

Alachua • Bradford

Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist

Hamilton • Lafayette • Levy • Madison

Mamilton • Larayette • Levy • Madison

Marion • Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 31, 2016

TO:

Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM:

Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

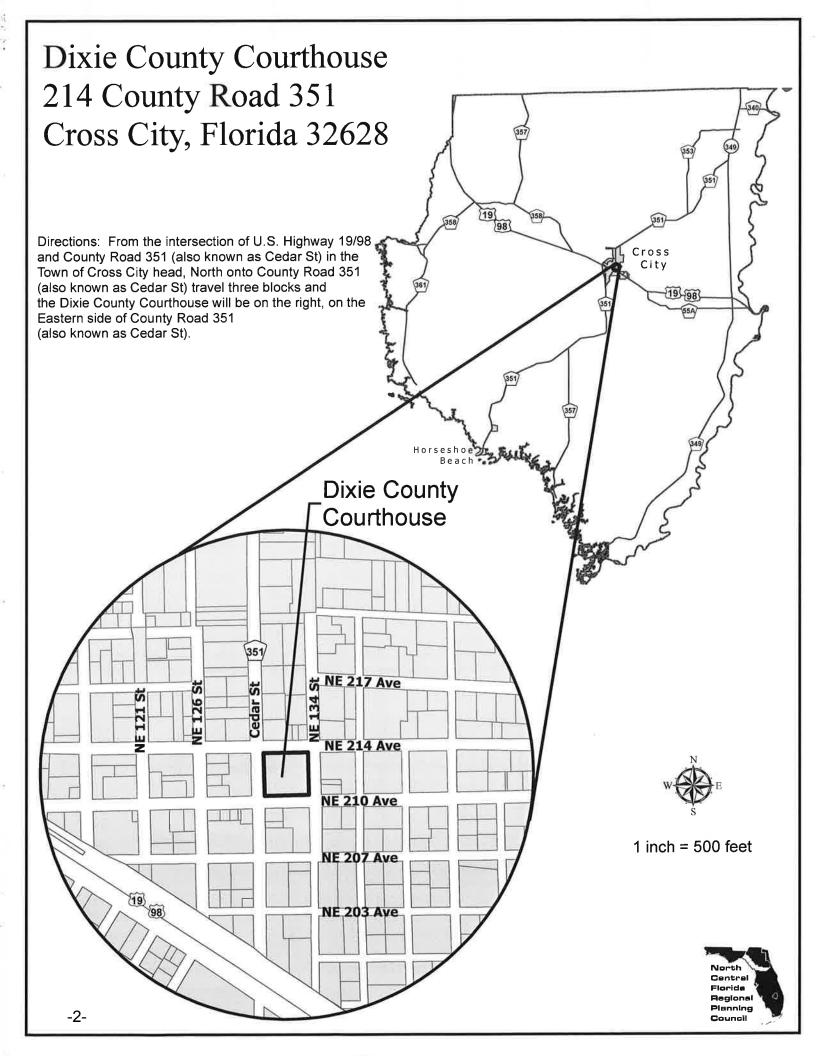
SUBJECT:

Public Hearing and Meeting Announcement

The Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board will hold its annual public hearing and regular business meeting <u>Thursday</u>, <u>April 7</u>, <u>2016 at 1:00 p.m.</u> in the County Commission Meeting Room located in the Dixie County Courthouse at 214 NE Hwy 351, Cross City, Florida. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

Attached is the meeting agenda and supporting materials. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-226-0690 extension 110.

#### Attachments





Alachua • Bradford

Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist

Hamilton • Lafayette • Levy • Madison

Marion • Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

# DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD

#### PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA

County Commissioners' Meeting Room Dixie County Courthouse Cross City, Florida Thursday **April 7, 2016** 1:00 p.m.

- I. PUBLIC HEARING CALL TO ORDER
  - A. Invocation
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Introductions
  - D. Receive Public Testimony
  - E. Close Public Hearing
- II. BUSINESS MEETING CALL TO ORDER
  - A. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

**ACTION REQUIRED** 

B. Approval of the January 7, 2016
Minutes

Page 7

**ACTION REQUIRED** 

#### III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Community Transportation Coordinator Designation

Page 11 NO ACTION REQUIRED

<u>Staff will discuss the the Dixie County Community Transportation Coordinator</u> designation

**B.** Resolution 2016-01

Page 13

**ACTION REQUIRED** 

Enclosed is Resolution 2016-01 supporting the designation of Dixie and Gilchrist Counties as a combined service area under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Page 17

**ACTION REQUIRED** 

The Board needs to review and approve the 2016/17 Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

B. Elect Vice-Chair

Page 87

**ACTION REQUIRED** 

The Board needs to re-elect Sandra Collins as Vice-Chair or elect a new Vice-Chair

C. Operations Reports

Page 89

NO ACTION REQUIRED

D. 2016 Florida Legislative Session

Page 95

NO ACTION REQUIRED

#### V. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Comments
  - 1. Members
  - 2. Citizens

#### VI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. July 7, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
- B. October 6, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
- C. January 5, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
- D. April 6, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed materials, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-226-0690, extension 110.

t:\lynn\td2016\dixie\agendas\apr.docx

<sup>\*</sup> Please note that this is a tentative meeting schedule, all dates and times are subject to change.

# DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD

MEMBER/REPRESENTING	ALTERNATE/REPRESENTING
Commissioner Jason Holifield	Not Applicable
Local Elected Official/Chair	
Sandra Collins, Vice-Chair	Janell Damato
Florida Department of Transportation	Florida Department of Transportation
Grievance Committee Member	1
Debbie Andrews	Vacant
Florida Department of Children and Families	Florida Department of Children and Families
Vacant	Jeff Aboumrad
Florida Department of Education	Florida Department of Education
	Grievance Committee Member
Vacant	Vacant
Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Deweece Ogden	Pamela Hagley
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Jeannie Carr	Sifoa Nunu
Regional Workforce Board	Regional Workforce Board
Vacant	Vacant
Florida Association for Community Action	Florida Association for Community Action
Term ending June 30, 2017	Term ending June 30, 2017
Tim Alexander	Vacant
Public Education	Public Education
Grievance Committee	1 dono Baddanon
Vacant	Vacant
Veterans	Veterans
Term ending June 30, 2017	Term ending June 30, 2017
Vacant	Vacant
Citizen Advocate	Citizen Advocate
Term ending June 30, 2015	Term ending June 30, 2015
Vacant	Vacant
Citizen Advocate - User	Citizen Advocate - User
Term ending June 30, 2015	Term ending June 30, 2015
Vacant	Vacant
Persons with Disabilities	Persons with Disabilities
Term ending June 30, 2015	Term ending June 30, 2015
Vacant	Vacant
Elderly	Elderly
Term ending June 30, 2017	Term ending June 30, 2017
Scott Pendarvis	Vacant
Medical Community	Medical Community
Term ending June 30, 2016	Term ending June 30, 2016
Tonya Hiers	Brooke Ward
Children at Risk	Children at Risk
Term ending June 30, 2016	Term ending June 30, 2016
Vacant	Vacant
Private Transit	Private Transit
Term ending June 30, 2016	Term ending June 30, 2016
Term ending June 30, 2010	Term ending June 30, 2010

# DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

County Commissioners' Meeting Room Dixie County Courthouse Cross City, Florida Thursday January 7, 2016 1:00 p.m.

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jeff Aboumrad, Florida Department of Education Representative Tim Alexander, Public Education Representative Debbie Andrews, Florida Department of Children and Families Representative Sandra Collins, Florida Department of Transportation Representative Deweece Ogden, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Representative

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commissioner Jason Holifield, Chair Tonya Hiers, Early Childhood Services Representative Jeannie Carr, Regional Workforce Board Representative

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Matthew Pearson, Suwannee River Economic Council Scott Pendarvis, Dixie County EMS Heidi Schnedt, Florida Department of Children and Families

#### STAFF PRESENT

Lynn Godfrey, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

#### I. BUSINESS MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Due to Chair Holifield's absence, Vice-Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### A. Invocation

Mr. Matthew Pearson gave the invocation.

#### B. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Collins led the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### C. Introductions

Vice-Chair Collins asked everyone to introduce themselves.

#### D. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

ACTION: Tim Alexander moved to approve the meeting agenda. Deweece Ogden

seconded; motion passed unanimously.

#### E. Approval of the October 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Deweece Ogden moved to approve the October 1, 2015 meeting minutes.

Tim Alexander seconded; motion passed unanimously.

#### II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Multi-County Service Area

Ms. Lynn Godfrey, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Senior Planner, stated that the designation of Dixie and Gilchrist Counties as a multi-county service area under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program will be postponed until 2017. She explained that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has issued a request for proposals for the Community Transportation Coordinator designation effective July 1, 2016. She said if a new Community Transportation Coordinator is designated for either Dixie or Gilchrist Counties, the counties cannot be combined into one service area.

#### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan Amendments

Ms. Godfrey stated that transportation projects selected for Federal Transit Administration funding must be included in the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. She said Suwannee River Economic Council has applied for U.S.C. Section 5311 and 5339 grant funds. She said both transportation projects have been included in the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

The Board reviewed the Service Plan amendments.

ACTION: Deweece Ogden moved to approve the amendments to the Dixie County

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. Tim Alexander seconded;

motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Community Transportation Coordinator Designation

Ms. Godfrey stated that Suwannee River Economic Council's Memorandum of Agreement will expire June 30, 2016. Therefore, she said the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council issued a request for proposals to recommend a Community Transportation Coordinator for Dixie County.

Ms. Godfrey said proposals are due February 22, 2016. She explained that, if more than one proposal is received, the Council's Executive Director will appoint a Technical Review Committee to review and rank the proposals. She said the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged will designate the Community Transportation Coordinator at its April 8, 2016 meeting.

#### C. Operations Reports

Ms. Godfrey stated that the operations reports are included in the meeting packet for the Board's review. She said there is no action required on this agenda item.

The Board reviewed the operations reports.

#### III. OTHER BUSINESS

#### A. Comments

#### 1. Members

Mr. Tim Alexander apologized for his lack of attendance at meetings. He introduced Mr. Scott Pendarvis and said Mr. Pendarvis may be interested in serving on the Board.

#### 2. Citizens

Ms. Godfrey announced that Suwannee River Economic Council received the 2015 Rural Community Transportation Coordinator of the Year award from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

Ms. Collins announced that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was awarded the 2015 Designated Official Planning Agency of the Year.

#### IV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Ms. Godfrey stated that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 7, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT		
The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.		
Coordinating Board Chair	Date	
t:\lynn\td2016\dixie\minutes\jan.doc		



Serving Alachua • Bradford Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist Hamilton • Lafayette • Levy • Madison Marion • Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Geinesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955,2200

March 31, 2016

TO: Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM: Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Dixie County Community Transportation Coordinator Designation

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

For information only. No action required.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is the Designated Official Planning Agency for Dixie County under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged requires the designated official planning agency use a competitive request for proposals selection process to recommend a Community Transportation Coordinator at the end of each contract period.

Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. is the designated Community Transportation Coordinator for Dixie County. Suwannee River Economic Council Inc.'s Memorandum of Agreement will expire June 30, 2016.

The Council issued a request for proposals for Dixie County Community Transportation Coordinator designation on January 7, 2016. The Council received one proposal from Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. in response to the request for proposals. The Technical Review Committee members evaluated Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc.'s proposal and found it responsive to the request for proposals.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Servina

Alachua • Bradford

Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist

Hamilton • Lafayette • Levy • Madison

Marion • Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 31, 2016

North

Central

Florida

Regional **Planning** Council

TO:

Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM:

Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT:

Designation of a Multi-County Designated Service Area and Establishment of a Multi-

County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Consider adopting the attached resolution supporting the designation of Dixie and Gilchrist Counties as a multi-county designated service area under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program and the establishment of a multi-county Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating **Board for Dixie and Gilchrist Counties.** 

#### BACKGROUND

The Dixie and Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards have discussed the designation of Dixie and Gilchrist Counties as a multi-county designated service area under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The Boards have also discussed the establishment of a multicounty Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for Dixie and Gilchrist Counties.

Attached is a draft resolution supporting the designation of Dixie and Gilchrist Counties as a multi-county designated service area under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program and the establishment of a multi-county Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for Dixie and Gilchrist Counties. The Board needs to consider adopting the attached resolution.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not he sitate to contact me.

#### Attachment

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

THE DIXIE TRANSPORTATION A RESOLUTION OF COUNTY DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF GILCHRIST AND DIXIE COUNTIES BY THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED AS A COMBINED DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA UNDER FLORIDA'S TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM AND SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD FOR DIXIE AND GILCHRIST COUNTIES

WHEREAS, Rule 41-2.002(4) of the Florida Administrative Code defines a designated service area as a geographical area recommended by a designated official planning agency, subject to approval by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged;

WHEREAS, the designated service area defines the community where coordinated transportation services will be provided to the transportation disadvantaged;

WHEREAS, the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board is the Coordinating Board for Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program for Dixie County;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board is to identify local service needs and to provide information, advice and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator on the coordination of services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged through the Florida Coordinated Transportation System;

WHEREAS, the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board supports the designation of Dixie and Gilchrist Counties by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged as a combined designated service area under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program; and

WHEREAS, the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board supports the establishment of a multi-county Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for Dixie and Gilchrist Counties and supports the appointment of members to a multi-county Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for Dixie and Gilchrist Counties by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency as designated by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in accordance with Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD THAT:

1. In accordance with Chapter 427, Florida Statues and Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code, the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board supports the designation of a combined designated service area by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program; and

2. In accordance with Chapter 427, Florida Statues and Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code, the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board supports the establishment of a multi-county Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for Dixie and Gilchrist Counties and supports the appointment of members to a multi-county Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for Dixie and Gilchrist Counties by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency as designated by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

APPROVED AND DULY ADOPTED by the Gilchrist County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, this 7th day of January 2016.

