



Travel Management Coordination Center

Working Meeting of the Transportation Technical Task Force

November 9, 2007

Minutes

Attendees:

Terri Hirschhorn, NJDHS
Robert Koska, NJ Transit
Diane Zane Stephens, SCUCS
Steve Willans, SCUCS
Peter Bilton, VTC/Rutgers
Brian Staples, VTC/Rutgers
Andrea Lubin, VTC/Rutgers
Pippa Woods, VTC/Rutgers
Alan Huff, VTC/Rutgers
John Hainsworth, Cross County Connection
Andrew Levecchia, CCIA
Michael Randolph, NJ Transit – Access Link
Tom McAdams, SJTA
Carol Miller, SJTA
Rodney Rowland, To and Fro Transportation
Jeff Bashe, TransOptions
Leona Tanker, CC WIB
Donna Johnston, CC WIB

I. Overview

Leona Tanker welcomed everyone and noted the importance of this initiative to residents of Camden County. Donna Johnston went quickly over the project status by reviewing the Third Quarter Progress Report submitted to the FTA/MSAA on October 31, 2007.

Work sessions are continuing between the VTC and service providers. Their intent is to gather information on process and ridership.

Pippa Woods opened discussion on what is going on concerning transportation in New Jersey. Governor Corzine just signed an Executive Order creating the NJ Council of Access and Mobility at the executive level in the Dept of Human Services; opening the way for NJ CAM work group to develop a plan that examines, coordinates and enhance s transportation dollars from 62 individual federal programs in the state. Human service transportation system built for the individual and public transit system built for the masses; bringing the two together to feed into each to create a more comprehensive system. Also, each county should work toward a coordination system and that casino revenue funds that go to the county be used toward this.

Also, discussed the political aspects of the 8 TMCC sites, of which the WIB is one, to receive Phase 1 Planning Grants from the FTA/MSAA. By reauthorizing the transportation bill became federal statue to coordinate transportation monies with a focus on mobility for everyone. The political aspects of awarding Phase I monies are that the focus on mobility is set in law by the FTA and will not come of for review and/or change for 6 years. The 8 sites to receive Phase I Planning Grants are:

1. Atlanta, GA; Atlanta Regional Commission (<http://www.atlantaregional.com/cps/rde/xchg/>)
2. Aiken, SC; Lower Savannah Council of Governments (<http://www.lscog.org/>)
3. Camden County, NJ; Camden County Workforce Investment Board (<http://www.ccwib.com/Transportation/Welcome.htm>)
4. Fitchburg, MA; Montachusett Area Regional Transit/HBSS (<http://www.montachusetttrta.org/>)
5. Kent, OH; Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (<http://www.partaonline.org/>)
6. Louisville, KY; Transit Authority of River City (<http://www.ridetarc.org/>)
7. Orlando, FL; Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (<http://www.golynx.com/>)
8. Paducah, KY; Paducah Area Transit Systems (<http://www.paducahtransit.com/news.php>)

All 8 sites are tackling a different purpose with some overlap in developing a TMCC.

II. Focus Groups

Donna Johnston gave an update on the input from focus groups held in Pine Hill Borough (Senior Citizens), Winslow Township (Residents), Hopeworks (youth) in Camden City and Faith Tabernacle Preschool (single parent families) in Camden City. See details below. Discussion concerning a shuttle loop from Avondale to 73 in Atco/Winslow Twp: in the past there was not enough rider demand to justify the service.

SJTA is in discussions with Gloucester County concerning a cross county agreement on transportation. Also, had a meeting with May County concerning a daily vehicle run from Wildwood to accommodate the 9 to 5 shift in Atlantic City.

The DOT is doing a corridor study along an 8 mile stretch of Route 73 in Winslow Township — a 14 month study. Putting together focus groups now; John Hainsworth will add Donna Johnston's name to the focus group list.

Focus Groups as of November 7, 2007

	<i>Group</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Location</i>
1	MAPP	9/12/2007	25-30	Agency Reps	County Wide
2	Hopewell	10/18/2007	6	Youth 13-16	Camden City
3	Winslow Twp	10/22/2007	8	Mixed ages 19-76	Sicklerville
4	Day Care	10/23/2007	4	Mixed ages 19-49	Camden City
5	Pine Hill	10/25/2007	10	Seniors 50+	Pine Hill Boro

