided for in Section 427.011, Florida Statutes in an area outside the purview of a metropolitan planning organization, to ensure that coordinated transportation services are provided to the transportation disadvantaged population in a designated service area.

Coordinating Board means an advisory entity in each designated service area composed of representatives appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency, to provide assistance to the community transportation coordinator relative to the coordination of transportation services.

Coordination means the arrangement for the provision of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective, efficient and reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

Designated Official Planning Agency means the official body or agency designated by the Commission to fulfill the functions of transportation disadvantaged planning in areas not covered by a Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Metropolitan Planning Organization shall serve as the designated official planning agency in areas covered by such organizations.

Designated Service Area means a geographical area recommended by a designated official planning agency, subject to approval by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, which defines the community where coordinated transportation services will be provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

Florida's Coordinated Transportation System means a transportation system responsible for coordination and service provisions for the transportation disadvantaged as outlined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes.

Grievance means a written complaint to document any concerns regarding the operation or administration of services provided by Florida's Coordinated Transportation System by the Community Transportation Coordinator, subcontracted transportation operators, the Designated Official Planning Agency, or the Board. A grievance may also be a service complaint that has been left unresolved for more than 45 days.

Memorandum of Agreement is the state contract for transportation disadvantaged services purchased with federal, state or local government transportation disadvantaged funds. This agreement is between the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the Community Transportation Coordinator and recognizes the Community Transportation Coordinator as being responsible for the arrangement of the provision of transportation disadvantaged services for a designated service area.

Service complaint means routine incidents that occur on a daily basis, are reported to the driver or dispatcher, or to other individuals involved with the daily operations, and are resolved within the course of a reasonable time period suitable to the complainant. All service complaints shall be recorded and a summary of complaints should be provided by the Community Transportation Coordinator on a quarterly basis, to the Board.

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan means an annually updated plan jointly developed by the Designated Official Planning Agency and the Community Transportation Coordinator which contains a development plan, service plan and quality assurance components. The plan shall be approved and used by the local Coordinating Board to evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator.

D. Purpose

- (1) The Board shall appoint a Grievance Committee to serve as a mediator to process, and investigate complaints from agencies, users, potential users of the system and the Community Transportation Coordinator in the designated service area, and make recommendations to the Board for the improvement of service.
- (2) The Board shall establish procedures to provide regular opportunities for issues to be brought before the Grievance Committee and to address them in a timely manner. Members appointed to the Grievance Committee shall be voting members of the Board.

- (3) The Grievance Committee and the Board shall have the authority to hear and advise on grievances. When an entity makes a determination of the rights, duties, privileges, benefits, or legal relationships of a specified person or persons, it is exercising "adjudicative" or "determinative" powers. Deciding a grievance between two independent parties may fall within these parameters, depending on the nature of the grievance. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes grants no adjudicative powers to anyone.

E. Membership

- (1) The Chair, subject to approval by the Board, shall appoint five (5) voting members to a Grievance Committee. The membership of the Grievance Committee shall include broad geographic representation from members of the local Coordinating Board representing the counties in the service area.
- (2) Term limits on the Grievance Committee may coincide with term limits on the Board.

F. Officers

- (1) The Grievance Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.

G. Meetings

- (1) The Grievance Committee may meet as often as necessary to fulfill their responsibilities. The Grievance Committee may meet following Board meetings to hear complaints and grievances. All meetings will function under the "Government in the Sunshine Law." All meetings will provide opportunity for public comments on the agenda.
- (2) Notice of Meetings. Notices and tentative agendas shall be provided to the Florida Commission for the Transportation, Committee members and other interested parties at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Meeting notices shall include the date, time, location, general nature/subject of the meeting, a contact person and phone number to call for additional information and to request accessible formats.
- (3) Quorum. At all meetings of the Grievance Committee, the presence in person of a majority of the voting members shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, those present may, without notice other than by announcement at the meeting, recess the meeting from time to time, until a quorum shall be present. At any such recessed meeting, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called.
- (4) Voting. A majority vote is required for actions by the Grievance Committee. As required by Section 286.012, Florida Statutes, all Grievance Committee members, including the Chair, must vote on all official actions taken by the Grievance Committee except when there appears to be a possible conflict of interest with a member or members of the Grievance Committee.
- (5) Conflict of Interest. In accordance with Chapter 112 (Part III), Florida Statutes, "No county, municipal, or other public office shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss, or which the officer know would inure to the

special private gain or loss of a principal by whom he or she is retained, of the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal which he or she is retained, of a relative or of a business associate. The officer must publicly announce the nature of his or her interest before the vote and must file a memorandum of voting conflict on Ethics Commission Form 8B with the meeting's recording officer within 15 days after the vote occurs disclosing the nature of his or her interest in the matter."

In cases where a grievance involves the private or personal interests of a member of the Grievance Committee, such member shall be disqualified from hearing such grievance. If a Grievant claims a conflict between the Grievant and a Grievance Committee member, the Grievance Committee member identified as having a conflict shall recuses themselves from hearing the grievance. No member of the Grievance Committee shall appear before the Grievance Committee as an agent or attorney for any person.