Jason Holifield, Chair

Date



Serving

Alachua • Bradford

Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist

Hamilton • Lafayette • Levy • Madison

Marion • Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 87th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 31, 2016

TO:

Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM:

Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT:

2016/17 Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2016/17 Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

#### BACKGROUND

Chapter 427, Florida Statutes requires Suwannee River Economic Council prepare a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan in cooperation with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the local Coordinating Board's approval. This plan provides information needed by the local Coordinating Board to continually review and assess transportation disadvantaged needs for the service area. The Service Plan must be submitted to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged annually.

Attached is the draft 2016/17 Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. If you have any questions concerning the Plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 110.

#### Attachment

t:\lynn\td2016\dixie\memos\tdsp.docx

# Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

# Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board





# Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Approved by the

Dixie County
Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

2009 NW 67th Place Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 www.ncfrpc.org/mtpo 352.955.2000

Jason Holifield, Chair

with Assistance from

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council 2009 NW 67th Place Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 www.ncfrpc.org 352.955.2200

and

Suwannee River Economic Council P.O. Box 70 Live Oak, FL 32060 386.362.4115

April 7, 2016





THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

# **Table of Contents**

Chapte	er I: Development Plan	1
Α.	Introduction to The Service Area	1
В.	Service Area Profile and Demographics	9
C.	Service Analysis	16
Chapte	er II: Service Plan	
Α.	Operations	25
В.	Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure Justification	36
Chapte	er III: Quality Assurance	37
Α.	Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation Process	37
Аp	pendices	
Appen	ndix A: Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures.	<b>A</b> -1
Appen	ndix B: Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure Justification	B-1
Appen	ndix C: Vehicle Inventory	C-1
Appen	ndix D: Safety Compliance Self Certification	D-1

Dixie County
Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

# Chapter I: Development Plan

# A. Introduction to The Service Area

The purpose of this section is to provide information about the organization and development of Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program in Dixie County. This Plan shall serve as the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan under the federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

# Background of Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program

Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program began in 1979 with the adoption of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. The Florida Legislature adopted this legislation to provide transportation disadvantaged services in a coordinated fashion.

The transportation disadvantaged are defined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, as:

"those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent on others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in s. 411.202, Florida Statutes."

In 1989, the Florida Legislature reviewed Chapter 427, Florida Statutes according to the State's Regulatory Sunset Act (Section 11.61, Florida Statutes). During this legislative review, the Legislature decided to reenact Chapter 427, Florida Statutes with several revisions.

In 1990, Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code was adopted to implement the provisions of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. In addition, Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code assigns the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged with the responsibility to accomplish the coordination of transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

The following sections discuss each of the major components of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

#### a. Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged is independent and reports to the Governor and the Legislature. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes states that:

"the purpose of the Commission is to accomplish the coordination of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged."

The Governor appoints seven members to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. Five of the members must have significant experience in the operation of a business and two of the members must have a disability and use the transportation disadvantaged system. The Chair is appointed by the Governor and Vice-Chair is elected annually from the membership of the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

#### b. Designated Official Planning Agency

The Designated Official Planning Agency is responsible for transportation disadvantaged planning in a given area. In the urbanized areas of the state, the planning agencies are metropolitan planning organizations. In the rural areas of the state, organizations which are eligible to be planning agencies are:

- county or city governments
- regional planning councils
- metropolitan planning organizations
- local planning organizations who are currently performing planning activities in the service area

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is the Designated Official Planning Agency for Dixie County. According to Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code, responsibilities of the Designated Official Planning Agency include:

- Appointment of members to the local coordinating boards.
- Provision of staff support to the local coordinating boards.
- Provide a recommendation to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged regarding the initial selection or re-designation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

#### c. Local Coordinating Boards

The Designated Official Planning Agency is responsible for appointing a local coordinating board in each county. The purpose of the coordinating board is to provide advice and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator concerning the coordination of transportation services.

According to Rule 41-2 of the Florida Administrative Code, the Designated Official Planning Agency appoints an elected official, to serve as the official chairperson for all local coordinating board meetings. The Board shall elect a Vice-Chair.

The following agencies or other groups serve on the local coordinating boards as voting members:

- An elected official from Dixie County.
- A representative of the Florida Department of Transportation.
- A representative of the Florida Department of Children and Family Services.
- A representative of the Public Education Community.
- A representative of the Florida Department of Education.
- A person recommended by the local Veterans Service Office representing veterans of the county.

- A person who is recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action as representing the economically disadvantaged.
- A person over age sixty representing the elderly.
- A person with a disability representing the disabled.
- Two citizen advocate representatives in the county; one who must be a person who uses the transportation services of the system as their primary means of transportation.
- A local representative for children at risk.
- In areas where they exist, the Chairperson or designee of the local mass transit or public transit system's Board.
- A representative of the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs.
- An experienced representative of the local private for profit transportation industry.
- A representative of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.
- A representative of the Regional Workforce Development Board.
- A representative of the local medical community.

The following are some of the duties of the local coordinating board:

- Approving the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.
- Evaluating the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance.
- Reviewing all applications for local, state and federal transportation disadvantaged funds.

#### d. Community Transportation Coordinator

The Community Transportation Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that coordinated transportation services are provided to serve the transportation disadvantaged. Suwannee River Economic Council is the designated Community Transportation Coordinator for Dixie County.

Suwannee River Economic Council may provide all or a portion of transportation service in a designated service area. Suwannee River Economic Council may subcontract or broker services if it is cost effective and efficient. The following are some responsibilities of Suwannee River Economic Council:

- In cooperation with the planning agency, develop and implement a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.
- Execute contracts for service with transportation operators.
- Review all applications for federal, state and local funding (in conjunction with the local coordinating board).
- Prepare an annual operating report.

Development Plan Page 3

### 2. Designation Date/History

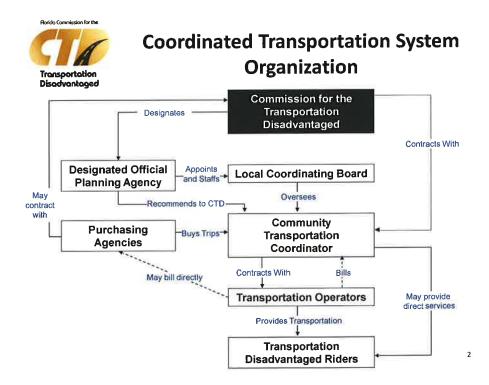
Suwannee River Economic Council is a private non-profit corporation, chartered by the State of Florida in 1966. In 1972, Suwannee River Economic Council began the Suwannee Valley Transit System in Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee and Lafayette Counties. In 1974, Suwannee Valley Transit Authority was created to serve Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties. Suwannee River Economic Council operates as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette and Union Counties.

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged designated Suwannee River Economic Council's designation as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Dixie County on January 9, 1992. Suwannee River Economic Council was selected as the Community Transportation Coordinator through a request for proposals process. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged redesignated Suwannee River Economic Council as the Dixie County Community Transportation Coordinator effective July 1, 2011.

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council was designated the official planning agency for Dixie County in April 1990. The Council was selected through a non-competitive selection process.

### 3. Organization Chart

The following chart identifies the partners involved in Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.



# 4. Consistency Review of Other Plans

#### a. Local Government Comprehensive Plans

The local comprehensive planning process involves essentially four basic steps:

- the collection and analysis of pertinent data concerning the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the study area;
- 2. the formulation of goals for future growth and development;
- 3. the development of objectives and policies guided by the goals which are the essence of the Comprehensive Plan;
- 4. the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the Dixie County Comprehensive Plan.

#### b. Regional Policy Plans

The North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan adopted in October 2011 by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is a long-range guide for the physical, economic and social development of a planning region which identifies regional goals and policies. The plan serves as a basis for the review of the resources and facilities found in local government comprehensive plans originating in the region. Public transit is addressed in Section V of the plan. Regional Goal 5.6. is to reduce the unmet general trip demand of the north central Florida transportation disadvantaged population.

The following policies are included in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan to reduce unmet trip demand:

- Policy 5.6.1. Improve mobility options for low-income, elderly and disabled citizens.
- **Policy 5.6.2.** Increase funding for coordinated transportation systems for the transportation disabled.
- Policy 5.6.3. The Council and/or the Metropolitan Transportation Organization for the Gainesville
  Urbanized Area should provide technical assistance to designated north central Florida local
  transportation coordinating boards and community transportation coordinators.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

#### c. Transit Development Plans

Not applicable.

# d. Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 5-Year/20-Year Plan

The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 5-Year/20-Year Plan establishes goals, objectives and a plan of action for the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. The plan presents forecasts of demand for transportation disadvantaged services, the cost of meeting the forecasted demand, forecasts of future funding for transportation disadvantaged services and approaches to balancing the supply and demand for these services. The plan also provides forecasts of the transportation disadvantaged population, demand for trips, number of trips supplied, unmet demand for trips and operating expenses.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 5-Year/20-Year Plan.

e. Metropolitan Planning Organization Long-Range Transportation Plans

Not applicable.

f. Transportation Improvement Program

Not applicable.

# 5. Public Participation

The Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Board includes representatives of public, private and non-profit transportation and human services providers as well as the public to participate in the development and update of the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. The Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan is developed through input of the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Board whose membership includes citizens and human service providers.

# 6. Dixie County Coordinating Board Membership Certification

# DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION

Name:	North Central Florida Regional Planning Council	_
Address:	2009 N.W. 67th Place	_
	Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603	_

The Designated Official Planning Agency named above hereby certifies to the following:

1. The membership of the Local Coordinating Board, established pursuant to Rule 41-2.012(3), Florida Administrative Code, does in fact represent the appropriate parties as identified in the following list; and

2. The membership represents, to the maximum extent feasible, a cross section of the local

community.

Signature:

Daniel Riddick, Chair

Date: 3-24-16

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	TERM ENDING
- 151 - 1700-1-1771-14	Jason Holifield	Vacant	No Term
Local Elected Official/Chair	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2017
Elderly	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2018
Disabled	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2018
Citizen Advocate	and the second s	Vacant	6/30/2018
Citizen Advocate/User	Vacant Torre Higgs	Brooke Ward	6/30/2019
Children at Risk	Tonya Hiers	Vacant	6/30/2017
Florida Association for Community Action	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Public Education	Tim Alexander	Janell Damato	No Term
Florida Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins		No Term
Florida Department of Children and Families	Debbie Andrews	Vacant	No Term
Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant	Vacant	No Term
Florida Department of Education	Jeff Aboumrad	Vacant	No Term
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Deweece Ogden	Pamela Hagley	
Regional Workforce Development Board	Jeannie Carr	Sifoa Nunu	No Term
Veteran Services	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2017
Local Mass Transit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No Term
Private Transportation Industry	Vacant	Vacant	6/30/2019
Local Medical Community	Scott Pendarvis	Vacant	6/30/2019

# 7. Dixie County Transportation Coordinating Board Membership

# DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD

MEMBER/REPRESENTING	ALTERNATE/REPRESENTING	
Commissioner Jason Holifield	Not Applicable	
Local Elected Official/Chair		
Sandra Collins, Vice-Chair	Janell Damato	
Florida Department of Transportation	Florida Department of Transportation	
Grievance Committee Member		
Debbie Andrews	Vacant	
Florida Department of Children and Families	Florida Department of Children and Families	
Vacant	Jeff Aboumrad	
Florida Department of Education	Florida Department of Education	
	Grievance Committee Member	
Vacant	Vacant	
Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Florida Department of Elder Affairs	
Deweece Ogden	Pamela Hagley	
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	
Jeannie Carr	Sifoa Nunu	
Regional Workforce Board	Regional Workforce Board	
Vacant	Vacant	
Florida Association for Community Action	Florida Association for Community Action	
Term ending June 30, 2017	Term ending June 30, 2017	
Tim Alexander	Vacant	
Public Education	Public Education	
Grievance Committee		
Vacant	Vacant	
Veterans	Veterans	
Term ending June 30, 2017	Term ending June 30, 2017	
Vacant	Vacant	
Citizen Advocate	Citizen Advocate	
Term ending June 30, 2015	Term ending June 30, 2015	
Vacant	Vacant	
Citizen Advocate - User	Citizen Advocate - User	
Term ending June 30, 2015	Term ending June 30, 2015	
Vacant	Vacant	
Persons with Disabilities	Persons with Disabilities	
Term ending June 30, 2015	Term ending June 30, 2015	
Vacant	Vacant	
Elderly	Elderly	
Term ending June 30, 2017	Term ending June 30, 2017	
Scott Pendarvis	Vacant	
Medical Community	Medical Community	
Term ending June 30, 2016	Term ending June 30, 2016	
Tonya Hiers	Brooke Ward	
Children at Risk	Children at Risk	
Term ending June 30, 2016	Term ending June 30, 2016	
Vacant	Vacant	
Private Transit	Private Transit	
Term ending June 30, 2016	Term ending June 30, 2016	

# B. Service Area Profile and Demographics

## 1. Dixie County Service Area Description

The unincorporated area of Dixie County is approximately 711 square miles or 454,951 acres in area. The County is located in the north central portion of the state of Florida and is bordered on the north by Lafayette County, on the east by Gilchrist County and on the west by Taylor County. The Suwannee River forms a boundary on the east, the Steinhatchee River forms a boundary on the northwest and the Gulf of Mexico forms a boundary on the west.

