

## Navigation and Transportation Work Group Meeting 1 Notes, 12/5/11

### Sub-topics of Interest

1. System expansion: Expanding routes into rural areas, away from being student-centered. Address problem of isolation.
  - a. How do Chapel Hill residents get out to other parts of the county or other areas?
  - b. Need to consider trade-offs between available resources and the services offered.
  - c. Need to consider differences in services offered for able-bodied older adults vs. for people with disabilities. Needs to be a system, rather than leaving burden on individual.
  - d. Need to keep in mind decision-making process of the multiple organizations and other stakeholder groups.
  - e. EMS concern: How do we reach rural areas in bad weather/disaster emergencies (especially areas north of US-70)?
    - i. EMS and long-term care facilities – mentioned in past MAP, need portable generators and need to think about their availability in the county. People can come to the senior centers, which are generator-ready but still need a generator.
2. Seamless transportation: Making connections within Orange County and externally to other counties
  - a. Need ability to go between senior centers and to other businesses (e.g. dentist) at midday. OPT midday routes do not fulfill this need.
  - b. Need connections to other counties and areas of the Triangle
    - i. Triangle Transit offers this but needs a broader schedule
      1. E.g. RTP 800, 600, 400 routes do this, adults 65+ ride for free
3. Assistance in figuring out transportation system
  - a. Language barriers, route maps are confusing, lack of available support services to assist individuals with identifying a route from A to B.
  - b. Need to connect with physical and mental health services to help with community engagement and information sharing pertaining to transportation.
4. Funding sources and plan integration
  - a. Need to think about sustainable/long-term funding sources vs. short-term patchwork funding sources.
  - b. Economic conditions and feasibility will affect funding strategies. Funding goes into rural vs. urban areas differently.
  - c. Plans are not coordinated between different departments.
5. Driving
  - a. How do we keep people driving safely for as long as possible? Signage and infrastructure need revisiting.

6. Dual-eligible population
  - a. We may need to plan for increased assistance for this population.

## **Existing Services, Programs, and Discussions**

- Projects that will affect our discussions:
  - Consolidation of OPT and CHT that will likely happen in 2013
  - Tax referendum
    - TTA would allocate money collected. Has a light-rail focus, what to do in the meantime before that is ready? Also, focus on bus rapid transit.
  - 2020 Chapel Hill
  
- Pertaining to sub-topic 1
  - Reaching rural areas –
    - 420 Triangle Transit route in Hillsborough
      - Circular route that only goes one way
      - Funded for 3 years and then will need different funding.
    - OPT has two midday runs, but this is not cost efficient
  - System -
    - TTA is providing special trips. CHT is usually free but sometimes charges \$3-4 (costs them \$30) for special trips. Could partner with OPT before merger to do this.
    - Idea for 3-tier system: door-to-door for people with disabilities/less mobile- bus, express runs for able-bodied older adults (could be a charge and done by a private business). Examples in King County, WA and Tucson, AZ, English county bus for rural areas and market day idea where have transportation regularly once a week (different areas each day).
  - Entrepreneurs – what businesses or private organizations have formal or informal transportation services? What businesses could address these issues? Can volunteer services fit in?
    - A Helping Hand is a non-profit agency that utilizes volunteers to cover the counties of Orange, Durham, and Alamance. Charges are based on the client's income.
    - Beacon Hill model
    - How do taxi's (e.g. Doc's, contact Eric \_\_\_\_\_) and churches fit in? Do churches operate buses or vans outside of their church service needs? Cost of insurance might be a barrier.
  - EMS – buddy system as a solution?
  
- Pertaining to sub-topic 3
  - NCGO has website and phone number for consultations, can help determine the route you need to take.

- Pertaining to sub-topic 5
  - Available state funds
    - Section 5310 – for elderly and people with disabilities. Approximately \$7 million available. For new services, for a 1-year period then would need to reapply. Could be good for initial capital. Deadline is January 31 and there is a 20% match.
    - Section 5316 – Job Access Reverse Commute funding. Designed for single parents.
    - Section 5317 –New Freedom funds. For persons with disabilities, of any age.

### **People Missing from Our Work Group**

- Representatives from:
  - TTA
  - UNC
  - Taxi services
  - Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, and Carrboro town governments
  - Churches
  - Entrepreneurs
  - Triangle United Way
  - Rural and Metropolitan Planning Organizations

### **Additional Items**

- Need information and statistics about cost, ridership, etc. for existing services.
  - OPT, Para transit, Chapel Hill Transit consolidation study
  - Al and Tyffany can provide some of this