

**SOUTH SHORE SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL/TAHOE
AREA COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR THE DISABLED MEETING**

**April 23, 2018
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM at the Department of Rehabilitation at 2489 Lake Tahoe Blvd in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves and members had a chance to announce new business and agency communications.

ATTENDEES

John Pillsbury, Department of Rehabilitation
Paula Lambdin, El Dorado County Community Services
Lisa O'Daly, Tahoe Conservancy
George Fink, Tahoe Transportation District
Nicole Paulley-Davenport, LTCC Advance
Amanda Lotter, TRAILS
Mike Clark, TRAILS Client
Frank Gerdeman, LTCC Advance
Meredith Crosby, LTCC Advance
David Stevenson, SLT Police Department
Angela Swanson, Tahoe Transportation District
Syndi O'Neill, Pride
Gordon Bonar, TACCD Treasurer/People's First
Kira Smith, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Charles Bowyer, Department of Rehabilitation
Tara Styer, Tahoe Transportation District

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gerdeman introduced Meredith Crosby who is new with Advance. There will be a career summit at LTCC on Friday, April 27th from 9am to 4pm. