

**Navigation and Transportation Work Group
Meeting 4 Meeting Minutes: Solution Review
February 2, 2012**

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- Define ‘special’ trips: non-medical or group travel with destinations other than senior center; discussion of ½ cent sales tax as funding to expand rural public service.
- Real-time pick-up service: Chapel Hill Transit started senior shuttle January 9 – a hybrid between demand/response and fixed routes; real-time could also mean on-time; would not need to schedule in advance; A Helping Hand can accommodate requests with one or two day notice; CHT EZ Rider service is four times as costly as fixed route trips; one strategy should encourage the pursuit of innovative/futuristic ways to improve transportation service; although ½ of A Helping Hand’s transportation service is for the 85+ group, strategies should address needs of both able-bodied and frail older adults.
- Once-a week (market day) service: who would provide the service; identify a market or destination for a pilot project; mobile markets would operate similar to the bookmobile concept, moving merchandise out instead of moving people in.
- Client vanpools: vanpools have been cost-effective for bringing employees long distances; concern expressed that target population would not be able to comply with central departure location instead of home pick-ups or timely departure schedule.
- Share-A-Ride: website for UNC students matches destination requests and resources – all arrangements are negotiated by individuals; could vehicles be made available as needed for groups who want to carpool for non-work trips but do not have their own vehicles.

Concerning liability the Orange County Attorney stated that, with all options utilizing volunteers and their vehicles, drivers must be trained and have background checks. Those drivers’ insurance would have primary liability, followed by RSVP volunteer insurance (if applicable), then Orange County Government.

DRIVING

- Environmental changes: combine street sign, crosswalk and lane marking suggestions into a solution that calls for pursuing a partnership with NC Dept of Transportation to promote these improvements; each municipality has its own guidelines; recommendations could target new projects only; involve Dept on Aging in NCDOT in Unified Transportation Board; way-finding signage; universal signage.
- ITN America initiative: non-profit where seniors donate their vehicles to ‘purchase’ rides provided by volunteers who accrue credits for future service; concern expressed about creating new non-profit – identify existing community resource to pursue this option, or encourage partnerships; identify technical support resources, such as the Beverly Foundation or ITN; delete suggested solution to develop tunnels or skywalks for heavy pedestrian traffic crossing areas.

WALKABILITY

- o Connectivity: develop strategies to support completion of incomplete sidewalks; what are the results of the bike access and accessibility assessments and how are they communicated; determine if all municipalities have ‘Community Connectivity Plans’ and promote their implementation; consider incentives for developers to extend new sidewalks to connect to existing ones; promote goal of ADA compliance in new construction; advocate for mobility considerations in DOT road construction projects.

Increasing Revenues: re-instating Chapel Hill Transit rider fares would cost more to implement than would be collected, plus the decreased ridership would result in reduced federal funding; implementing a zone rate in the rural area could adversely impact the most isolated; support the development of “Friends” organizations for transportation; identify pilot project concepts for funding opportunities.

PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS LIST – NAVIGATION AND TRANSPORTATION - COMBINE! CONSOLIDATE! STREAMLINE!

SUBCOMMITTEE: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	
Subtopic: System expansion	
Problem	Solutions
1. Need to expand public transportation system into rural areas of Orange County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Partner with OPT to provide special trips like those offered by TTA and CHT. b. Develop a real-time pick up service. c. Provide once-a-week bus transportation for rural areas (based on the market day idea). d. Create map with all Orange County navigation and transportation routes. e. Create a program where clients pool to share a ride on a bus or van. This could be modeled after TTAs existing vanpool program. f. Support the establishment of centralized park and ride lots with shuttle services, like those proposed in the Rural CTP, for rural areas, such as Eno and Efland Cheeks Townships.
2. Need to ensure EMS can reach rural area residents during weather emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Create a buddy system for use in weather emergencies, especially for rural area residents. h. Have portable generators at the senior centers and elsewhere in the county.
Subtopic: Seamless transportation	
Problem	Solutions

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:01 AM

Comment [1]: Clarify special services to be EZ rider, etc. → Clarify to expand OPT trips in the northern part of the county to recreational trips and not just medical. Expand range of locations for group trip pick-up.

Partner with the county (OPT), RSVP, etc.

May be long-term depending on funding options.

Lenovo 2/2/12 10:42 AM

Comment [2]: Change “real-time” to on-demand.

Strategy on innovative solutions with several examples, pursue additional research on feasibility and success elsewhere, possible options and room for innovation in our county. Consider language about ability and income.

Lenovo 2/2/12 10:45 AM

Comment [3]: Who would do it? Would need market research. Could be a pilot project and could seek federal money.

Book mobile idea to bring market to rural areas. With involvement of churches.

Lenovo 2/2/12 10:58 AM

Comment [4]: Different from volunteer share a ride idea. TTA's is commuter, long-distance. We're talking about something that is less regular.

Combine creating services that result in cost saving/sharing for an individual ride, making a connection, not picking up liability insurance (caveat/disclaimer), have guidelines about meeting ahead of time in public place.

Also possibility of combining with volunteer driver service, but then if provide vehicle would need liability insurance.

Lenovo 2/2/12 10:57 AM

Comment [5]: Connect with e above.

3. Need connections between senior centers and other business at midday.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Relocate nearby bus stops to be closer to the senior centers. j. Establish partnerships with private transportation providers. These partnerships could involve destination businesses, taxi providers, or providers who already offer group excursions. Paid drivers could transport groups of people from rural areas to shopping areas.
4. Need connections to other counties and areas of the Triangle region.	k. Expand TTA's RTP route schedules.
5. Need weekend transportation.	l. Support existing programs in protecting and expanding their current weekend schedules.