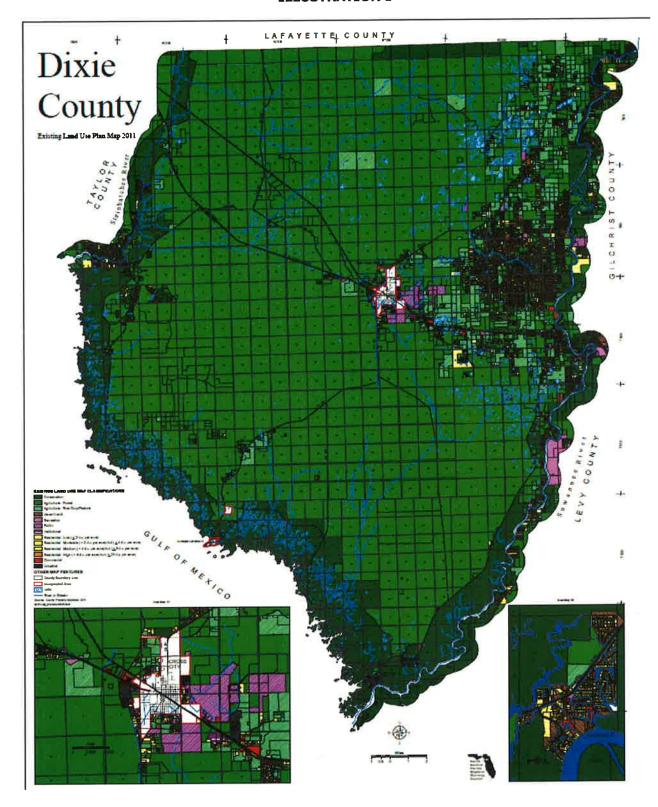
The central portion of the County contains the County seat which is the Town of Cross City containing 1,728 persons in 2013 which accounts for 10.5 percent of the County's total population.

# 2. Demographics

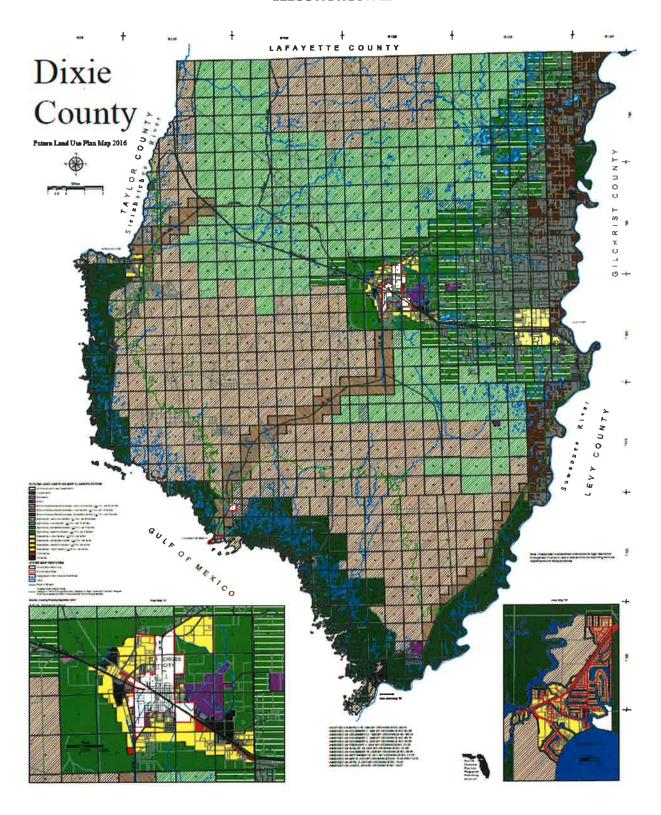
#### a. Land Use

The purpose of this section is to provide information concerning Dixie County's existing and future land use. This information was obtained from Dixie County's Comprehensive Plan. Illustrations I and II are the Dixie County existing and future land use maps.

#### **ILLUSTRATION I**



#### **ILLUSTRATION II**



#### b. Population/Composition

The 2010 US Census Bureau reports Dixie County's total population in 2010 as 16,422. As Table 1 shows, approximately 78 percent of the County's population is located within the unincorporated areas. Approximately 68 percent of the population live in the Cross City North census division which covers 41 percent of the County's land area. The population/land area percentage for the Cross City South census division is 31.7/58.7.

TABLE 1
Population Counts and Estimates
Dixie County

Area	Census 2010	Population Estimate 2015	
Dixie County	16,422	16,468	
Town of Cross City	1,728	1,733	
Town of Horseshoe Beach	169	159	
Unincorporated Area	14,525	14,576	

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 1,536 individuals are inmates and patients residing in federal and state government-operated institutions. They are considered nonresidents of the local area for revenue-sharing purposes. Institutionalized individuals are counted as part of the general population, so they are reflected in statistics on age. However, they are not included in the statistics for income or poverty levels for households.

#### c. Population Densities

With approximately 705 miles of land area, the County population density in 2010 was approximately 23 persons per square mile.

Population Density
Dixie County

TABLE 2

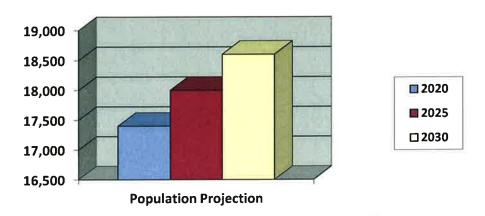
Location	2010 U.S. Census Population	Square Miles	Persons Per Square Mile
Dixie County	16,422	705	23

Source: 2010 Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts

#### d. Population Projections

According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, Dixie County will have a total population of approximately 17,400 by the year 2020 and by 2025, the total County population will be approximately 18,000. Illustration III shows population projections for 2020, 2025 and 2030.

#### **ILLUSTRATION III**



Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

#### e. Population Age Distribution

Population age distribution is useful in determining mobility needs which transit might meet. The elderly typically are less likely to have access to a vehicle and thus are more dependent on the transit system for their travel needs. Table 3 shows estimates of the County's population by age group. The 25-54 year-old age group is the largest age group within the County. The 65 and over population is the smallest age group within the County, comprising 13 percent of the population.

TABLE 3
Population Estimates By Age Group
Dixie County

Age Group	2014 Population Estimate
0-4	839
5-17	2,249
18-24	1,215
25-54	6,073
55-64	2,611
65-79	2,760
80+	709

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

#### f. Disability and Self Care Limitations

According to the 2010 Census Bureau American Fact Finder, Dixie County had an estimated disabled population of 3,588 in 2014. The population 5 to 17 years of age with a disability was 197. The population 18 to 64 years of age with a disability was 1,826. The population 65 years and over with a disability was 1,565.

#### g. Employment

The 2010 Bureau of the Census American Fact Finder estimates that Dixie County's labor force (individuals who are able to work but may not be employed) in 2014 was 13,280 with 39 percent of people employed. The estimated unemployment rate for Dixie County in 2014 was 8.3 percent.

#### h. Income

According to the 2010 Bureau of the Census State and County Quick Facts, the median household income for Dixie County in 2014 was \$35,000. In addition, the 2010 Census reports that persons below poverty level in 2014 in Dixie County was 27.1 percent. Table 4 characterizes the levels of household income in Dixie County. Table 5 shows income levels that are currently used to define the federal poverty level.

TABLE 4
Income And Poverty Status
Dixie County

Median Household Income 2014	Persons Below Poverty Level
\$35,000	27.1%

Source: Bureau of the Census 2010, State and County Quick Facts

TABLE 5

# 2016 Poverty Guidelines For The 48 Contiguous States And The District of Columbia

Persons In Family/Household	Poverty Guideline
1	\$11,880
2	\$16,020
3	\$20,160
4	\$24,300
5	\$28,440
6	\$32,580
7	\$36,730
8	\$40,890

<sup>\*</sup> For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,780 for each additional person.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, the total number of Medicaid recipients in Dixie County in 2012 was 4,086. Table 6 shows individuals who received Supplemental Security Income.

#### **TABLE 6**

# Supplemental Security Income Dixie County 2014

Type Of Assistance	Average Monthly Cases
Aged Assistance	44
Blind and Disabled	727

Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida

#### i. Housing

The 2010 Bureau of the Census estimates that in 2014, the total number of households in Dixie County was 6,020 and that the average household size was 2.47.

#### **TABLE 8**

# Housing Dixie County

Housing Units	Owner-Occupied Housing Rate, 2010-2014	Median Value Of Owner- Occupied Housing Units, 2010-2014
9,155	78.4%	\$79,000

Source: 2010 U.S. Bureau of the Census, Quick Facts

## j. Health

Currently, there are no hospitals or nursing homes in Dixie County. According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, in 2014, there were there 2 licensed doctors of medicine and 144 registered and practical nurses practicing in Dixie County.

#### k. Transportation

According to the 2010 Bureau of the Census American Fact Finder, 304 occupied housing units in Dixie County had no vehicle available in 2014.

#### I. Major Trip Generators/Attractors

Major trip generators/attractors include: Dixie-Union Vocational Technical Center, Shands Hospital at Starke, local government offices, Florida State Prison, Suwannee River Economic Council's Starke office, Sunshine Industries and Windsor Manor and Whispering Pines nursing homes.

Travel to Gainesville continues to be necessary for many County residents, particularly for employment and medical purposes. Approximately 15 percent of Dixie County's employed residents work in Alachua County.

# C. Service Analysis

# 1. General and Critical Need Transportation Disadvantaged Populations

The National Center for Transit Research Center for Urban Transportation Research developed a methodology for estimating the general and critical need Transportation Disadvantaged population based on the most current U.S. Census Bureau demographic and socio-economic data available. The general Transportation Disadvantaged population includes the estimates of all disabled, elderly, low income persons and children who are 'high-risk" or "at-risk."

The critical need Transportation Disadvantaged population includes individuals who, due to sever physical limitations or low incomes, are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation and are dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life sustaining activities.

The following tables show general and critical need Transportation Disadvantaged population estimates for Dixie County.

Development Plan Page 16

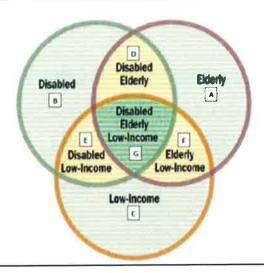
#### CALCULATION OF GENERAL TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED POPULATION

Dixie County Census Data froi 2014

County Pop. By Age	Total Pop by Age	% of Total Pop (136,400)	Danulation	% of Total Pop Below Poverty Level by Age	Total Population with a Disability by Age	% of Total Pop with a Disability by Age	Total Pop with Disability and Below Poverty Level by Age	% Total Pop with a Disability and Below Poverty Level by Age
<18	3,110	19.3%	570	3.5%	215	6.9%	50	1.60%
18-64	9,730	60.3%	1,879	11.6%	1,849	19.0%	545	5.60%
Total Non Elde	12,840	79.6%	2,449	15.2%	2,063	16.1%	595	4.63%
65+	3,296	20.4%	342	2.1%	1,457	44.2%	270	8.20%
Total Elderly	3,296		342	2.1%	1,457	46.3%	270	8.20%
Total	16,136		2,791	17.3%	3,520	21.8%	865	5.36%

Dou	ble Counts Calculations	
E - Estimate non-elderly/disabled/ low income	From Base Data (I9)	595
B - Estimate non-elderly/ disabled/not low income	Subtract I9 from G9	1,469
G - Estimate elderly/disabled/low income	From Base Data (I11)	270
D- Estimate elderly/ disabled/not low income	Subtract I11 from G11	1,187
F - Estimate elderly/non-disabled/low income	Subtract I11 from E11	72
A - Estimate elderly/non-disabled/not low income	Subtract sum of J17, J18 and J19 from C11	1,767
C - Estimate low income/not elderly/not disabled	Subtract I9 from E9	1,854
Total - Non-Duplicated		7,214

General TD Population	HE SECTION	% of Total
Non-Duplicated General TD Population Estimate	7,214	44.7%



#### **Paratransit Service Demand Estimation** 2.

The National Center for Transit Research Center for Urban Transportation Research developed a paratransit service demand estimation tool based on the most current U.S. Census Bureau demographic and socio-economic data available. The following table shows trip demand for the critical Transportation Disadvantaged population.

