

**Regional Public Transportation Coordination
IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Tuesday, May 8, 2007
10:00 am– 12:00 pm
American Red Cross, Conference Room A**

ATTENDEES: Becky Jasso (UW & Bay Area Transportation Partnership), Wanda Carter-Dyer (TX DOT), Juan Morrison (ARC), Chamane Barrow (BCCIL), Jane Bavineau (Care for Elders), Ursula Williams (H-GAC), Lydia Abebe (H-GAC), Vernon Chambers (HC Rides), Lucy Lapaglia (TX DOT)

After brief introductions, Becky reviewed the purpose of the meeting to identify ways to implement some of the pilot ideas that emerged from the Steering Committee's efforts. Group identified other groups to bring to the table during the implementation phase: MHMRA (Jose Ramirez) and Houston Center for Independent Living (Tony Koosis).

Formula Funding: Briefly reviewed the differences in the various FTA funds that are allocated according to census data, 5310-Large urban (*per Wanda Carter-Dyer: administered by TxDOT – for Elderly and Disabled and the funds can be used for urban and non-urban areas*), 5307-small urbanized & 5311-rural transit (administered Tx DOT). Amounts and recipient areas are set and each governmental entity determines its provider.

JARC & New Freedom are new formula based programs. Provide money for soft projects (not capital equipment)

Small Urban and Rural call for projects has gone out through Tx DOT. H-GAC-METRO are working on the Urbanized call, expected in late summer. Still working out some aspects of RFP.

Possible projects under New Freedom: Mobility Mgr/Escort program. Can do purchase of service for operations. Must demonstrate sustainability (May need to approach METRO for operations perspective). Demonstrate benefits to provider: Companion service saves moneys because riders become eligible for standard service.

New Freedom targets funds for persons with disabilities under the ADA definition. Question about how older adults can be included. Key concern is what determines eligibility: temporary(cancer, dialysis patients) or permanent disability; what is the eligibility process; if the "assumption of disability" a given if the person asks for service; does a doctor's note secure eligibility; cognitive standards; history of disability, limitations in activity of daily living (2 out of 5)?

Key projects to pursue are the Escort program, Mobility Manager and Transportation Specialist.

Need to identify entities to take lead in proposing projects to implement the pilot projects. UW has taken lead in Montgomery Co. and working to pull together an application. The Centers for Independent Living in Harris Co., Brazoria Co. and Fort Bend might be good partners.

Group expressed concern about the continuing ambiguity of the status of the committee. Group recommends that we submit a letter to Alan Clark urging the continuation of the Steering Committee as originally organized. While we can work to identify the use of \$60,000 in funds provided by the Commission, we need to continue coordination regardless of dedicated funds from Transportation Commission.

Next Meeting: June 14th 10 am-12 pm. H-GAC room should be reserved.