

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

Meeting Date: December 5th, 2005

Meeting Location: CATS

Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m.

Attendance

Eric Weakly	Northern Illinois Area Agencies on Aging
Kimberly Robb	RTA
Beth McCluskey	NCCOM
Mary Beth Clark	Pace
Don Kopec	CATS
Kerwin Terry	Council for Jewish Elderly
Virginia Chandler	Metra
Marcus Arnold	South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Elaine Jans	CDT
David Tomzik	Pace
Dr. Ayo Maat	IMPRUVE and BNICEH
Claire Bozic	CATS
Russell Pietrowiak	CATS
Ed Marshall	MM Tech
Rob Borchert	AID
Joe DiJohn	UIC
Jeanine Gavagan	Lake County Center for Independent Living
Sandra Silva	Senior Options Consulting
Holly Ostdick	McHenry County Council of Mayors
Elsa Gutierrez	CTA
Natashia Holmes	IDOT DPIT
Holly Smith	Kane County Council of Mayors / KC DOT

Introductions: Kerwin Terry chaired the meeting. The task force members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Job Access and Reverse Commute Program Status

Metra (Virginia Chandler) reported that she has held 10 outreach events in the fourth quarter. They have ½ in the suburbs and ½ in downtown Chicago. The Chicago events are not JARC related, but does raise awareness of transit.

Pace (Dave Tomzik) reported that Pace will be evaluating the Route 511 Joliet Arsenal Route along with the other services in that area as a part of their restructuring process.

CTA (Elsa Gutierrez) reported on ridership on two of CTA's three projects. Ridership declined 1.7% on Route X4, increased 15.6% on Route 147, and figures were unavailable for the Purple Line at this time.

CATS (Claire Bozic) reported on progress on the JARC program review report. She has been in contact with the local FTA office regarding financial information recipients must submit quarterly into the TEAM system. She has found that there are many data files available to the public under the reports heading, and those will take some time to understand. She has also been in contact with FTA in Washington and learned that they are conducting an in-depth analysis JARC report. She stated that she did not want to repeat these questions and was waiting for the FTA to produce that information. However, the recipients in the room did not recall being contacted by FTA for such an effort.

TFSPD Regional Updates

Area Agencies on Aging (Eric Weakly) reported that Kane County is still considering a ballot initiative for senior services. A referendum increasing property taxes for the purposes of providing senior services was being considered. The Kane County Board will decide if the spring ballot includes the referendum. The question of how the funds would be distributed was asked. McHenry County's process was held up as an example. In their case, a county committee receives the applications and selects grant applicants. The comment was made to make sure enough outreach was undertaken so potential applicants are aware of the grant program.

The Kane County representative (Holly Smith) said that the proposal is for a model like ride DuPage. A subsidized taxi service would probably be the first step.

CATS (Russell Pietrowiak) reported that he had given a presentation about transportation planning for seniors and people with disabilities at the north side providers meeting. There was very good attendance and he felt that some of those attendees might decide to attend CATS' committee meetings to be involved with the process. Kerwin Terry highlighted the fact that it was a very good group that is interested in coordination issues.

Area Agencies on Aging (Eric Weakly) reported that McHenry County had passed their transit plan and would be embarking on plan implementation. He also reported that Lake County Paratransit Coordinating Committee has been talking to UIC about a study of potential paratransit ridership. Mr. Weakly has also been meeting in Will County with some individuals who are interested in starting up a paratransit coordinating council there, too. Eric further reported that IDOT Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation (Dave Spacek) will be speaking to Kendall County about ways to improve public transportation there. Kendall County already has a senior service tax.

Paratransit Update

Pace (Mary Beth Clark) reported on the hearings that have been held for the regional ADA Paratransit Plan. They have been well attended. She also said that the Transition Committee and the Ad Hoc committee will continue to meet even after the plan is submitted to FTA at the end of December.

RTA (Kimberly Robb) reported that 4 public meetings were held with 202 people in attendance. RTA sent a notice to 22575 people who had taken a ride on paratransit within the last 12 months. Ms. Robb received 350 telephone calls with questions and spoke to each caller personally. The plan is going to Pace's board this week, with CATS CTA and RTA acting on the plan later this month. The plan will be sent to FTA on December 30th. The Ad Hoc Committee will begin to meet monthly.

IMPRUVE and BNICEH (Dr. Ayo Maat) asked if RTA would take both verbal and written comments, and stated that some people did not receive a notification letter. How will the public find out and respond to the plan? RTA responded that anyone can call and request a plan, the draft is available now and the final will be available after December 16th.

DPIT (Natashia Holmes) asked what's the difference between the Ad Hoc Committee and the transition committee. RTA responded that the Ad Hoc Committee is made up mainly of representatives of the disability community who are working on information and outreach, while the Transition Committee is made up of agency representatives who are working on the day to day details of the transition to Pace. Ms. Robb's role is a liaison between the two groups. The two groups will continue to meet.

Human Services Transportation Plan Discussion

CATS (Russell Pietrowiak) reported on some listening sessions that have been conducted by the FTA and CTAA and a webinar that APTA posted on their website (http://www.apta.com/government_affairs/safetea_lu/fta_answers.cfm). A variety of questions have been asked regarding the development and implementation of a Human Services Transportation Plan from interested parties throughout the county. At this point the FTA is collecting people's thoughts on the matter. They have done this via listening sessions held throughout the county, via conference calls with interested stakeholders, and with a notice in the Federal register, which ends on December 31st. What can be said at this point is that the FTA has not determined the nature, scope, or strategy that should be used to develop a plan. They have not determined who should be the responsible party for administering JARC and New Freedom and for developing and implementing a Human Services Transportation Plan. The FTA has stated though that all three programs (5310, JARC, and New Freedom Initiative) should be included in one Human Services Transportation Plan. They have also said that the plan does not need to be just a list of projects but can instead be a policy document that helps implement the region's goals by serving as a guide that can be used to help select various projects.

Regional Transportation Plan Update

CATS (Kermit Wies, Ph.D.) discussed the various avenues available by which issues discussed at these meetings can be incorporated into the RTP. He suggest putting together a white paper, which would contain detailed policy statements, facts, etc. would be a worthwhile endeavor. The white paper could then be used either referenced in the RTP or the RTP could extract salient points from the white paper and incorporate them into the RTP.

Other Business / Next Meeting

The next joint task force meeting will be held on Monday February 6th, 2006 at 1:30 pm.