

**CATS Task Force for Seniors and People with Disabilities
And
Community Mobility Task Force**

Meeting Date: August 2nd, 2005

Meeting Location: CATS

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Eric Weakly	Northern Illinois Area Agencies on Aging
Alice Segal	Anixter Center
Kimberly Robb	RTA
Beth McCluskey	NCCOM
Mary Beth Clark	Pace
David Spacek	IDOT
Dia Cirillo	Work, Welfare and Families
Holly Smith	Kane County DOT
Kerwin Terry	Council for Jewish Elderly

Others In Attendance:

Marcus Arnold	South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Doreen Bogus	Mayors Office
Doug Sullivan	Pace
Tim Jans	CDT
Chris Jans	CDT
Tom Groeninger	Pace
Shamus Misek	UIC
Claire Bozic	CATS
Russell Pietrowiak	CATS
Tom Murtha	CATS

Introductions: Staff explained that the reminder and agenda had inadvertently been sent only to the Task Force for Seniors and People with Disabilities. While we had intended to hold a joint meeting of the Community Mobility Task Force and the Task Force for Seniors and People with Disabilities, mainly members of the notified task force were in attendance. The task force members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June CMTF/TFSPD meeting were approved with this change. UIC (Shamus Misek) asked that the notes be corrected to

reflect that UIC has completed work on the RTA transit check program, with only contract close-out activities remaining.

JARC Updates

JARC updates were not presented as most of the Community Mobility Task Force members were not in attendance.

Regional Updates

Northeastern Illinois Area Agencies on Aging (Eric Weakly) has had meetings in Kendall County where the township officials have been discussing ways to get better service for seniors and people with disabilities. They are very interested in taking some action on the subject, which we will be watching closely. It was noted that Kendall County recently become a member of the Chicago Area Transportation Study, the MPO for northeastern Illinois. The Lake County Paratransit Coordinating Council (Eric Weakly) continues to work on developing by-laws.

RTA (Kimberly Robb) reported on RTA's activities in response to HB1663 which shifts responsibility for the region's ADA Paratransit service entirely to Pace. A transition team consisting of RTA, CTA and Pace, IDOT and CATS have been meeting and exchanging information. An ad hoc team of ADA Advisory group members from Pace, CTA, and RTA has been assembled. Their task will be to provide input on what will be the best way to disseminate information to the disabled community about the changes the shifting of service will cause. August 19th will be the first meeting of the ad hoc committee. CATS (Claire Bozic) informed the group that she will be representing CATS on the transition team, as this is a significant to the region's transportation planning efforts.

Kane County Paratransit Coordinating Council (Holly Smith) continues to work on developing a subsidized taxi program. This program will provide transportation to work for disabled individuals, and may be a candidate for funding under New Freedom.

Legislative Updates

The reauthorization bill signed by the House and Senate was discussed. There is no reason to believe the bill will not be signed by the President. Staff noted that section 3051 contains a special provision covering paratransit service in Illinois. This section states that an agency or organization other than the public transit provider may provide the complementary paratransit service required under the ADA, as long as it meets the requirements set out for such service in the ADA act. This covers the region's current transition to having Pace provide ADA complementary paratransit service regionwide. The section may open the door to other arrangements.

A summary of the three parts of the bill was distributed by staff (Russell Pietrowiak) who discussed them briefly. As expected, the JARC, (new) New Freedom, and 5310 programs all now require a locally developed human services transportation plan.

Selected projects must demonstrate consistency with the plan. In addition, the programs will cover 80% of capital and 50% of operating costs. 10% may be used for administration and planning. IDOT DPIT expressed reservations about funding operating costs, based on the difficulty of ensuring recipients conform to federal requirements. The JARC language used list low-income and disabled users, and now only lists low-income. The New Freedom program is aimed at disabled users. The New Freedom program is seems to be targeted to work and work related trips, as it mentions them specifically.

Staff also noted that the requirement to have the plan does not go into effect until FY 2007, giving the region some time to develop it. Funds don't become available for New Freedom until 2006, but JARC funds will be available sooner than the plan will be developed. How those projects will be selected remains to be seen.

Regional Human Services Transportation Plan Discussion

CATS staff updated the group on our trial of convening the paratransit subcommittee via email. This effort was unsuccessful. Staff presented a proposal to convene the plan subcommittee every other month, and the joint meeting in intervening months. We hope this will provide a good opportunity to hash issues out at the subcommittee and present them at the Joint meetings. The group felt this was a good idea, and the subcommittee will be convened in September. A meeting date was not set. Those volunteers will be contacted by staff to set a date later.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting

The next Joint task force meeting will be held on October 17th, 2005 at 1:30 pm.