#### CALCULATION OF CRITICAL NEED TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED POPULATION

	Dis			
County Pop. By Age	Total Population with a Disability by Age	% with a Severe Disability by Age	Total Population with a Severe Disability by Age	% of Total Pop with Severe Disability by Age
<18	215	6.90%	50	1.60%
10-64	1,849	19.00%	545	5,60%
Total Non Elder	2,063	16.07%	595	4.63%
65+	1,457	44.20%	270	8.20%
Total Elderly	1,457	44.20%	270	8.20%
Total	3,520	21.82%	865	5,36%

ensus Data from:	2014
% of Severe Disability Below Poverty Level	Total Severe Disability Below Poverty Level
28.60%	170
11.70%	32
	202

	Not Low Income	Low Income	Totals
Non-Elderly	425	170	59
Elderly	239	32	27
TOTAL	663	202	86

TRIP RATES USED			
Low Income Non Disable	d Trip Rate		
Total Less	2.400		
Transit	0.389		
School Bus	0.063		
Special Transit	0.049		
4	1.899		
Severely Disabled	Trip Rate		
Special Transit	0.049		

Assumes 27.2%	Low Income & Not Disabled = C + F 1,926 xx % without auto access	CALCULATION OF FOR T	HE
	524		
100%	xx % without transit access		
	524	Calculation of	Daily Trips
		Rates	Total
	Total Actual Critical TD Population	Per Person	Daily Trips
	Severely Disabled 865	0.049	4:
	Low Income ND 524	1.899	99
	Totals 1,389		1.03

# 3. Barriers to Coordination

Medicaid non-emergency transportation services are no longer coordinated through Florida's Coordinated Transportation System in Dixie County. In May 2014, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration implemented Florida's Managed Medical Care Program. The Managed Medical Care Program requires Managed Medical Assistance Plans to provide transportation to their enrollees who have no other means of transportation available.

The Managed Medical Assistance Plans provide transportation services directly through their own network of transportation providers. According Chapter 2 of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration Transportation Coverage, Limitations and Reimbursement Handbook, July 1997, "Medicaid is required by Chapter 427, Florida Statues to purchase transportation services through the designated Community Transportation Coordinator, unless those services are not cost effective or the Community Transportation Coordinator does not coordinate Medicaid transportation services."

#### 4. Needs Assessment

#### **United States Code Section 5311 Grant Program**

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT YEAR	LOCATION	PROJECT COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Suwannee River Economic Council	Provide transportation	2016/17	Dixie County	\$190,636	Section 5311
	services for the transportation disadvantaged.			\$190,636	Suwannee River Economic Council

#### **United States Code Section 5339 Grant Program**

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT YEAR	LOCATION	PROJECT COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Suwannee River Economic Council	Purchase one replacement vehicle	2016/17	Dixie County	\$55,200 \$13,800	Section 5339 Florida Department of Transportation

#### **Rural Area Capital Assistance Program**

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT YEAR	LOCATION	PROJECT COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Suwannee River Economic Council	Purchase scheduling software upgrade	2014/15	Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist and Lafayette	\$31,500	Rural Area Capital Assistance Program Grant
	and mobile data terminals.		Counties	\$3,500	Suwannee River Economic Council

Page 19

#### **Trip & Equipment Grant Program**

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT YEAR	LOCATION	PROJECT COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Suwannee River Economic Council	Provide trips to transportation disadvantaged	2016/17	Dixie County	\$210,252	Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund
	individuals.			<u>\$23,361</u>	Suwannee River Economic Council

# 5. Goals, Objectives and Strategies

GOAL I:

Coordinate public transportation services that are funded with local,

state and/or federal government funds.

**OBJECTIVE:** 

Identify agencies that receive local, state and/or federal government transportation funds that are not coordinated through the Community

Transportation Coordinator.

Strategy a:

Identify agencies in Dixie County that receive local, state and/or federal funds to

transport clients or purchase vehicles.

Strategy b:

Contact agencies to obtain information about coordination opportunities.

Strategy c:

Determine whether a purchase of service contract, coordination contract or subcontract should be executed with the identified agencies to coordinate the

transportation services that are being provided.

**GOAL II:** 

**Identify unmet transportation needs in Dixie County.** 

**OBJECTIVE:** 

Identify unmet transportation needs and discuss ways to meet these needs at

each local Coordinating Board meeting.

Strategy:

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall report quarterly the number

and types of transportation services that are requested which it is unable to

provide.

**GOAL III:** 

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall provide

transportation services that are consumer oriented and effectively

coordinate trips.

**OBJECTIVE:** 

Provide transportation services that maximize the use of all vehicles to eliminate

duplication of service without unduly inconveniencing the rider.

Strategy a:

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall report on a quarterly basis the

number of single passenger trips provided.

Strategy b:

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall work with purchasing agencies

and service providers (doctors' offices, hospitals, etc.) to arrange appointments

to group trips.

#### Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Strategy c: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall document the reduction of

single passenger trips.

**Strategy d:** The local Coordinating Board shall measure the total passenger trips per vehicles

quarterly.

GOAL IV: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall develop creative

ways to provide additional trips.

**OBJECTIVE:** Identify additional funding opportunities to provide transportation.

**Strategy:** Using information concerning unmet needs, the Community Transportation

Coordinator shall determine the level of demand and cost of providing additional

service.

**GOAL V:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall ensure that the

demand responsive transportation services offered to individuals with disabilities is equivalent to the level and quality of transportation

services offered to individuals without disabilities.

**OBJECTIVE:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with the requirements

of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regarding the access to and

provision of transportation services.

**Strategy a:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall eliminate physical barriers

preventing the use of transportation services by persons who are elderly and/or

disabled.

**Strategy b):** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall train its staff members

regarding the utilization of special equipment for persons with disabilities as well

as the abilities of persons with disabilities.

GOAL VI: The local Coordinating Board shall annually evaluate the Community

Transportation Coordinator's performance based on specific criteria.

**OBJECTIVE:** The local Coordinating Board shall annually evaluate the Community

Transportation Coordinator's performance in general and relative to Commission

standards as referenced in Rule 41-2.006 of the Florida Administrative Code.

GOAL VII: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall utilize the

Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund allocation in the most cost

efficient manner.

**OBJECTIVE:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall adhere to a strict budget of

Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds to ensure that these funds are spent

in the most efficient manner.

**Strategy a:** The Community Transportation Coordinator and Local Coordinating Board shall

determine the most efficient manner to expend the Transportation

Disadvantaged Trust Funds.

#### Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

**Strategy b:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall inform the Local Coordinating

Board of any difficulties experienced concerning the under expenditure or over

expenditure of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds.

GOAL VIII: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with all

reporting requirements of the Florida Commission for the

Transportation Disadvantaged and the Local Coordinating Board.

**OBJECTIVE:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall complete all reports which

require Local Coordinating Board review and/or approval.

Strategy: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall complete and submit all final

reports to the planning agency staff prior to the meeting date to be reviewed

and included in the Local Coordinating Board's meeting packet.

GOAL IX: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall provide quality

service.

**OBJECTIVE:** The local Coordinating Board shall monitor the quality of service provided by the

Community Transportation Coordinator.

Strategy: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall report complaints to the Local

Coordinating Board.

OBJECTIVE: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall provide courteous

and professional service.

**Strategy:** Reservationists and other office staff shall receive sensitivity and courtesy

training annually.

GOAL X: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall promote cost and

service efficiency through efficient routing, scheduling and operation

procedures.

**OBJECTIVE:** The local Coordinating Board shall encourage the Community Transportation

Coordinator to provide the greatest number of trips using the most cost effective

methods possible.

**Strategy:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall maintain a database with

pertinent information relative to clients' needs and limitations.

GOAL XI: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall insure the provision

of safe transportation services.

**OBJECTIVE:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall insure the safety and well being

of passengers through inspection and maintenance of all vehicles in the

coordinated system and driver training.

Strategy: he System Safety Program Plan shall meet all established requirements and

adhere to Chapter 341 Florida Statutes and Rule and 14-90, Florida

Administrative Code.

# 6. Implementation Plan

STRATEGIES	IMPLEMENTATION DATE
<ol> <li>(1) Identify agencies located in Dixie County receiving local, state and/or federal funds to transport clients or purchase vehicles.</li> <li>(2) Contact the identified agencies to obtain information about the funding they receive.</li> <li>(3) Determine type of contract to execute to coordinate transportation services.</li> </ol>	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing (3) Ongoing
<ul><li>(1) Discuss transportation needs at local Coordinating Board meetings.</li><li>(2) Report unmet trip requests.</li></ul>	(1) Quarterly (2) Quarterly
<ol> <li>(1) Maximize the use of vehicles without unduly inconveniencing the rider.</li> <li>(2) Work with purchasing agencies and service providers to arrange appointments to group trips.</li> <li>(3) Document the reduction of single passenger trips.</li> <li>(4) Measure total passenger trips per vehicle.</li> </ol>	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing (3) 2016/17 (4) 2016/17
<ul><li>(1) Identify additional funding opportunities to provide trips.</li><li>(2) Report the types of funding opportunities that may be available for additional trips.</li></ul>	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing (3) Ongoing
<ul> <li>(1)Ensure that the demand responsive transportation services offered to individuals with disabilities is equivalent to the level and quality of services offered to individuals without disabilities.</li> <li>(2) Provide alternative methods for accessing transportation services for individuals with disabilities.</li> <li>(3) Train staff members regarding the utilization of special equipment for persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing (3) Ongoing
Evaluate the performance of the Community Transportation Coordinator in general and relative to Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged standards, completion of service plan elements and Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged workbook modules.	2016
<ol> <li>(1) Adhere to a strict budget of Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds to insure that the Trust Funds are spent in the most efficient manner.</li> <li>(2) Determine the most efficient manner to expend the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds.</li> <li>(3) Inform the local Coordinating Board of any difficulties experienced concerning the expenditure of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds.</li> </ol>	(1) Ongoing (2) Annually (3) Quarterly
<ul><li>(1) Complete all reports for review and/or approval.</li><li>(2) Final reports shall be completed and submitted to planning agency staff prior to next local Coordinating Board meeting.</li></ul>	(1) Ongoing (2) Ongoing

#### Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

<ol> <li>(1) Monitor the quality of service.</li> <li>(2) Make recommendations to improve the quality of service.</li> <li>(3) Provide courteous and professional service.</li> <li>(4) Provide sensitivity and courtesy training annually.</li> <li>(5) Collect on-time performance data.</li> </ol>	<ul><li>(1) Ongoing</li><li>(2) Ongoing</li><li>(3) Ongoing</li><li>(4) Ongoing</li><li>(5) Annually</li></ul>
(1) Maintain a data base with pertinent information relative to clients needs and limitations.	(1) Ongoing
The System Safety Program Plan shall meet all established requirements and adhere to Chapter 341, Florida Statutes and Rule 14-90, Florida Administrative Code.	Annually

# **Chapter II: Service Plan**

# A. Operations

The operations element is a profile of the Dixie County coordinated transportation system. This element is intended to provide basic information about the daily operations of Suwannee River Economic Council.

# 1. Types, Hours and Days of Service

Provider	Ambulatory	Wheelchair	Stretcher	Advance Reservation	Subscription	Door to Door
Suwannee River Economic Council	V	V	V	V	~	V

#### a. Bariatric Transportation

Suwannee River Economic Council is required to transport all "common wheelchairs. A common wheelchair is defined as a device which does not exceed 30 inches in width and 48 inches in length measured two inches above the ground and does not weigh more than 600 pounds when occupied. Wheelchairs that exceed these dimensions and weight may not to be transported.

#### b. Hours and Days of Service

Monday through Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. excluding holidays (see below).

#### c. Holidays

Transportation Disadvantaged Program sponsored service will not be provided on the following observed holidays.

Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day
New Year's Day
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day

# 2. Accessing Services

#### a. Office Hours

Suwannee River Economic Council's office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### b. Phone Number

352.498.7366 (Cross City office) or 1.800-597.7579.

#### c. Advance Notification Time

Twenty-four hours advance notification must be given for trips provided Tuesday through Saturday. Seventy-two hours advance notification must be given for trips provided on Mondays.

#### d. Trip Cancellation Process

Trip cancellations should be made to Suwannee River Economic Council with 24-hour advance notification. However, a no-show will not be credited to a rider if the cancellation is received before the vehicle is dispatched.

#### e. No-Show Policies

Transportation Disadvantaged Program sponsored trips must be canceled a minimum of two hours before the scheduled pick-up time. If trips are not cancelled at least two hours in advance, the passenger will be considered a no-show. Cancellations at the door will be considered no-shows. If an individual is charged with frequent no-shows, they may be temporarily suspended from service.

On the first "no-show," the driver will leave a "no-show" notice on the client's door. On the second "no-show" occurrence, a letter of warning will be sent from the Community Transportation Coordinator. If a third infraction occurs within 60 days, the Community Transportation Coordinator will send a letter notifying the client that they have been suspended from service for a 30 day period. When the client is again reinstated to the program, and if three (3) infractions occur within 60 days, the suspension will be 45 days. When the client is again reinstated to the program and if three (3) infractions occur within 60 days, the suspension will be 60 days.

#### f. After Hours Service

After hours service is not sponsored by the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

#### g. Passenger Fares

Suwannee River Economic Council does not charge fares to passengers sponsored by Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

#### h. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Eligibility

Suwannee River Economic Council will use the following criteria when determining Transportation Disadvantaged Program eligibility:

**Unable to transport themselves**: Individual does not have an operational vehicle or the ability to operate a vehicle.

**Unable to obtain transportation**: Individual is not sponsored by any agency for transportation services; is unable to purchase transportation; is unable to find transportation from other sources.

