

March 21, 2017



AGENDA ITEM 3 E

**LEON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC)
RECOMMENDATION**

TYPE OF ITEM: Consent

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Chapter 427.11, Florida Statutes and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code, requires that all Florida counties provide paratransit transportation services for those considered transportation disadvantaged. It is also required that a Community Transportation Coordinator administer such transportation services. Since 2002, the Community Transportation Coordinator for Leon County has been StarMetro. StarMetro's Memorandum of Agreement with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged expires on June 30, 2017. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board voted unanimously to retain StarMetro at their January meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Option 1: Approve a resolution retaining StarMetro as the Leon County Community Transportation Coordinator.

HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

Chapter 427.11, Florida Statutes and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code requires that all Florida counties provide services for the transportation disadvantaged. Florida residents are considered transportation disadvantaged if they are physically, mentally, or economically unable to provide their own transportation. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged oversees the disbursement of funds and the operation of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program in each county.

Transportation Disadvantaged trips are one-way trips that cost approximately \$19 dollars each. Most of the trips related to employment, educational, or medical needs. The remaining non-employment related trips are for medical care and life-sustaining functions, such as trips to the grocery store and pharmacy.

In counties where a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) exists, the MPO serves as the designated official planning agency. In counties where an MPO does not exist, the County Commission serves as the designated official planning agency. In both cases, an elected member of the County Commission must chair the local coordinating board for oversight, reviewing and addressing transportation disadvantaged issues. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board (TDCB) in Leon County is chaired by County Commissioner Jimbo Jackson.

Trips provided to the transportation disadvantaged population in any county fall into two categories: sponsored and non-sponsored. A sponsored trip is funded by other sources, usually a state agency or social service agency, such as Medicaid, the Association for Retarded Citizens, or Developmental Services. Non-sponsored trips are those trips paid for by funding directly from grant sources - the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and some funding from the Federal Transit Administration. In Tallahassee and Leon County there are about 162,000 (2016) one-way trips made annually under the coordinated system.

Early in the development of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program it was recognized that the cost per trip could be reduced, and travel made more efficient, by a single entity scheduling and dispatching both sponsored and non-sponsored trips. Paratransit buses carrying more passengers, with fewer empty seats, resulted in a lower per-trip cost. Coordination of this process is mandated by statute, along with the appointment of a Community Transportation Coordinator, to ensure that trips are accurately scheduled and coordinated.

Currently, there are approximately 450 sponsored and non-sponsored trips a day scheduled for transportation disadvantaged clients in Leon County. The Community Transportation Coordinator is StarMetro. Their Memorandum of Agreement with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged expires on June 30, 2017. A new Community Transportation Coordinator must be selected and in place when the contract expires.

The process for selecting the new Community Transportation Coordinator is as follows:

- The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board must make a recommendation to the CRTPA regarding their selection (completed);
- The CRTPA must make a recommendation to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, (CTD) (scheduled for the May business meeting of the CTD) and
- The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged must approve the selection of the CTC at their next business meeting.

Upon this final approval, the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with StarMetro.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Approve a resolution retaining StarMetro as the Leon County Community Transportation Coordinator.
(RECOMMENDED)

Option 2: Board Discretion.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Resolution



THE CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY ON THE 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2017 CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING:

WHEREAS, the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency is the official designated planning agency for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program in the City of Tallahassee and Leon County; and

WHEREAS, as part of their statutory duty must recommend to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged a Community Transportation Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency has considered the need to supply services under this program that best meet the demand in a cost-effective and cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, StarMetro has proven itself to be a highly effective Community Transportation Coordinator for the last 15 years; and

WHEREAS, StarMetro is knowledgeable of the available resources, demands, and needs of the transportation disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS StarMetro is a division of the City of Tallahassee, a governmental agency and this recommendation is not required to comply with the competitive procurement procedures outlines in Chapter 287, Florida Statutes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that StarMetro be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator in Leon County, Florida, for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2017.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2017.

Signed:

Attest:

Curtis Richardson, Chair
Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

Greg Slay, AICP
Executive Director, CRTPA