SUBCOMMITTEE: DRIVING AND OPTIONS FOR NON-DRIVERS	
Problem	Solutions
6. Need to keep people driving safely for as long as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> m. Support expansion of number of handicapped parking spaces. n. Support placement of street signs above intersections and mid-block before intersection. o. Support maintenance of lane markings. p. Advocate UNC Highway Safety Research Center and AARP to promote/increase national standard for crosswalk time. q. Support the increase of crosswalk time at the county level. r. Advocate including a button to press for additional time (and/or mechanism to alert drivers to crossing pedestrians in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). s. Support changing traffic patterns at busy intersections to allow all pedestrians to cross in any direction at one time. t. Establish senior driving wellness programs that address the driving task, the driver, and the social environment. u. Support existing volunteer driver programs (e.g. Friend-to-Friend, A Helping Hand, church vans) v. Start Share-a-Ride program. w. Start an ITN America affiliate. x. Expand the Red Cross volunteer driver service from Durham County into Orange County through increasing funding and volunteer membership.

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:12 AM

Comment [6]: Distinct from other physical changes, include way-finding signs on the list.

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:06 AM

Comment [7]: Combine physical changes, partner with DOT. Pursue regular meetings with them to identify problems and solutions related to aging, they can guide us to funding.

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:09 AM

Comment [8]: Combine with other physical changes above

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:17 AM

Comment [9]: By increasing volunteer membership, funding, technical support (guidance)

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:20 AM

Comment [10]: Maybe fit in as an example or as an innovative solution to look into

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> y. Establish guidelines, using the Beverly Foundation as an information source, and provide trainings on volunteer driving. z. Promote the creation of a tunnel in Chapel Hill on Columbia near Pittsboro to manage pedestrian traffic. aa. Support the establishment of Complete Streets policies that account for the needs of older adults at the state, county, and municipal levels. bb. Establish a travel training program through the Easter Seals Project ACTION. Could pair students in the geriatric certificate program with older adults who are moving away from driving to alternative means of transportation. cc. Seek funding from the National Center for Senior Transportation that is sponsored through the Easter Seals Project ACTION.
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Lenovo 2/2/12 11:18 AM
Comment [11]: Combine with technical assistance above

SUBCOMMITTEE: WALKABILITY	
Problem	Solutions
7. Need to connect existing infrastructure in both urban and rural parts of county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dd. Conduct needs assessments on a constant basis to create coordinated planning recommendations that consider multiple modes of transportation. These assessments could be in the form of Transportation Health Impact Assessments through the CDC, for example. ee. Support the development of parking structures instead of parking lots, particularly in University Mall/Ram's Plaza areas. ff. Connect the shopping centers around University Mall with sidewalks. gg. Connect the shopping centers around University Mall with skywalks. hh. Support completion of incomplete sidewalks, particularly in urban areas. ii. Promote the widening of sidewalks. jj. Develop sidewalk infrastructure within rural neighborhoods and around UNC Hillsborough Hospital/Durham Tech campus. Could use alternative materials to do so to address cost issues. kk. Support development of more bike lanes, especially in the northern part of the county. ll. Examine the ADA standards for new construction and existing areas. If possible and missing, advocate for developments to be responsible for connecting the surrounding properties with sidewalk. mm. Bring all sidewalks, including old construction, up to ADA standards. nn. Promote the creation of pedestrian islands like those on MLK throughout the county.

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:41 AM
Comment [12]: And communication about results to public and the county, coordination across municipalities, support implementation of plans. Hillsborough plan is good example.

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:33 AM
Comment [13]: Already part of the conversation but can organize older adults to make sure they stay ongoing

Lenovo 2/2/12 11:48 AM
Comment [14]: And municipal ordinances, think about cost sharing to pay for it

	<p>oo. Promote modeling of building requirements after Atlanta City, which has golf cart accessibility.</p> <p>pp. Support creation of a centralized transit hub, perhaps around I-40 and I-85. This would be modeled after Meadowmont and Southern Village. A barrier could be restrictions like the rural buffer requirements.</p>
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CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE: AFFORDABILITY/ECONOMIC CONCERNS (FUNDING SOURCES AND PLAN INTEGRATION)	
Problem	Solutions
8. Need both long-term and short-term funding sources.	<p>qq. The OCDOA and other agencies should apply for available state funds, especially Section 5310 and Section 5317, but also Section 5316.</p> <p>rr. Transportation services could receive funding from the ½ cent sales tax.</p> <p>ss. Increase rider fees (while accounting for low income populations) for public transportation services.</p> <p>tt. Create zones of cost for public transportation rider fees.</p> <p>uu. Find sustained funding for the Hillsborough Circulator and EZ Rider Senior Shuttle services.</p>
9. Need to coordinate plans between the various county, town, and other regional departments.	<p>vv. Hire an OCDOA mobility manager (who could also help with other problems like information dissemination).</p> <p>ww. Involve the OCDOA in the Orange County Unified Transportation Board.</p>

Lenovo 2/2/12 12:00 PM
Comment [15]: And other grants

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE: INFORMATION DISSEMINATION	
Problem	Solutions
10. Lack of available support services to assist people with identifying appropriate routes/services to use (includes issues of	<p>xx. Establish a central point at the senior centers to collect and disseminate information about local resources for seniors whose driving options are changing. Include education on the various roadway users. Partner with AARP and other organizations to do this.</p>

language barriers and confusing maps/schedules).

yy. Partner with health services to share information on transportation and to engage the community.

zz. **Additional solution:** Support existing services such as NCGO.org, those offered by OPT, CHT, and TTA, and those offered by private businesses and non-profit organizations.