Individuals must apply for Transportation Disadvantaged Program eligibility for their transportation to be sponsored by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. Suwannee River Economic Council determines eligibility by conducting phone interviews at the time assistance is requested. Additional eligibility verification may be required by Suwannee River Economic Council.

# i. Transportation Disadvantaged Program Trip Priorities

Suwannee River Economic Council in cooperation with the Coordinating Board has established the following trip priorities for the use of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds:

- Life Sustaining Medical Trips
- General Medical Trips
- Employment Trips
- Essential Business Trips
- Education/Training Trips
- Nutrition/Mealsite Trips
- Recreational/Social Trips

# 3. Transportation Operators And Coordination Contractors

Suwannee River Economic Council does not have any subcontractors.

#### 4. Public Transit Utilization

Not applicable. There is no fixed route, public transit system operating in Dixie County.

#### 5. School Bus Utilization

Currently, there is no need to use school buses at this time. If Suwannee River Economic Council determines a need to use school buses in the future, the Dixie County School Board will be contacted for assistance.

# 6. Vehicle Inventory

Suwannee River Economic Council's vehicle inventory is shown as Exhibit C.

# 7. System Safety Program Plan Certification

Suwannee River Economic Council's System Safety Program Plan Certification is shown as Exhibit D.

# 8. Inter-County Services

Suwannee River Economic Council does not have any inter-county agreements with other Community Transportation Coordinators at this time.

# 9. Natural Disaster/Emergency Preparedness

The Dixie County Emergency Management Department does not have a formal agreement with Suwannee River Economic Council to provide transportation during natural disasters.

# 10. Marketing

Currently, there are no efforts to market the availability of transportation services sponsored by Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Funds due to the limited availability of these funds.

## 11. Acceptable Alternatives

There have been no acceptable alternatives for the provision of transportation service identified in Dixie County.

#### 12. Service Standards

The Community Transportation Coordinator and any transportation operator from whom service is purchased or arranged by the Community Transportation Coordinator shall adhere to Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged approved standards. These standards include:

#### a. Drug and Alcohol Policy

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (a), F.A.C.: Drug and alcohol testing for safety sensitive job positions within the coordinated system regarding pre-employment, randomization, post accident and reasonable suspicion as required by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Suwannee River Economic Council shall comply with this standard.

#### b. Transport of Escorts and Dependent Children

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (b), F.A.C.: An escort of a passenger and dependent children are to be transported as locally negotiated and identified in the local Service Plan.

**Local Policy:** Children under age 16 will be required to be accompanied by an escort. Escorts must be provided by the passenger. Escorts must be able to provide the necessary assistance to the passenger. Escorts will be transported at the regular rate.

#### c. Use, Responsibility and Cost of Child Restraint Devices

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (c), F.A.C.: Use of child restraint devices shall be determined locally as to their responsibility, and cost of such device in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

**Local Policy:** All passengers under the age of 4 and/or under 50 pounds will be required to use a child restraint device. This device will be provided by the passenger.

#### d. Passenger Property

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (d), F.A.C.: Passenger property that can be carried by the passenger and/or driver in one trip and can be safely stowed on the vehicle, shall be allowed to be transported with the passenger at no additional charge. Additional requirements may be negotiated for carrying and loading rider property beyond this amount. Passenger property does not include wheelchairs, child seats, stretchers, secured oxygen, personal assistive devices, or intravenous devices.

**Local Policy:** Passengers shall be allowed to have two pieces of personal property which they can place in their lap or stow under the seat. Passengers must be able to independently carry all items brought onto the vehicle.

#### e. Vehicle Transfer Points

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (e), F.A.C.: Vehicle transfer points shall provide shelter, security and safety of passengers.

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with this standard.

#### f. Local Toll Free Phone Number

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (f), F.A.C.: A local toll free phone number for complaints or grievances shall be posted inside the vehicle. The Transportation Disadvantaged Helpline phone number (1-800-983-2435) shall also be posted inside all vehicles of the coordinated system. The local complaint process shall be outlined as a section in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan including, advising the dissatisfied person about the Commission's Ombudsman Program as a step within the process as approved by the local Coordinating Board. All rider information/materials (brochures, user's guides, etc.) Will include the Transportation Disadvantaged Helpline phone number.

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with this standard.

#### g. Out-Of-Service Area Trips

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (g), F.A.C.: Out of service area trips shall be provided when determined locally and approved by the local Coordinating Board, except in instances where local ordinances prohibit such trips.

**Local Policy:** The Community Transportation Coordinator may require medical provider certification for any out of county trip.

#### h. Vehicle Cleanliness

**Rule 41-2.006 (4) (h), F.A.C.** Interior of all vehicles shall be free of dirt, grime, oil, trash, torn upholstery, damaged or broken seats, protruding metal or other objects or materials which could soil items placed in the vehicle or provide discomfort for the passenger.

**Local Policy:** All vehicles shall be cleaned (interior and exterior) on a regular schedule (minimum once a week).

#### i. Billing Requirements

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (I), F.A.C. Billing requirements of the Community Transportation Coordinator to subcontractors shall be determined locally by the local Coordinating Board and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. All bills shall be paid within seven (7) calendar days to subcontractors, after receipt of said payment by the Community Transportation Coordinator, in accordance with Section 287.0585, Florida Statutes.

**Local Policy:** If the Community Transportation Coordinator without reasonable cause fails to make payments to the subcontractors and suppliers within seven (7) working days after the receipt by the Community Transportation Coordinator of full or partial payment, the Community Transportation Coordinator shall pay to the subcontractors and suppliers a penalty in the amount of one-half of one percent of the amount due, per day, from the expiration of the period allowed herein for payment. (F.S. 2000/ Ch 287/Part I/287.0585 Late payments by contractors to subcontractors and suppliers; penalty.)

#### j. Passenger/Trip Database

**Rule 41-2.006 (4) (j), F.A.C.:** Passenger/trip data base must be maintained or accessible by the Community Transportation Coordinator on each rider being transported within the system.

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with this standard.

#### k. Adequate Seating

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (k), F.A.C.: Adequate seating for paratransit services shall be provided to each rider and escort, child or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time. For transit services provided by transit vehicles, adequate searing or standing space will be provided to each rider and escort, child, or personal care attendant, and no more passengers than the registered passenger seating or standing capacity shall be scheduled or transported in a vehicle at any time.

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with this standard.

#### I. Driver Identification

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (I), F.A.C.: Drivers for paratransit services, including coordination contractors, shall be required to announce and identify themselves by name and company in a manner that is conducive to communications with specific passengers, upon pickup of each rider, group of riders, or representative, guardian, or associate of the rider, except in situations where the driver regularly transports the rider on a recurring basis. Each driver must have photo identification that is in view of the passenger. Name patches, inscriptions or badges that affix to driver clothing are acceptable. For transit services, the driver photo identification shall be in a conspicuous location in the vehicle.

Local Policy: The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with this standard.

#### m. Passenger Assistance

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (m), F.A.C.: The paratransit driver shall provide the passenger with boarding assistance, if necessary or requested, to the seating portion of the vehicle. The boarding assistance shall include opening the vehicle door, fastening the seat belt or wheelchair securement devices, storage of mobility assistive devices and closing the vehicle door. In the door-through-door paratransit service category, the driver shall be required to open and close doors to buildings, except in situations in which assistance in opening/closing building doors would not be safe for passengers remaining on the vehicle. Assisted access must be in a dignified manner. Drivers may not assist wheelchairs up or down more than one step, unless it can be performed safely as determined by the passenger, guardian and driver.

**Local Policy:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with this standard.

#### n. Smoking, Eating, and Drinking

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (n), F.A.C.: Smoking is prohibited in any vehicle. Requirements for drinking and eating on board the vehicle will be addressed in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

**Local Policy:** Eating and drinking on board the vehicle will not be allowed. Stops may be made to accommodate the needs of the passengers at the discretion of the driver.

#### o. Passenger No-Shows

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (o), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board shall jointly develop a policy on passenger no shows. Assessing fines to passengers for no shows is acceptable but such policy and process shall be identified in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

**Local Policy** - The Community Transportation Coordinator shall attempt to reduce the number of no-shows annually.

### p. Two-Way Communications

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (p), F.A.C.: All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system shall be equipped with two-way communications in good working order and audible to the driver at all times to the base.

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with this standard.

Service Plan Page 31

#### q. Air Conditioning/Heating

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (q), F.A.C.: All vehicles providing service within the coordinated system shall have working air conditioners and heaters in each vehicle. Vehicles that do not have a working air conditioner or heater will be scheduled for repair or replacement as soon as possible.

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall comply with this standard.

#### r. First Aid

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (r), F.A.C.: First Aid policy shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

**Local Policy:** All vehicles will be equipped with first aid kits and bio-hazard kits as required by state and federal regulations.

#### s. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (s), F.A.C.: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation policy shall be determined locally and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

**Local Policy:** Drivers are not required to be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

#### t. Driver Criminal Background Screening

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (t), F.A.C.: Driver background screening shall be determined locally, dependent up on purchasing agencies' requirements and provided in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

**Local Policy:** All drivers in the coordinated system must have a criminal background check with local law enforcement and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. All drivers must also have a driving records check.

#### u. Fixed Route Transit Utilization

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (u), F.A.C.: In areas where fixed route transportation is available, the Community Transportation Coordinator should jointly establish with the local Coordinating Board a percentage of total trips that will be placed on the fixed route system.

**Local Policy:** Not applicable.

#### v. Pick-Up Window

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (v), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator should establish and address the passenger pick-up windows in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This policy should also be communicated to contracted operators, drivers, purchasing agencies and passengers.

**Local Policy:** There is a thirty (30) minute pickup window in place for all intra-county trips based on the arrival/departure time of the passenger. The passenger is given a pick-up time at the time of scheduling the ride.

#### w. On-Time Performance

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (w), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and local Coordinating Board should jointly establish and address the percentage of trips that will be on-time in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan. This performance measure should be communicated to contracted operators, drivers, purchasing agencies and passengers. This measure should also be included as part of the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of its contracted operators and the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

**Local Policy:** The Community Transportation Coordinator shall have an 90 percent on-time performance rate for all completed trips. On-time performance will be measured by random sampling of trips.

#### x. Advance Reservation Requirement

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (x), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator should establish and address in the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan a minimum 24 hour advanced notification time to obain services. This policy should be communicated to contracted operators, purchasing agencies and passengers.

**Local Policy:** Twenty-four hours advanced notice is required for all trips scheduled within the coordinated system. Trips scheduled for Sunday require 48 hours advance notification. Monday service requires 72 hours advance notice. Riders are encouraged to schedule return trips in advance to avoid the two hour pick up window.

#### y. Safety

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (y), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the safety of the coordinated system. This measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators and the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Local Policy: There shall be no more than 1 accident per 100,000 miles during the evaluation period.

#### z. Reliability

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (z), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the reliability of the vehicles utilized in the coordinated system. This measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of the contracted operators and the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Local Policy: There shall be no more than 5 roadcalls during the evaluation period.

#### aa. Call-Hold Time

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (aa), F.A.C.: This performance measure can be used to address the accessibility of the service. The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board should jointly determine if a standard for a call hold time is needed in the coordinated system and address this in the local service plan. If determined to be necessary, this standard should be included in the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

This standard is not applicable to this service area.

#### bb. Quality of Service

Rule 41-2.006 (4) (bb), F.A.C.: The Community Transportation Coordinator and the local Coordinating Board should jointly establish and address in the local service plan a performance measure to evaluate the quality of service provided within the coordinated system. The measure should be used in the Community Transportation Coordinator's evaluation of contracted operators and the local Coordinating Board's evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator.

Local Policy: There shall be no more than one complaint per 1,000 trips during the evaluation period.

# 13. Local Grievance Procedure/Process

The Transportation Disadvantaged Program Grievance Procedures are shown in Appendix A.

#### 14. Passenger Code of Conduct

For everyone's safety, drivers and riders of the system are expected to act in an appropriate manner at all times and abide by the policies of Suwannee River Economic Council.

- Riders shall be ready to board the vehicle within 5 minutes of its arrival.
- Riders shall be prepared to share their ride with other passengers.
- No person may eat, drink or smoke on board any vehicle.
- No passenger may operate or tamper with any equipment on board any vehicle.
- Riders may not have radios, cassette tape players, CD players or other sound generating devices in operation while on board a vehicle, UNLESS it is connected to a headset.
- Disruptive behavior, which results in a distraction to the driver is deemed a safety hazard. Such behavior will not be tolerated and shall be grounds for suspension of transportation privileges.

#### Verbal Abuse

Verbal abuse by a rider against staff, drivers or other clients will not be tolerated. Verbal abuse includes but is not limited to use of profanity, obscene gestures, yelling or screaming. Riders who verbally abuse staff, drivers or other clients may be suspended from service.

#### b. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse of either a rider to another rider or rider to a driver will not be tolerated. Physical abuse includes but is not limited to grabbing, hitting or touching. Such abuse shall be deemed as assault. In such cases, the local police shall be notified, and the rider shall be issued a notice of suspension from service.

#### c. Substance Abuse

No passenger who is under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will be transported. If a passenger is scheduled to be returned home and they are under the influence, they will be required to find alternative means of transportation. If a pattern of such behavior exists, a suspension of transportation privileges shall be invoked.

