



March 21, 2017

AGENDA ITEM 3 G

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

TYPE OF ITEM: Consent

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Florida Statutes require that metropolitan planning organizations recommend a Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTC) every five years. The present contract between the CTC and Big Bend Transit of Gadsden County expires on June 30, 2017.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Option 1: Adopt a resolution recommending that the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged enter into a contract with Big Bend Transit of Gadsden County for Community Transportation Coordinator for 2017-2022.

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 are employment or medical related. The remaining non-employment related trips are for 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 MPOs do 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 Gadsden County is chaired by County Commissioner Eric Hinson.

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 Gadsden County, there are about 22,000 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 CTC, to ensure that trips are accurately scheduled and coordinated.

As required, CRTPA staff advertised a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Community Transportation Coordinator in accordance with state law. The sole respondent was Big Bend of Gadsden County, who is the present Community Transportation Coordinator. The proposal was fully responsive and met all submittal criteria.

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

- The MPO must make a recommendation to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, and
- The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged must approve the selection of the MPO at their April quarterly business meeting.

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

Staff is pleased that Big Bend Transit wishes to continue as the Community Transportation Coordinator. They have seamlessly integrated transportation into their other services as well as other community needs. Fiscally sound, they continue to develop practices that result in their revenues meeting the financial demand. In the last three years, Big Bend has driven over 2, 445,000 miles with only a single accident reported. Big Bend has been the CTC in Gadsden since the inception of the program in the late 1980s. They continue to go above and beyond in their safety training and practices.

The final step will occur in May, 2017 when the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged will review the request and give final approval at their quarterly meeting.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Adopt a resolution recommending that the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged enter into a contract with Big Bend Transit of Gadsden for Community Transportation Coordinator for 2017-2022.
(RECOMMENDED)

Option 2: CRTPA Board Discretion.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Resolution



RESOLUTION 2017-3-3G

A RESOLUTION of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency hereby referred to as the “CRTPA” which recommends to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged that Big Bend Transit of Gadsden County be retained as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Fiscal Years 2017-2022.

WHEREAS, The CRTPA is required by Chapter 427.11 Florida Statute to recommend the Community Transportation Coordinator to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;

WHEREAS, The CRTPA has duly advertised Requests for Proposals in accordance with Florida Law;

WHEREAS, Gadsden Senior Services submitted the singular complete proposal; and

WHEREAS, Gadsden Senior Services has a distinguished itself in its performance of the delivery transportation to the citizens of Gadsden County for more than 25 years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CRTPA THAT:

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged continues to contract the services of the Community Transportation Coordinator with Big Bend Transit of Gadsden County.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH 2017.

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

By: _____
Curtis Richardson, CRTPA Chair

Attest: _____
Greg Slay, AICP
CRTPA Executive Director