

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, Place: July 16, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
Fasi Municipal Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room
650 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Voting Members Present:

Catholic Charities: Tom Baty
Hawaii Disability Rights Center: Ann Collins
Easter Seals Hawaii: Michelle Kane
Hawaii Centers for Independent Living: Charlene Ota
Salvation Army: Stacy Honma
Kokua Program, U.H. at Manoa: Vanessa Ota
Ho'opono: Michael Jones

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Department of Transportation Services – Eileen Mark, Scott Ishiyama,
Geri Ung
Disability and Communication Access Board – Judy Paik
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization – Marian Yasuda
City & County Department of Community Services,
Elderly Affairs Division – Pat Tompkins

Ex-Officio Members Unexcused:

Department of Health – Wilfred Young

Guests:

FLT Consulting, Inc.: Faith Trimble, Megan Eliot
Innovative Paradigms: Phil McGuire
Hawaii Department of Transportation: Wally Ito, Ryan Fujii
Hawaii Association of the Blind: Norman Ota
Hui Kupuna VIP: Rose Pou
Citizens for a Fair ADA Ride: Christine Absher, Nora Ota, Laureen Kukino,
Ron Pike, June Uchima, Louise Horio, Julia Belisario

1. Call to Order

Chair T. Baty called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

2. New Business

Upon asking and receiving no objections to temporarily deferring approval of the minutes of the CAT's February 25, 2009, meeting, Chair Baty moved to the first item of New Business, an update on the Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan.

F. Trimble of FLT Consulting, Inc., provided a general overview and update of the City Council-approved Coordination Plan, which aims to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and persons with low incomes:

The Plan's Goals: a) coordinate and establish connections between agencies for transportation service planning; b) increase compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); c) improve public access to information on available transportation service options; d) generate support for additional assistance options (i.e., door-to-door service); and e) involve for-profit transportation providers (taxi services).

Funding Sources: Three Federal Transit Administration grant programs may fund the Plan's projects - Section 5310 Capital Program, 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program, and the 5317 New Freedom Program.

The Plan's Priority Projects: The highest priority demonstration projects were identified by the CAT's CTSO subcommittee, with concurrence from the CAT and Policy Committee - a) Mobility Management Center; b) Goodwill Transfer of Agency Trips; and c) Kalaeloa Shuttle Service.

P. McGuire of Innovative Paradigms explained that the Mobility Management Center will manage and coordinate a variety of projects, including the In-Person Evaluation, Bus Buddy, and Travel Ambassador programs.

He stated that the goal of the Goodwill demonstration project is to assist that agency in providing transportation to its own clients, thereby relieving demand on TheHandi-Van. Using information from Oahu Transit Services, Inc., Innovative Paradigms conducted an analysis showing that the project would improve transportation services for

Goodwill's clients with a corresponding reduction of demand on TheHandi-Van. Discussions have also been conducted with other agencies regarding the establishment of similar transportation arrangements for their clients.

Implementation of these projects is pending approval of the grants, with fund availability anticipated in December 2009-January 2010.

Discussion and questions followed the presentations. T. Baty observed that there could be more competition for the Section 5310 grant funds. R. Fujii responded that while that was likely, the State DOT prefers to see increased competition for, and use of the \$500K-\$600K that the DOT receives annually under that Federal grant. He reiterated that Section 5310 funds are primarily used to purchase vehicles. F. Trimble reminded the group that part of the overall Coordination effort is to also identify and maximize the use of underutilized vehicles.

A number of questions were posed about the specifics of the Goodwill demonstration project. S. Ishiyama noted that Goodwill will lease vans from Vanpool Hawaii, which provides maintenance for all of its leased vehicles. P. McGuire stated that Vanpool Hawaii has a limited number of accessible vehicles. Therefore, should clients require wheelchair accessibility and such vehicles aren't available to the agency, those clients would remain TheHandi-Van clients.

In response to questions about which entity will be responsible for ensuring the Goodwill project's compliance with ADA requirements, F. Trimble, P. McGuire and P. Tompkins clarified that complaints would initially be addressed by Goodwill. If further review is required, the Mobility Management Center would become involved. Ultimate oversight over ADA compliance would be the City's responsibility. While the specific complaint process has yet to be detailed for this demonstration project, it likely will be similar to the manner in which current complaints about TheHandi-Van service and lack of follow-up by OTS are addressed. M. Kane noted that The Easter Seals has a streamlined process that has worked well.

T. Baty inquired about the status of the 'czar' concept to oversee the Mobility Management Center that was earlier discussed. P. McGuire stated that his group would initially serve in that capacity; F. Trimble added that they will be reviewing options for structuring that permanently.

M. Eliot of FLT Consulting, Inc. provided an update and responded to questions about the Kalaeloa Shuttle Service demonstration project.

This is a separate fixed route shuttle service for low income individuals to places of employment, and stops include the Kalaeloa shelter sites and Campbell Industrial Park. The shuttle's expected twenty-person ridership will be comprised of clients of the State Department of Human Services' Benefits and Support Services Division (BESSD). The project will receive \$96,000 in operating funds for one year; its current focus is on obtaining vehicles, both through the use of JARC funds and securing a donated bus from OTS/DTS. Although a comparable service within the City is not planned at this time, it will be reviewed as an identified need.

M. Eliot also described the online Travel Directory list of transportation providers, which will be a project under the auspices of the Mobility Management Center. This Directory will allow users to review the options available to meet their transportation needs. The Directory is approximately halfway completed and should be ready for field-testing in the Fall, with implementation anticipated by the end of this year.

F. Trimble concluded by asking for the CATs' assistance in thinking of new projects to help further the goals of the Coordination Plan, stating that planning needs to begin soon for the next funding cycle.

3. Approval of Minutes

T. Baty requested a motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2009. C. Ota noted that the minutes were not accessible; S. Ishiyama stated that he will send her an accessible copy. A. Collins moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2009. V. Ito seconded the motion; the motion carried.

4. New Business

E. Mark provided an update on the Paratransit In-Person Assessment and Travel Training contract. She stated that the intent of the In-Person assessment is to refine and improve the accuracy of the process for determining TheHandi-Van eligibility. The assessments will be done outside the City's offices, however final details are not yet available. The contract is anticipated to be approved shortly, and information packets about the project will be sent to CAT members and interested persons.

Responding to various questions about the In-Person Assessment process, E. Mark stated the following: TheHandi-Van applicants would likely not be required to be examined by a doctor; In-Person Assessments will be required of all new TheHandi-Van applicants as well as every current user at the time of their eligibility renewal; and,

the project's first year \$800K funding was approved by the Honolulu City Council.

Issues that may be considered by the Mobility Management Center are the possible notification of TheHandi-Van users regarding impending expiration of their eligibility, and whether TheHandi-Van users will be required to pay the \$2.00 one-way fare to get to the In-Person Assessment for renewals.

5. Other Business

C. Ota inquired about whether there was a process for establishing membership on the CAT. T. Baty responded that there was, and that her organization was one of the agency members. S. Ishiyama explained that member agencies are specified by the CAT's by-laws, and agreed to send her a copy.

It was determined that the next meeting of the CAT would likely be in the Fall. There being no other business or issue raised for discussion, T. Baty adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.