#### d. Penalties

The following penalties shall apply to service sponsored by Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program. Service suspension for Medicaid NET sponsored passengers must follow the Medicaid Program quidelines.

#### **Verbal Abuse**

First offense – written warning Second offense – one week suspension of services Third offense – 30 day suspension of services Fourth offense – 90 day suspension of services Fifth offense – permanently removed from service

#### **Physical Abuse**

First offense - Suwannee River Economic Council will issue a written notice of suspension for 90 days by certified mail. The notice will advise the rider that Suwannee River Economic Council intends to suspend his or her riding privileges and the reason for such action.

Second offense – 180 day suspension of services

Third offense - permanently removed from service

#### e. Appeals

A rider has ten (10) calendar days from the date of issuance of suspension notice to request a reconsideration hearing on the suspension. If a reconsideration hearing is requested, the hearing will be held by the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee if the suspension involves transportation provided under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program. All requests for reconsideration must be in writing and delivered to:

Suwannee River Economic Council P.O. Box 70 Live Oak, FL 32060

and

Transportation Disadvantaged Program Coordinating Board Grievance Committee 2009 N.W. 67 Place, Suite A Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603

The written request must include the name and address of the person who is requesting the hearing and a statement as to why his or her riding privileges should not be suspended. If the request is not received within ten (10) calendar days from the issue date of the suspension, then the suspension becomes effective ten (10) calendar days from the date of issue. Upon receipt of letter requesting the reconsideration hearing, a hearing shall be held within 10 working days. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will advise the person requesting the reconsideration hearing by return correspondence of the date, time and location of the hearing.

The person will be given the opportunity to present the reasons why they believe the suspension should not take place. The Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee will make a recommendation whether or not to uphold the suspension. A written statement of the recommendation shall be forwarded to the person requesting the hearing within two (2) working days after the hearing by the Grievance Committee. A written statement of the decision whether or not to uphold the suspension shall be forwarded by certified mail within two (2) working days by Suwannee River Economic Council to the person requesting the hearing.

#### 15. Evaluation Processes

Suwannee River Economic Council in cooperation with the local Coordinating Board will determine whether agencies, from a total system approach, can perform more effectively and more efficiently their own transportation.

# B. Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure Justification

See Appendix B.

# **Chapter III: Quality Assurance**

This section contains the steps the local Coordinating Board will take to monitor and evaluate the services provided by or coordinated through the Community Transportation Coordinator, based on the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged standards and the locally established service standards.

# A. Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation Process

The local Coordinating Board will evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator's performance on an annual basis using the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Quality Assurance Program Evaluation/Local Coordinating Board, Community Transportation Coordinator Evaluation Workbook. This evaluation workbook was created to provide a formal process for evaluating the performance of the Coordinator (and its operators). The Commission requires worksheets regarding Cost, Competition and Coordination be completed during this review.

Dixie County
Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

# Appendix A: Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Procedures

#### A. Preamble

The following sets forth the procedures for the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board to address grievances from agencies, users, potential users, sub-contractors, and other interested parties concerning Florida's Coordinated Transportation System.

# **B.** Agency Description

The Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, herein after referred to as the Board, is a public body appointed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency as authorized by Section 427.015, Florida Statutes.

#### C. Definitions

Transportation disadvantaged means those persons who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in Section 411.202, Florida Statutes.

Agency means an official, officer, commission, authority, council, committee, department, division, bureau, board, section, or any other unit or entity of the state or of a city, town, municipality, county, or other local governing body or a private nonprofit transportation service-providing agency.

Community Transportation Coordinator means a transportation entity recommended by a metropolitan planning organization, or by the appropriate designated official planning agency as provided for in Section 427.011, Florida Statutes in an area outside the purview of a metropolitan planning organization, to ensure that coordinated transportation services are provided to the transportation disadvantaged population in a designated service area.

Coordinating Board means an advisory entity in each designated service area composed of representatives appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency, to provide assistance to the community transportation coordinator relative to the coordination of transportation services.

Coordination means the arrangement for the provision of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective, efficient and reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

#### Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Designated Official Planning Agency means the official body or agency designated by the Commission to fulfill the functions of transportation disadvantaged planning in areas not covered by a Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Metropolitan Planning Organization shall serve as the designated official planning agency in areas covered by such organizations.

Designated Service Area means a geographical area recommended by a designated official planning agency, subject to approval by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, which defines the community where coordinated transportation services will be provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

Florida's Coordinated Transportation System means a transportation system responsible for coordination and service provisions for the transportation disadvantaged as outlined in Chapter 427, Florida Statutes.

Grievance means a written complaint to document any concerns regarding the operation or administration of services provided by Florida's Coordinated Transportation System by the Community Transportation Coordinator, subcontracted transportation operators, the Designated Official Planning Agency, or the Board. A grievance may also be a service complaint that has been left unresolved for more than 45 days.

Memorandum of Agreement is the state contract for transportation disadvantaged services purchased with federal, state or local government transportation disadvantaged funds. This agreement is between the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the Community Transportation Coordinator and recognizes the Community Transportation Coordinator as being responsible for the arrangement of the provision of transportation disadvantaged services for a designated service area.

Service complaint means routine incidents that occur on a daily basis, are reported to the driver or dispatcher, or to other individuals involved with the daily operations, and are resolved within the course of a reasonable time period suitable to the complainant. All service complaints shall be recorded and a summary of complaints should be provided by the Community Transportation Coordinator on a quarterly basis, to the Board.

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan means an annually updated plan jointly developed by the Designated Official Planning Agency and the Community Transportation Coordinator which contains a development plan, service plan and quality assurance components. The plan shall be approved and used by the local Coordinating Board to evaluate the Community Transportation Coordinator.

# D. Purpose

- (1) The Board shall appoint a Grievance Committee to serve as a mediator to process, and investigate complaints from agencies, users, potential users of the system and the Community Transportation Coordinator in the designated service area, and make recommendations to the Board for the improvement of service.
- (2) The Board shall establish procedures to provide regular opportunities for issues to be brought before the Grievance Committee and to address them in a timely manner. Members appointed to the Grievance Committee shall be voting members of the Board.

(3) The Grievance Committee and the Board shall have the authority to hear and advise on grievances. When an entity makes a determination of the rights, duties, privileges, benefits, or legal relationships of a specified person or persons, it is exercising "adjudicative" or "determinative" powers. Deciding a grievance between two independent parties may fall within these parameters, depending on the nature of the grievance. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes grants no adjudicative powers to anyone.

# E. Membership

- (1) The Chair, subject to approval by the Board, shall appoint five (5) voting members to a Grievance Committee. The membership of the Grievance Committee shall include broad geographic representation from members of the local Coordinating Board representing the counties in the service area.
- (2) Term limits on the Grievance Committee may coincide with term limits on the Board.

#### F. Officers

(1) The Grievance Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.

# G. Meetings

- (1) The Grievance Committee may meet as often as necessary to fulfill their responsibilities. The Grievance Committee may meet following Board meetings to hear complaints and grievances. All meetings will function under the "Government in the Sunshine Law." All meetings will provide opportunity for public comments on the agenda.
- (2) Notice of Meetings. Notices and tentative agendas shall be provided to the Florida Commission for the Transportation, Committee members and other interested parties at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Meeting notices shall include the date, time, location, general nature/subject of the meeting, a contact person and phone number to call for additional information and to request accessible formats.
- (3) Quorum. At all meetings of the Grievance Committee, the presence in person of a majority of the voting members shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, those present may, without notice other than by announcement at the meeting, recess the meeting from time to time, until a quorum shall be present. At any such recessed meeting, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called.
- (4) Voting. A majority vote is required for actions by the Grievance Committee. As required by Section 286.012, Florida Statutes, all Grievance Committee members, including the Chair, must vote on all official actions taken by the Grievance Committee except when there appears to be a possible conflict of interest with a member or members of the Grievance Committee.

(5) Conflict of Interest. In accordance with Chapter 112 (Part III), Florida Statutes, "No county, municipal, or other public office shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss, or which the officer know would inure to the special private gain or loss of a principal by whom he or she is retained, of the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal which he or she is retained, of a relative or of a business associate. The officer must publicly announce the nature of his or her interest before the vote and must file a memorandum of voting conflict on Ethics Commission Form 8B with the meeting's recording officer within 15 days after the vote occurs disclosing the nature of his or her interest in the matter."

In cases where a grievance involves the private or personal interests of a member of the Grievance Committee, such member shall be disqualified from hearing such grievance. If a Grievant claims a conflict between the Grievant and a Grievance Committee member, the Grievance Committee member identified as having a conflict shall recues themselves from hearing the grievance. No member of the Grievance Committee shall appear before the Grievance Committee as an agent or attorney for any person.

- (6) Proxy Voting. Proxy voting is not permitted.
- (7) Parliamentary Procedures. The Grievance Committee will conduct business using parliamentary procedures according to Robert's Rules of Order, except when in conflict with these Grievance Procedures.

# H. Administration

- (1) Staff Support. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall provide the Grievance Committee with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the Grievance Committee to fulfill their responsibilities.
- (2) Minutes. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is responsible for maintaining an official set of minutes for each Grievance Committee meeting.

#### I. Duties

The Grievance Committee shall make recommendations to the Board, the Community Transportation Coordinator, and/or to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for improvement of service.

# J. Procedures

(1) The grievance procedures shall be open to addressing concerns by any person or agency including but not limited to: purchasing agencies, users, potential users, private-for-profit operators, private-nonprofit operators, Community Transportation Coordinators, Designated Official Planning Agencies, elected officials, and drivers. The grievant, in their formal complaint, should demonstrate or establish their concerns as clearly as possible.

#### Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

- (2) The Board must make a written copy of the grievance procedures available to anyone, upon request. All documents pertaining to the grievance process will be made available, upon request, in accessible format. The following procedures are established to provide regular opportunities for grievances to be brought before the Grievance Committee.
- (3) Should an interested party wish to file a grievance with the Board, that grievance must be filed in writing within ninety (90) days after the occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance.

  The grievance shall be sent to:

Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Grievance Committee 2009 N.W. 67th Place Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

- (4) If requested, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff will provide assistance to individuals in preparing written grievances.
- (5) The grievance should try to demonstrate or establish a clear violation of a specific law, regulation, or contractual arrangement. Copies of pertinent laws and regulations may be obtained from North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff.
- (6) The grievance shall include:
  - a. the name, address and telephone number of the Complainant;
  - b. a statement of the grounds for the grievance and be supplemented by supporting documentation, made in a clear and concise manner; and
  - c. an explanation by the Complainant of the improvements needed to address the complaint.
- (7) If the Board receives a grievance pertaining to the operation of services by the Community Transportation Coordinator, that grievance shall be forwarded to the Community Transportation Coordinator for a written response. The Community Transportation Coordinator's written response shall be provided to the Grievance Committee at least one week prior to the Grievance Committee meeting to hear such grievance.
- (8) If the Complainant does not want to be contacted by the Community Transportation Coordinator concerning the grievance before the grievance is heard, the Community Transportation Coordinator is prohibited from contacting the Complainant.
- (9) Within fifteen (15) working days following the date of receipt of the formal grievance, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff shall advise the Grievance Committee of the grievance to schedule a hearing on the grievance and inform the Complainant of the hearing date.
- (10) The Grievance Committee shall meet to hear the grievance within forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of receipt of the grievance.
- (11) North Central Florida Regional Planning Council staff shall send notice of the Grievance Committee's scheduled hearing in writing to the local newspaper of greatest circulation, the Complainant and other interested parties.

- (12) All involved parties have a right to present their views to the Grievance Committee, either orally or in writing. In addition, all parties may present evidence. The Community Transportation Coordinator shall provide transportation to and from Grievance Committee meetings at no charge to complainants who cannot transport themselves to the meetings.
- (13) A written report and any recommendations of the Grievance Committee shall be provided to the Board. A copy of this report shall be provided to the concerned parties within ten (10) working days after the hearing on the grievance and no more than sixty (60) calendar days from the date of receipt of the formal grievance. The Grievance Committee's recommendation will stand unless the recommendation is changed by the Board.
- (14) A written report shall also be provided to the Community Transportation Coordinator's Governing Board.

# K. Appeals

(1) Appeals of recommendations by the Grievance Committee to the Board shall be made within twenty (20) working days from the date when the Grievance Committee makes a recommendation regarding a grievance. The appeal shall be mailed to:

Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board 2009 N.W. 67th Place Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

- (2) The Complainant will be notified in writing of the date, time and place of the Board meeting where the appeal will be heard. This written notice will be mailed at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the meeting.
- (3) The Board will meet to hear the appeal and render its recommendation within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the appeal was filed. A written copy of the recommendation will be mailed to all parties involved within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the recommendation.
- (4) Should a Complainant remain dissatisfied with the Board's decision, he or she may contact the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged at the following address:

Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged 605 Suwannee Street, MS-49 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

(5) The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged also has an Ombudsman Program to assist individuals with complaints. The toll-free Ombudsman Hotline is 1-800-983-2435. Chapter 427, Florida Statutes does not expressly confer the power or authority for the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to "hear and determine" a grievance between two (2) third parties. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged may choose to listen to grievances and it can investigate them from a fact-finding perspective. It cannot be the "judge" or "arbiter" of the grievance in the sense of determining that one party's version of the facts is right and the other is wrong, and order the wrong party to somehow compensate the right party. On the other hand, the grievance may bring to light a problem within "the system."