- (6) Proxy Voting. Proxy voting is not permitted.
- (7) Parliamentary Procedures. The Grievance Committee will conduct business using parliamentary procedures according to Robert's Rules of Order, except when in conflict with these Grievance Procedures.

H. Administration

- (1) Staff Support. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall provide the Grievance Committee with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the Grievance Committee to fulfill their responsibilities.
- (2) Minutes. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is responsible for maintaining an official set of minutes for each Grievance Committee meeting.

I. Duties

The Grievance Committee shall make recommendations to the Board, the Community Transportation Coordinator, and/or to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for improvement of service.

J. Procedures

- (1) The grievance procedures shall be open to addressing concerns by any person or agency including but not limited to: purchasing agencies, users, potential users, private-for-profit operators, private-nonprofit operators, Community Transportation Coordinators, Designated Official Planning Agencies, elected officials, and drivers. The grievant, in their formal complaint, should demonstrate or establish their concerns as clearly as possible.
- (2) The Board must make a written copy of the grievance procedures available to anyone, upon request. All documents pertaining to the grievance process will be made available, upon request, in accessible format. The following procedures are established to provide regular opportunities for grievances to be brought before the Grievance Committee.

- (3) Should an interested party wish to file a grievance with the Board, that grievance must be filed in writing within ninety (90) days after the occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance. The grievance shall be sent to:
- Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
Grievance Committee
2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603
- (4) If requested, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff will provide assistance to individuals in preparing written grievances.
- (5) The grievance should try to demonstrate or establish a clear violation of a specific law, regulation, or contractual arrangement. Copies of pertinent laws and regulations may be obtained from North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff.
- (6) The grievance shall include:
- a. the name, address and telephone number of the Complainant;
 - b. a statement of the grounds for the grievance and be supplemented by supporting documentation, made in a clear and concise manner; and
 - c. an explanation by the Complainant of the improvements needed to address the complaint.
- (7) If the Board receives a grievance pertaining to the operation of services by the Community Transportation Coordinator, that grievance shall be forwarded to the Community Transportation Coordinator for a written response. The Community Transportation Coordinator's written response shall be provided to the Grievance Committee at least one week prior to the Grievance Committee meeting to hear such grievance.
- (8) If the Complainant does not want to be contacted by the Community Transportation Coordinator concerning the grievance before the grievance is heard, the Community Transportation Coordinator is prohibited from contacting the Complainant.
- (9) Within fifteen (15) working days following the date of receipt of the formal grievance, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff shall advise the Grievance Committee of the grievance to schedule a hearing on the grievance and inform the Complainant of the hearing date.
- (10) The Grievance Committee shall meet to hear the grievance within forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of receipt of the grievance.
- (11) North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff shall send notice of the Grievance Committee's scheduled hearing in writing to the local newspaper of greatest circulation, the Complainant and other interested parties.
- (12) All involved parties have a right to present their views to the Grievance Committee, either orally or in writing. In addition, all parties may present evidence. The Community Transportation Coordinator shall provide transportation to and from Grievance Committee meetings at no charge to complainants who cannot transport themselves to the meetings.

- (13) A written report and any recommendations of the Grievance Committee shall be provided to the Board. A copy of this report shall be provided to the concerned parties within ten (10) working days after the hearing on the grievance and no more than sixty (60) calendar days from the date of receipt of the formal grievance. The Grievance Committee's recommendation will stand unless the recommendation is changed by the Board.
- (14) A written report shall also be provided to the Community Transportation Coordinator's Governing Board.

K. Appeals

- (1) Appeals of recommendations by the Grievance Committee to the Board shall be made within twenty (20) working days from the date when the Grievance Committee makes a recommendation regarding a grievance. The appeal shall be mailed to:

Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
2009 N.W. 67th Place
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

- (2) The Complainant will be notified in writing of the date, time and place of the Board meeting where the appeal will be heard. This written notice will be mailed at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the meeting.
- (3) The Board will meet to hear the appeal and render its recommendation within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the appeal was filed. A written copy of the recommendation will be mailed to all parties involved within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the recommendation.
- (4) Should a Complainant remain dissatisfied with the Board's decision, he or she may contact the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged at the following address:

Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
605 Suwannee Street, MS-49
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

- (5) The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged also has an Ombudsman Program to assist individuals with complaints. The toll-free Ombudsman Hotline is 1-800-983-2435. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes does not expressly confer the power or authority for the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to "hear and determine" a grievance between two (2) third parties. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged may choose to listen to grievances and it can investigate them from a fact-finding perspective. It cannot be the "judge" or "arbiter" of the grievance in the sense of determining that one party's version of the facts is right and the other is wrong, and order the wrong party to somehow compensate the right party. On the other hand, the grievance may bring to light a problem within "the system."

