

January 17, 2017



AGENDA ITEM 6 B

**TRANSFER OF
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM
DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL PLANNING AGENCY**

TYPE OF ITEM: Action

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

The Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) has requested to reassume the duties as the designated Official Planning Agency (OPA) for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program for Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties. Currently, the CRTPA serves as the OPA for all three as well as Leon County.

HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

In 2014 a determination was made by staff from both the CRTPA and ARPC that the CRTPA was required to serve as the OPA of every county with the CRTPA planning area. Subsequently, the CRTPA was designated as the OPA for Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The CRTPA has been the OPA for Leon County since inception of the program in the early 1990s.

Recent discussions with the CTD staff have determined the CRTPA does not necessarily have to serve as the OPA for the three counties. The ARPC has requested to reassume the duties as the OPA to better coordinate paratransit efforts with other rural counties in the ARPC jurisdiction. The ARPC is currently the OPA for Franklin, Liberty, and Jackson Counties. Rural demands on the coordinated system are quite different than urban areas and this transfer will improve the ARPC's ability to coordinate the transportation programs in the rural counties.

CRTPA staff is confident the ARPC will continue to offer the same level of planning expertise and service to these counties. While the CRTPA staff would not be preparing the agendas and subsequent work products, they would be attending the meetings to ensure a smooth transition. The ARPC has been in regular attendance at recent Local Coordinating Board meetings and is up-to-date on current TD issues in the three counties.

Staff is proposing that this change take place at the end of the present contract year – June 30, 2017. Funding from the CTD to manage the planning activities for the three counties totals approximately \$58,000 and would transfer to the ARPC upon their designation as OPA for the three counties.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Option 1: Request that the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designate the Apalachee Regional Council as the OPA for Gadsden, Jefferson, and Wakulla Counties.

Option 2: CRTPA Board Discretion.