- (6) If the grievance showed that one (1) of the parties with whom the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged contracts was acting so aberrantly as to not be in compliance with its contract, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged could exercise whatever contractual rights it has to correct the problem.
- (7) The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged may take part in the grievance process, if it wants to, for purposes of listening to the grieving parties and gathering the facts of the matter. It may not decide the grievance, where doing so would amount to an exercise of adjudicative powers.

# L. Suspension Reconsideration

- (1) If a rider has been issued a notice of suspension of service by the Community Transportation Coordinator, they have ten (10) calendar days from the date of issuance of suspension notice to request a reconsideration hearing on the suspension. If a reconsideration hearing is requested, the hearing will be held by the Grievance Committee if the suspension involves transportation provided under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.
- (2) The written request must include the name, address and telephone number of the person who is requesting the hearing and a statement as to why his or her riding privileges should not be suspended. If the request is not received within ten (10) calendar days from the issue date of the suspension, then the suspension becomes effective ten (10) calendar days from the date of issue.
- (3) Upon receipt of letter requesting the reconsideration hearing, a hearing shall be held within ten (10) working days. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will advise the person requesting the reconsideration hearing by return correspondence of the date, time and location of the hearing.
- (4) The person will be given the opportunity to present the reasons why they believe the suspension should not take place. The Grievance Committee will make a recommendation whether or not to uphold the suspension. A written statement of the recommendation shall be forwarded to the person requesting the hearing within two (2) working days after the hearing by the Grievance Committee. A written statement of the decision whether or not to uphold the suspension shall be forwarded by certified mail within two (2) working days by the Community Transportation Coordinator to the person requesting the hearing.

# M. Prohibition Against Retaliation

The Community Transportation Coordinator shall not take any punitive action against an individual who files a grievance. No individual shall be denied Transportation Disadvantaged Program services because such individual has filed a grievance related to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or investigation related to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

# N. Alternative Recourse

Apart from these grievance processes, aggrieved parties with proper standing may also have recourse through Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, administrative hearings process or the judicial court system.

# Appendix B: Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure Justification

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR: Suwannee River Economic Council,

Inc.

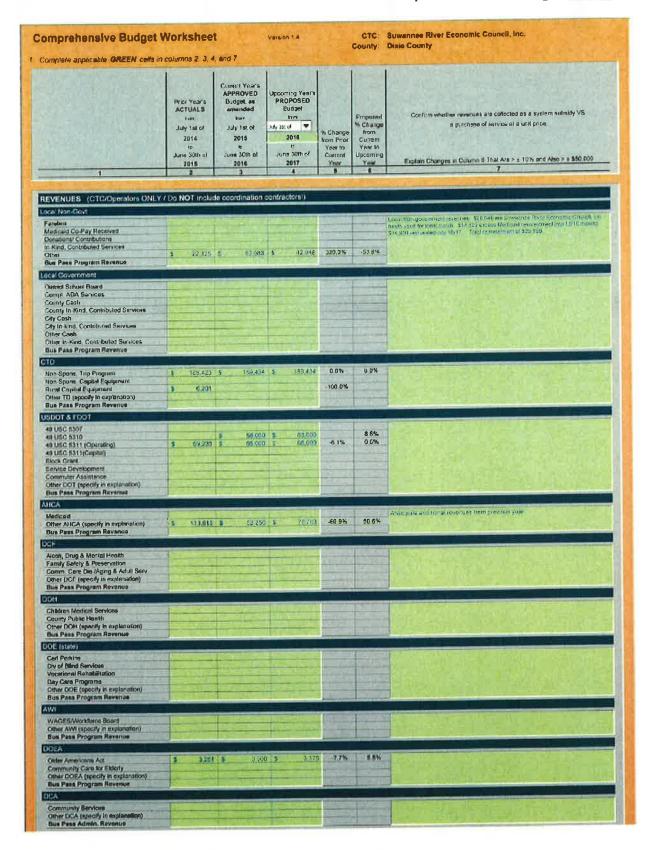
**COUNTY:** Dixie

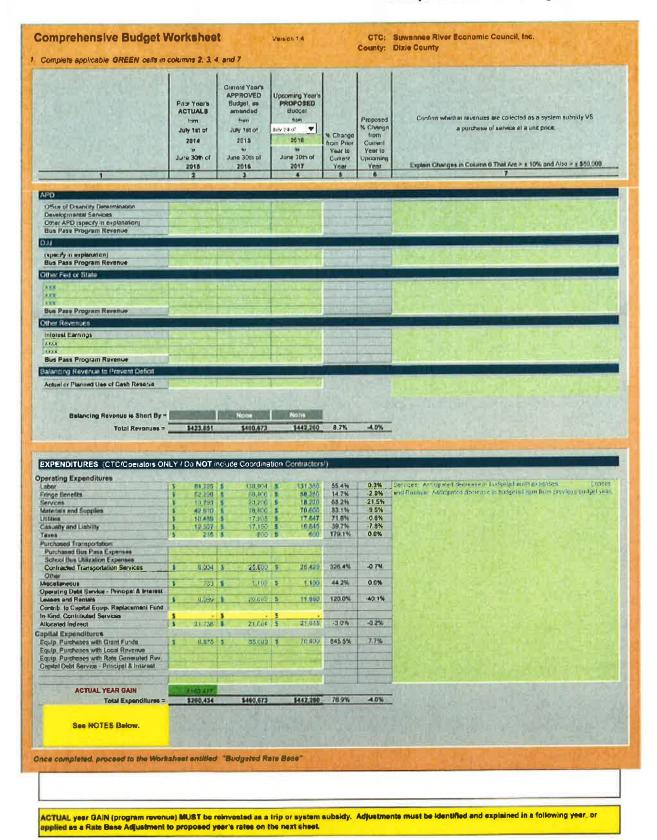
**CONTRACT PERIOD:** <u>July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017</u>

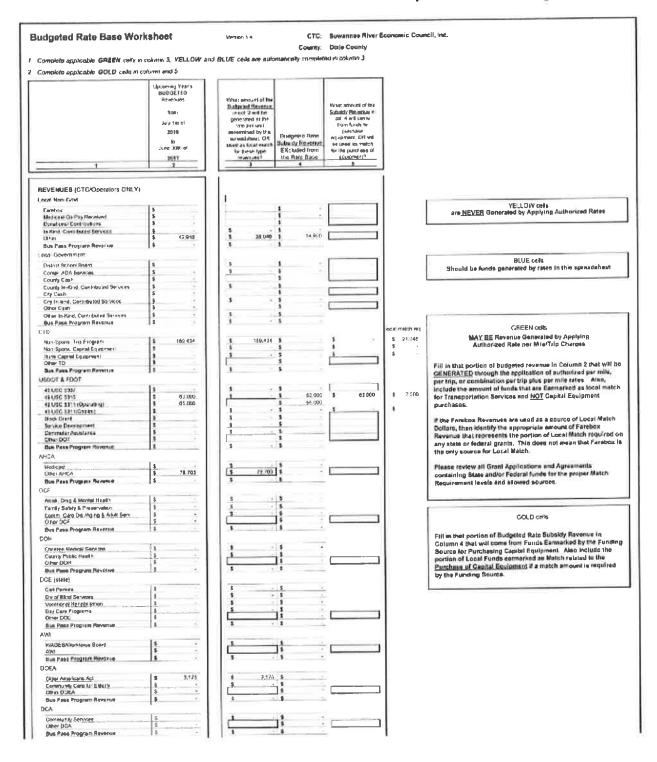
PURCHASING AGENCY: Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

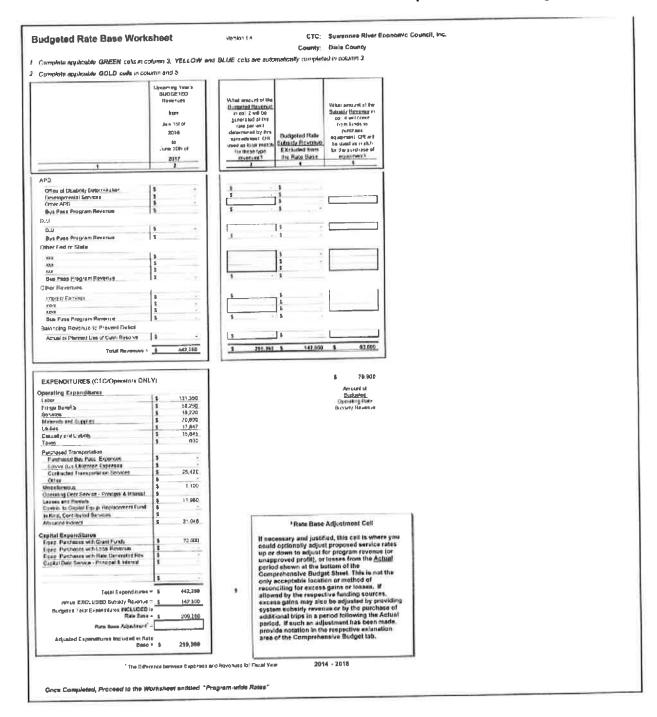
SERVICE TYPE	COST PER MILE
Transportation Disadvantaged Program Ambulatory	\$1.40-2.05/passenger mile
Transportation Disadvantaged Wheelchair	\$ <del>2.40</del> 3.51/passenger mile
Transportation Disadvantaged Stretcher	\$ <del>5.01</del> 7.32/passenger mile

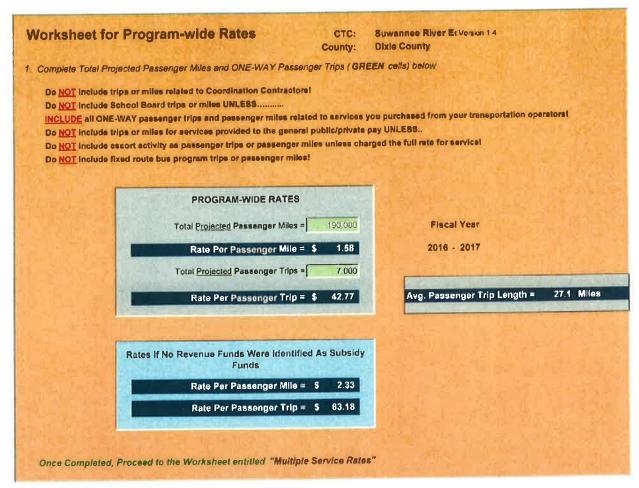
	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE		Economic Council, Inc.
	ty (Service Area): Dixie Co		
G	Phone # 386/362		242
ORG/	ANIZATIONAL TYPE:	teristic:	ORK TYPE:
ORG/	ANIZATIONAL TYPE:  Governmental		ORK TYPE: Fully Brokered
ORG/		NETW	No. of the last of











#### Vehicle Miles

various stress.

The miles that a vehicle is scheduled to or actually travels from the time it pulls out from its garage to go into revenue service to the time it pulls in from revenue service.

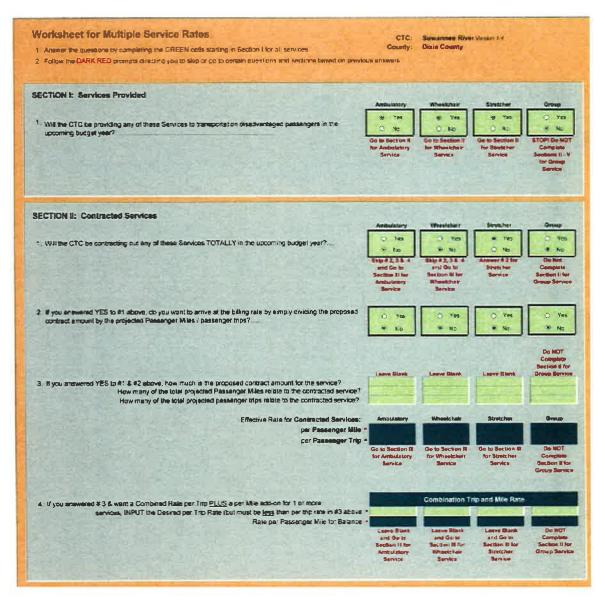
#### Vehicle Revenue Miles (VRM)

The miles that vehicles are scheduled to or actually travel while in revenue service. Vehicle revenue miles exclude:

Deadhead Operator training, and Vehicle maintenance testing, as well as School bus and charter services.

#### Passenger Miles (PM)

The cumulative sum of the distances ridden by Each passenger.



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

### **Appendix C: Vehicle Inventory**

# Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE INVENTORY January 25, 2016

BUS#	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	YEAR	MAKE	SEATS & WC POSITIONS	MILES
D08	1FDFE45S19DA88331	2009	Ford Cutaway	12+2	108,502
D136	1GBJG31K191172261	2010	Chevy Cutaway	8+2	112,406
D137	1GB3G2BG2B1171025	2011	Chevy Cutaway	8+2	125,245
D138	1GB3G2BG7D1175852	2013	Chevy Cutaway	8+2	72,290
D139	1GB3G2BG2D1175641	2013	Chevy Cutaway	8+2	79,956
D140	1GB3G2BG6E1174790	2014	Chevy Cutaway	8+2	53,571

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

### **Appendix D: Safety Compliance Self Certification**



#### Bus Transit System Annual Safety and Security Certification

Certifying Compliance with Rule 14-90, FAC to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Certification Date (Current): 2016 Certification Year: (Previous): 2015

Name and Address of Bus Transit System: Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc.