- (6) If the grievance showed that one (1) of the parties with whom the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged contracts was acting so aberrantly as to not be in compliance with its contract, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged could exercise whatever contractual rights it has to correct the problem.
- (7) The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged may take part in the grievance process, if it wants to, for purposes of listening to the grieving parties and gathering the facts of the matter. It may not decide the grievance, where doing so would amount to an exercise of adjudicative powers.

~~L. Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Program Grievance System~~

- ~~(1) If the Community Transportation Coordinator provides Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation through a contract with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, the Board's Grievance Committee shall be responsible for responding to grievances and appeals through the Medicaid Grievance System. A Medicaid Expedited Appeal Committee must also be established to address expedited appeals.~~
- ~~(2) The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Medicaid Grievance System is attached as Appendix A.~~

M. Suspension Reconsideration

- (1) If a rider has been issued a notice of suspension of service by the Community Transportation Coordinator, they have ten (10) calendar days from the date of issuance of suspension notice to request a reconsideration hearing on the suspension. If a reconsideration hearing is requested, the hearing will be held by the Grievance Committee if the suspension involves transportation provided under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.
- (2) The written request must include the name, address and telephone number of the person who is requesting the hearing and a statement as to why his or her riding privileges should not be suspended. If the request is not received within ten (10) calendar days from the issue date of the suspension, then the suspension becomes effective ten (10) calendar days from the date of issue.
- (3) Upon receipt of letter requesting the reconsideration hearing, a hearing shall be held within ten (10) working days. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will advise the person requesting the reconsideration hearing by return correspondence of the date, time and location of the hearing.
- (4) The person will be given the opportunity to present the reasons why they believe the suspension should not take place. The Grievance Committee will make a recommendation whether or not to uphold the suspension. A written statement of the recommendation shall be forwarded to the person requesting the hearing within two (2) working days after the hearing by the Grievance Committee. A written statement of the decision whether or not to uphold the suspension shall be forwarded by certified mail within two (2) working days by the Community Transportation Coordinator to the person requesting the hearing.

N. Prohibition Against Retaliation

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall not take any punitive action against an individual who files a grievance. No individual shall be denied Transportation Disadvantaged Program services because such individual has filed a grievance related to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or investigation related to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

O. Alternative Recourse

Apart from these grievance processes, aggrieved parties with proper standing, may also have recourse through Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, administrative hearings process or the judicial court system.

P. Certification

The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is the Chair of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Grievance Procedures of this Board as adopted by the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board the 22nd day of July 2015.

Woody Kitler, Chair
Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

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Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

Grievance Procedures Team

Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

* Marlie Sanderson, AICP, Director of Transportation Planning

** Lynn Franson-Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

* Primary Responsibility
** Secondary Responsibility



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July 15, 2015

TO: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
FROM: Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: Appoint Grievance Committee Members

RECOMMENDATION

The Chair needs to appoint a Board two members to the Grievance Committee.

BACKGROUND

Chapter I.E. of the Board's Grievance Procedures requires the Chair to appoint five (5) voting members to a Grievance Committee. Ms. Alana McKay and Mr. Matthew Pearson were appointed to the Board's Grievance Committee. Ms. McKay and Mr. Pearson recently resigned from the Board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this matter.

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July 15, 2015

TO: Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board
FROM: Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: Elect Vice-Chair

RECOMMENDATION

Elect a Vice-Chair.

BACKGROUND

Chapter I. F. of the Board's Bylaws requires the Board to hold an organizational meeting each year for the purpose of electing a Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall serve a term of one year starting with the next meeting. In the event of the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chairperson and conduct the meeting.

Ms. Alana McKay was serving as the Board's Vice-Chair. Ms. McKay recently resigned from the Board.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at extension 110.

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ATTENDANCE RECORD

UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD

MEMBER/ORGANIZATION	NAME	07/15/2014	10/14/2014	01/06/2015	04/14/2015
Chair	Commissioner Woody Kitler			P	P
Florida Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	A	P	P	A
Alternate Member	Janell Damato	A	A	A	A
Florida Department of Children and Families	Jaime Sanchez-Bianchi	P	P	P	P
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Florida Department of Education	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	Jeffrey Aboumrad		P	P	P
Public Education	Mike Pittman	A	P	A	A
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Citizen Advocate	Doyle Archer	A	A	A	A
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Citizen Advocate-User	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Elderly	Donald Pettit	P	P	P	P
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Veterans	Barbara Fischer	A	P	P	P
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Persons with Disabilities	Bill McGill	P	P	P	P
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Florida Association for Community Action	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Florida Department of Elder Affairs	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Children at Risk	Alberta Hampton	A	A	A	A
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Regional Workforce Board	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Local Medical Community	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				

LEGEND KEY: P-Present A-Absent - Not Applicable (newly appointed member)

ATTENDANCE POLICY: According to Article III, Section 5 of the Coordinating Board bylaws: "The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall review and consider rescinding the appointment of any voting member of the Board who fails to attend three consecutive meetings."