

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COMMITTEE
INFORMATION ITEM

#3A

Date of Meeting: April 25, 2011

SUBJECT: Update / Transportation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities

ELECTION DISTRICTS: Countywide

STAFF CONTACTS: Julie Withrow and Candy deButts, County Administration

BACKGROUND: Last fall, staff from the Office of Transportation Services attended a Disability Services Board (DSB) meeting at the DSB's request to discuss transportation needs of the disabled population in Loudoun. At its December 7, 2010 meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted 8-0-1 (York absent for the vote) to direct staff to prepare a report describing current policies and regulations regarding pedestrian access and transit opportunities for disabled persons and to present findings and recommendations for review to the Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) in February.

On February 16, 2011, the TLUC discussed with staff some actions that might be taken to begin to address these transportation needs. The Committee voted 5-0 to direct staff to work with the Disability Services Board and County human services agencies to assess resource requirements and funding options to conduct an assessment of transit needs of disabled persons in the County.

On February 17th, staff met with the Disability Services Board to discuss the needs assessment. At the end of that discussion, certain DSB members volunteered to form a workgroup with staff and Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) to work on the project. It was agreed that identifying and collecting related existing information was a key first step.

In early March, representatives of the Disability Services Board, Virginia Regional Transit, and County staff (list of members is in Attachment 1) met to discuss the needs assessment and to identify specific short and long-term action steps. At that meeting staff shared relevant information that had been collected to date:

- 2010 Community Needs Assessment
- Countywide Transportation Plan
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan
- DSB Triennial Needs Assessment
- Loudoun Human Services Network Transportation Focus Group Report on Transportation Services for Citizens with Special Needs

- DSB Transportation Report / Gaps in Services and Recommendations
- American Community Survey data

Some of these studies detail existing services while others identify very general or specific needs. However, none serve as a comprehensive community-wide needs assessment on the issue of transportation needs of the disabled population in Loudoun.

Developing an assessment scope and bringing a consultant on board to conduct the assessment and to analyze transportation needs are the overall goals of this project. At the March meeting, however, the workgroup identified shorter-term action steps that would lay the foundation for such a study:

1. Continue to collect and compile information regarding available transportation services, including services offered through County human service agencies.
2. Partner with Loudoun ENDependence (LEND) and Loudoun Cares, inviting Bill Ward and Andy Johnston to participate in the workgroup.
3. Survey local non-profit agencies to determine what transportation services are provided in the community. A copy of this survey is provided in Attachment 2.
4. Using the County's website, develop and conduct a short-term survey of the general public to assess current use of public transportation, as well as needs. As of the writing of this item, this survey tool is under final modification.
5. Contact Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) to determine if state grant funds are available to request assistance in developing a scope for the community needs assistance.
6. Contact regional and national disability and transportation associations to determine if similar transportation needs assessments have been conducted. If so, review the scope and methodology of such assessments.
7. Develop web pages that provide or link to all transportation services available to Loudoun County.
8. Research available grant funds.
9. Collect short-term limited data from callers to VRT and LEND consumers.
10. Consider the use of call centers to serve as a centralized point for service and need requests.

These action steps are in varying stages of implementation. Staff will provide an update to the Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting at the April 25th meeting. After data from the general population survey is captured and analyzed, staff intends on proceeding with development of a scope for a more comprehensive needs assessment. Staff will periodically

provide updates to the Disability Services Board and the Transportation and Land Use Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 - Members of Workgroup / Transportation Needs of Disabled Persons in Loudoun County
- 2 – Survey of Non-Profit Organizations

Workgroup / Transportation Needs of Disabled Persons in Loudoun County

Beacher, Andrew	Office of Transportation Services
deButts, Candy	County Administration
Grunewald, Ellen	Department of Family Services
Finniff, Kathy	Virginia Regional Transit
Forshee, Pam	Virginia Regional Transit
Johnston, Andy	Loudoun Cares
MacGregor, Mark	Virginia Regional Transit
Maynard, Tom	Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services
Motivans, Catherine	Loudoun County ADA Coordinator
Reid, Lynn	Area Agency on Aging
Ryburn, Diane	Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Shipman, Ken	Disability Services Board
Tozer, Tim	Disability Services Board
Ward, Bill	Loudoun ENDependence (LEND)
Wlodkowski, Thomas	Disability Services Board
Williams, Martina	Budget Office
Withrow, Julie	County Administration



Exit this survey

Transportation Survey for Non-Profit Organizations

Loudoun County Government and community stakeholders are working together to identify transportation services for people with disabilities. This survey specifically targets non-profit organizations and transportation services your organization may provide.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey! When the final results are tabulated, we will send a copy to each of the respondents by e-mail address provided.

1. Please provide your organization's contact information.

Staff Contact:

Organization:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

2. Does your organization provide any type of transportation service to the general public?

- Yes
- No

3. Does your organization provide any type of transportation service to a specific target population?

- Yes (Please indicate the targeted populations below)
- No

Specific population served (please specify)

4. If your organization currently provides transportation services for people with disabilities and/or their families, which of the following situations are served? (please select all that apply)

- Transportation services are NOT currently provided by our organization for people with disabilities and/or their families
- Transportation to/from a job or worksite
- Transportation to your organization's facilities
- Transportation to leisure/recreation/community events or activities

Transportation to medical appointments

Other (please specify)

5. Please indicate the eligibility criteria for utilizing your organization's transportation services. (Please select all that apply.)

Age

Disability

Income level

Other

No specific eligibility criteria exists

PLEASE NOTE: For age, disability, income and/or other criteria, state your organization's specific eligibility requirements below.

6. On an average day, how many individuals are served by your organization's transportation services?

None

Less than 10

11-20

21-30

31-40

41-50

More than 50

7. On an average day, how many one-way passenger trips are provided by your organization?

None

Less than 10

11-20

21-30

31-40

41-50

More than 50

8. Is your organization able to meet its current demand for transportation services?

- Yes
- No

9. If your organization is unable to meet its current demand for transportation services, please list the three most important reasons why you or your consumers believe the needs are NOT being met.

10. Please rank in priority order the greatest unmet transportation needs of the population you serve?

	1st priority	2nd priority	3rd priority	4th priority	5th priority
Work-related transportation within Loudoun County	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work-related transportation to neighboring counties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation for social events and activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evening transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weekend transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. How does your organization communicate the availability of its transportation services? (Please indicate all that apply)

- Mailings
- Posters/displays
- Organization newsletter
- Press releases
- Paid advertisements
- Website
- Networking with other organizations
- Word of mouth
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Other (please specify)

12. Please share any additional concerns or comments regarding transportation and the needs of the population your organization serves.

Done

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