Highlights

- ✓ Though children may qualify for transportation subsidies, parents do not; though parents qualify, children do not (1)
- ✓ Timeliness and sensitivity of drivers are important (all)
- ✓ Youth is Camden City simply walk to the bus stop and wait for the bus – service every 10 to 20 minutes
- ✓ Youth in Camden City never think of safety being an issue; but everyone else does and it seems that further out (Winslow Twp) the more important safe is – Winslow Twp participants thought there should be armed guards in parking lots and trans centers
- ✓ With Seniors the biggest issue is enough time to do their shopping and having access to cultural/social trips
- ✓ Include transportation information on the Camden County Calendar the is mailed out each year
- ✓ Some will and do use the internet to get information; but all of the Seniors do not – in Pine Hill none have access to a computer; prefer to talk to a real person
- ✓ What they'd like to see on a TMCC website:
 - trip planning information
 - schedules, events, contact numbers
 - The idea of a trip counselor was positively received by all as was Transportation Workshops possibly held in libraries across the County once or twice a year
 - the little things, e.g. transit drivers sell tickets; can have bus passes mailed to you
 - A booth at community fairs/health fairs with information
- ✓ Technology
 - Kiosks not just at central locations but at every stop that includes real time vehicle locator information
 - Electronic fare payment/Smart card, like an EZ Pass – YES
 - Cameras inside and out on fixed route buses
 - Surveillance and security systems
 - Cell phones are a mixed bag; slightly less than half have them (out of 34, 16 have a cell phone and only 6 use text messaging); Pine Hill seniors laughed at me when I asked about text messaging, said they were lucky to be able to see the on and the off buttons on their phones
- ✓ Some of the parking lot notes that came from Winslow Township:

- need a bus that continuously loops from the Park & Ride at the Atlantic City Exp and 536 to the train and back
- Cross Keys: lots of retail development but no transportation
- Avondale to 73 bus/shuttle loop
- ✓ Facilitators note concerning sharing information: as each focus group progressed information came out that surprised others attending, e.g. at the MAPP meeting one said she calls NJ Transit for schedules and they mail them to her; Winslow Twp one mentioned bus passes will be mailed to you if you ask and that transit drivers sell tickets for the exact change.

Camden City Initiative Committee of the WIB met yesterday and will be organizing focus groups in Camden City. Also, suggested a short survey to use on the street.

Work Sessions since Last Meeting

- Medicaid – SenHan
 - met with SenHan
 - trying to get time trip data, looking at dialysis rides specifically
 - data is old – from 2005
 - VTC reaching out to a few of the larger dialysis centers looking for aggregate time data; also, checking with Board of Social Services for similar data; trying to see current picture and see where grouping can occur
 - To and Fro: 15 to 20 percent of all trips are dialysis; some are ride share; patient is weak when they come off dialysis;
 - will share information with VTC
 - required to submit a monthly invoice that includes Medicaid number and from-to addresses
 - dialysis trips/location is doctor driven; all centers are privately owned; 3 more are opening in Camden County
 - growth in diabetes/dialysis as population ages/grows
 - Ocean County study of the growth in the system/population there
 - idea discussed between SenHan and Camden County Freeholders: ride free if to the dialysis center closest to the patient's home; charge a fee for every dialysis center passed on the way
- SJTA & NJ Transit
 - discussion with NJT
 - NJT is working to give more and working with Washington to change some things and gain money back that was lost to non-transit things
 - some routes are being examined
 - Light rail has worked well to help people move around; calls indicate that people are using it
 - gets to NJ Transit big bus to look at areas concerning feeder service to the RiverLine; feeder service will free up time/money

for other runs; NJT and SJTA are looking at Route 73 RiverLine station

- Atco rail station has no bus service because buses can fit into the parking area; but, a connector road was cut through there; but still there is not drop off point; north end of station is a walking viaduct that was filled in that can be dug out/restored and provide access from the north side of the station; will share DVRPC report on this with VCT
- SJTA website: <http://www2.sjta.com/sjta/>
- Faith Based
 - Matrix handout
 - looking at kind of services FBO could put together to be part of TMCC
 - some would be volunteer driver with choice to participate at whatever level they choose to
 - current service for most is one/two vans used for church business, with a volunteer driver; no special training
 - looking to build a collaboration/foundation that will share insurance, drivers; form partnerships with CC municipalities to share gas and maintenance
 - training programs available through NJT; information on trainings at www.njcttp.org which, when there are enough people will bring the training here; also some legislation floating around that requires certification through certain training – it hasn't passed yet
 - Insurance is everyone's issue across the state: VTC will pull together a white paper on insurance for volunteer/not volunteer drivers; each state deals with this differently; when executive CAM comes together this will be one of the issues and the white paper will inform; two week delivery goal on the white paper—at least something that can be shared around and added to
 - need to establish base criteria for drivers, e.g. defensive driving, drug and alcohol

ITS Regional Architecture

- met with DVRPC concerning ITS regional architecture (standardized 'plug and play' transportation technology; see handout)
- 2 things:
 - DVRPC ITS regional architecture one of the first completed in country and is updating now; our project goes down to the next level and they are excited about it
 - See handout:
 - VTC is working through the details and adapting Camden County TMCC to fit

Concept of Operations

- Handout
 - VTC asking for feed back, comments, corrections, edits

Next Steps

- next meeting will be a table top that includes several parts;
 - will last from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM;
 - held at VTC, Rutgers in New Brunswick
 - involve going over and providing detail to general scenarios
- Which date works best for you: December 6th, 12th or 13th?