

Meeting Summary
SWFRPC Technical Stakeholders Committee
Regional Component of LeeTran VTCLI Grant Project
December 9, 2013

A meeting of county transportation directors in the region was held to discuss regional Veterans transportation issues on December 9, 2013, at the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council offices in Fort Myers, Florida.

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Michelle Arnold	Collier County, Collier Area Transit (CAT) Director
Lucilla Ayer	Executive Director, Collier MPO
Julia Davis	Omnibus Innovations Group, for GoodWheels
Wayne Gaither	LeeTran Planning Department
Peter Gajdjis	LeeTran Paratransit Division, Deputy Director
Paul Goyette	LeeTran Fixed Route Division, Deputy Director
Gary Harrell	Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO
Bob Herrington	Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO Director
Steve Myers	Lee County Transit (LeeTran) Director
Kathryn Sayers	Cape Coral Mini Bus Director
Donald Scott	Lee MPO Director
Debra Stephans	FDOT Transit Project Coordinator
Jim Van Pelt	Sarasota-Manatee MPO (via phone conference)
Richard Weingarten	Charlotte County Transit Director
Cyndy Zambella	Sarasota County Area Transportation (SCAT)
Margaret Wuerstle, Exec. Director	Executive Director, SWFRPC
Jennifer Pellechio	SWFRPC
Tim Walker	SWFRPC
Courtney Lallo	SWFRPC
Sean McCabe	SWFRPC

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order by Margaret Wuerstle at 1:35 pm; introductions.

Agenda Item #2: Project Overview - Ms. Margaret Wuerstle

Ms. Wuerstle provided background on regional component of the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) grant awarded to LeeTran, with assistance from Wayne Gaither of Lee Tran.

Agenda Item #3: Transportation issues - outreach results to date - Ms. Margaret Wuerstle

Ms. Wuerstle explained purpose of meeting of regional transportation directors meeting, i.e. to get feedback from agencies providing transportation on what they believe are the transportation issues for Veterans and the general public.

Agenda Item #4: Regional Veterans Facilities & Transit Routes (GIS Maps) - Mr. Tim Walker

Mr. Walker provided an explanation of the regional transportation maps on display at the meeting:

- Transit map showing fixed routes (Collier, Lee, and Sarasota counties) and the service areas for non-fixed route paratransit services (Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties)
- VA Healthcare Facilities in Region
- Veteran Population by Census Tract
- Veteran Median Income by Census Tract
- Veteran Unemployment by Census Tract

Agenda Item #5: Identify Regional Transportation Gaps Discussion

Transportation directors described types of service provided in their respective counties for general public, TD (transportation disabled), ADA, and Veterans.

Generally agreed that for those persons that use transit, more routes, increased frequency, additional feeder routes, and increased number of bus passes would be appreciated.

Ms. Davis suggested that the regional planning council apply for funding for a regional mobility manager through the FDOT Section 5311 grant that closes January 31, 2013.

Regional fare system was mentioned, and “smart card” technology. Implementation issues for regional fare systems include developing methodologies for fare sharing and data sharing (who gets what percentage of fare money, who gets to report ridership data, etc.)

Ms. Sayers mentioned that an FGCU survey had shown that 94% of people believed that transit is very important, although only 1.3% use it, and that this data could be used to demonstrate public support for improved transit service.

Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan - Ms. Margaret Wuerstle

Ms. Wuerstle asked for feedback on concept of a conducting a study to create a regional multimodal transportation plan. The concept was discussed, and no one objected to moving forward to investigate the feasibility of the concept. Comments included avoiding a new layer of bureaucracy, and that available funding should be spent on transportation system operations.

Agenda Item #6: Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 pm.