POB 70

Live Oak FL 32064

The Bus Transit System (Agency) named above hereby certifies the following:

- 1. The Agency has adopted a System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) and a Security Program Plan (SPP) pursuant to the standards set forth in Rule Chapter 14-90, Florida Administrative Code.
- 2. The Agency is in compliance with its adopted SSPP and SPP.
- 3. The Agency has performed annual safety inspections on all operational vehicles in accordance with Rule Chapter 14-90, Florida Administrative Code.

4. The Agency has conducted	1 1/	and the plans a	re up t	o date.	
Blue Ink Signature:	(and	Date:\	1.	116	
(Individual Responsible for As	surance of Countiance)			-	

Name: Matt Pearson Title: Executive Director

Name and address of entity(ies) which has (have) performed bus safety inspections and security assessments:

Name: See Attachment

Name of Qualified Mechanic who Performed Annual Inspections: See Attachment

<sup>\*</sup> Note: Please do not edit or otherwise change this form.

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

### North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan Team

Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

\* Lynn Franson-Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

\* Primary Responsibility



Use the QR Reader App on your smart phone to visit our website!

## Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

www.ncfrpc.org/td



Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Levy • Madison
Marion • Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 31, 2016

TO:

Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM:

Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT:

Elect Vice-Chair

#### RECOMMENDATION

Re-elect Ms. Sandra Collins as the Board's Vice-Chair or elect a new Vice-Chair.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Chapter I. F. of the Board's Bylaws requires the Board to hold an organizational meeting each year for the purpose of electing a Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall serve a term of one year starting with the next meeting. In the event of the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chairperson and conduct the meeting.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at extension 110.



Serving
Alachua • Bradford
Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist
Hamilton • Lafayette • Levy • Madison
Marion • Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 87th Place, Gainesville, FL 32853-1803 • 352.955.2200

March 31, 2016

TO:

Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM:

Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT:

**Operations Reports** 

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

No action required. This agenda item is for information only.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Attached are the following reports for the Board's review:

- 1. October December 2015 Operations Report;
- 2. Fiscal Year 2015/16 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund Status Report;
- 3. October December 2015 Complaint/Commendation Report; and
- 4. October December 2015 Trip Denial Report.

If you have any questions regarding the attached reports, please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### Attachments

 $t: \label{limin_td2016} t: \label{limin_td2016} tixie \label{limin_td2016$ 

#### QUARTERLY OPERATING REPORT DIXIE COUNTY OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015

	Suwannee River	1
OPERATING DATA	Economic Council	TOTAL
NUMBER OF INVOICED TRIPS	1,195	1,195
Medicaid HMO	421	421
Title III-B Aging Program	97	97
Transportation Disadvantaged Program	677	677
TOTAL VEHICLE MILES	18,171	18,171
TOTAL REVENUE VEHICLE MILES	16,172	16,172
TOTAL VEHICLE HOURS	1,038	1,038
TOTAL DOLLARS INVOICED	\$92,600.65	\$92,600.65
Medicaid HMO	\$42,598.80	\$42,598.80
Title III-B Aging Program	\$1,401.65	\$1,401.65
Transportation Disadvantaged Program	\$48,600.20	\$48,600.20
AVERAGE COST PER TRIP	\$77.49	\$77.49
Medicaid HMO	\$101.18	\$101.18
Title III-B Aging Program	\$14.45	\$14.45
Transportation Disadvantaged Program	\$71.79	\$71.79
AVG. COST PER VEHICLE MILE	\$5.10	\$5.10
AVG. COST PER REVENUE VEHICLE MILE	\$5.73	\$5.73
AVG. COST PER VEHICLE HOUR	\$89.21	\$89.21
TRIP PURPOSE*		-
Medical	1,098	1,098
Employment	0	0
Education/Training	0	0
Shopping	0	0
Meal Site	97	97
Recreation	0	0
Other	0	0
NUMBER OF TRIPS DENIED	0	0
NUMBER OF SINGLE PASSENGER		
TRIPS PROVIDED	68	68
PERCENT OF SINGLE PASSENGER TRIPS	6%	6%
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS	0	0
NUMBER OF VEHICLES	8	8
AVERAGE TRIPS PER VEHICLE	149	149
AVERAGE MILES PER TRIP	15	15
NUMBER OF ROADCALLS	1	1

#### QUARTERLY OPERATING REPORT DIXIE COUNTY OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014

OPERATING DATA	TOTAL
NUMBER OF INVOICED TRIPS	1,495
Medicaid FCTD	18
Title III-B Aging Program	63
Transportation Disadvantaged Program	745
Medicaid HMO	669
TOTAL VEHICLE MILES	23,054
TOTAL REVENUE VEHICLE MILES	20,002
TOTAL VEHICLE HOURS	1,284
TOTAL DOLLARS INVOICED	\$91,626.22
Medicaid FCTD	\$1,367.62
Title III-B Aging Program	\$910.35
Transportation Disadvantaged Program	\$33,216.75
Medicaid HMO	\$56,131.50
AVERAGE COST PER TRIP	\$61.29
Medicaid FCTD	\$75.98
Title III-B Aging Program	\$14.45
Transportation Disadvantaged Program	\$44.59
Medicaid HMO	\$83.90
AVG. COST PER VEHICLE MILE	\$3.97
AVG. COST PER REVENUE VEHICLE MILE	\$4.58
AVG. COST PER VEHICLE HOUR	\$71.36
TRIP PURPOSE*	*
Medical	1,432
Employment	C
Education/Training	
Shopping	
Meal Site	63
Recreation	(
Other	(
NUMBER OF TRIPS DENIED	0%
NUMBER OF SINGLE PASSENGER	
TRIPS PROVIDED	112
PERCENT OF SINGLE PASSENGER TRIPS	7%
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS	(
NUMBER OF VEHICLES	10
AVERAGE TRIPS PER VEHICLE	150
AVERAGE MILES PER TRIP	15
NUMBER OF ROADCALLS	3

**CTC: Suwannee River Economic Council** 

**Transportation Disadvantaged Program Service Rates:** 

Ambulatory: \$1.40 per passenger mile Wheelchair: \$2.40 per passenger mile Stretcher: \$5.01 per passenger mile

## 2015-2016 TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED TRUST FUND SUMMARY DIXIE COUNTY

	CONTRACT	TOTAL DOLLARS	STATE FUNDS	LOCAL MATCH	TOTAL AMOUNT	NUMBER OF	AVERAGE COST
MONTH/YEAR	AMOUNT	SPENT	SPENT 90%	10%	REMAINING	TRIPS	PER TRIP
Jul-15	\$210,482.00	\$17,540.75	\$15,786.68	\$1,754.08	\$192,941.25	286	\$61.33
Aug-15	(=	\$17,367.86	\$15,631.07	\$1,736.79	\$175,573.39	262	\$66.29
Sep-15	·	\$17,447.40	\$15,702.66	\$1,744.74	\$158,125.99	246	\$70.92
Oct-15	:#:	\$17,539.44	\$15,785.50	\$1,753.94	\$140,586.55	257	\$68.25
Nov-15	.m	\$15,005.20	\$13,504.68	\$1,500.52	\$125,581.35	198	\$75.78
Dec-15	3.50	\$16,556.56	\$14,900.90	\$1,655.66	\$109,024.79	224	\$73.91
Jan-16	i.e.				\$109,024.79		#DIV/0!
Feb-16	-				\$109,024.79		#DIV/0!
Mar-16	ě				\$109,024.79		#DIV/0!
Apr-16	#1 g				\$109,024.79		#DIV/0!
May-16	<u> </u>				\$109,024.79		#DIV/0!
Jun-16	<b>=</b>				\$109,024.79		#DIV/0!
TOTAL	_	\$101,457.21	\$91,311.49	\$10,145.73	-	1,473	\$68.88

## DIXIE COUNTY SERVICE COMPLAINTS/COMMENDATIONS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015

	Suwannee River Economic	
TYPE OF COMPLAINT	Council	Resolved
Vehicle Condition	0	-
Driver's Behavior	0	-
Client Behavior	0	-
No Show by Client	0	-
Early pickup	0	-
Tardiness - Late dropoff	0	-
No Show by Operator	0	-
Dispatch/Scheduling	0	-
Other (manager behavior)	0	-
TOTALS	0	
COMMENDATIONS	0	

## DIXIE COUNTY UNMET TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015

REASON FOR TRIP DENIAL	NUMBER OF TRIP DENIALS
Lack of Funding	0
Trip Purpose	0
Out of Service Area Trip	0
Insufficient Advance Notice	0
After Hours Trip Request	0
Weekend Trip Request	0
Other	0
TOTALS	0

Source: Suwannee River Economic Council



Serving

Alachua • Bradford

Columbia • Dixie • Gilchrist

Hamilton • Lafayette • Levy • Madison

Marion • Suwannee • Taylor • Union Counties

2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603 • 352.955.2200

March 31, 2016

TO:

Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

FROM:

Lynn Godfrey, AICP, Senior Planner

SUBJECT:

2016 Florida Legislative Session

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

No action required. For information only.

#### BACKGROUND

Attached is information regarding the 2016 Florida legislative session and changes to Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program. If you have any questions concerning the attached information, please contact me at extension 110.

#### Attachment

The 2016 Florida Legislative Session came to a close March 11, 2016. The Florida Legislature authorized \$55,211,227 in the Grants and Aids Category for Fiscal Year 2016-17. This is an increase of \$177,523 from the base budget, plus a reinvestment of \$4,250,000 of non-recurring funds that were reverted from Fiscal Year 2015-16.

The Florida Legislature directed the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to use the additional \$4,250,000 in the following three specific ways:

#### Allocation Methodology Study

• \$200,000 will be used to contract with an independent consultant to research Florida's historic funding of transportation disadvantaged services, the formulas used for distribution of state funds, and the allocation of funding specifically as it relates to urban and rural counties throughout the state. The study will also explore funding formulas and practices of similar services provided in other states.

#### Direct allocation to "rural" counties

• \$2,300,000 will be allocated to Community Transportation Coordinators who are not direct recipients of U.S.C. Section 5307 funding. Funds are to be used to provide transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes so they may access health care, employment, education and other life-sustaining activities. Funds will be distributed among Community Transportation Coordinators based upon the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund allocation methodology.

#### **Mobility Enhancement Grant**

• \$1,750,000 will be used to award competitive grants to Community Transportation Coordinators to support transportation projects that: (1) enhance the access of older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons with low income individuals to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services, and recreation; (2) assist in the development, improvement, and use of transportation systems in non-urbanized areas; (3) promote the efficient coordination of services; (4) support intercity bus transportation; and (5) encourage private transportation provider participation. All Community Transportation Coordinators are eligible to apply for this Mobility Enhancement Grant.

The Florida Legislature also directed each Community Transportation Coordinator to develop and implement performance measures which, at a minimum, address timing of advanced scheduling requests; on-time passenger pickup; improved routing to minimize passenger wait times; error rates for passenger pick-up and drop-off; and collection and public posting of passenger satisfaction survey ratings.

By September 30, 2016, each Community Transportation Coordinator must provide information to the Florida Department of Transportation detailing the adopted performance measures and the methods used for evaluating performance. The Florida Department of Transportation shall provide a report to the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees by December 15, 2016 specifying which entities submitted, or failed to submit, the required information as well as an evaluation of the efficacy of the performance measures and recommendations as to best practices that could be implemented on a statewide basis.

#### ATTENDANCE RECORD

## DIXIE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD

MEMBER/ORGANIZATION	NAME	4-2-15	7-2-15	10-1-15	1-7-16
Chair	Commissioner Jason Holifield	Melissa Long	P	P	Α
Florida Department of Transportation	Sandra Collins	P	P	Р	P
Alternate Member	Janell Damato	A	A	A	A
Florida Department of Children and Families	Debbie Andrews			A	P
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				·
			P	Р	P
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Pamela Hagley		A	A	A
Alternate Member	Melinda Jordan			A	A
Florida Department of Education		P	Р	P	P
Alternate Member	Jeffrey Aboumrad	A	A	A	P
Public Education	Tim Alexander	^	A	^	
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Citizen Advocate	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Citizen Advocate-User	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Elderly	(Vacant)	1			
Citizen Advocate	(Vacant)				
Veterans	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Persons with Disabilities	(Vacant)				
Alternate Rep.	(Vacant)				
Florida Department of Edler Affairs	(Vacant)				
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Children at Risk	Tonya Hiers	Α	Р	Р	Α
Alternate Member	Brooke Ward	A	Α	Α	Α
Local Medical Community	Scott Pendarvis				Р
Alternate Member	(Vacant)				
Regional Workforce Board	Jeannie Carr		Α	Р	Α
Alternate Member	Sifoa Nunu		Α	Α	Α

LEGEND KEY: P-Present A-Absent - Not Applicable (newly appointed member)

ATTENDANCE POLICY: According to Article III, Section 5 of the Coordinating Board bylaws: "The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall review and consider rescinding the appointment of any voting member of the Board who fails to attend three consecutive meetings."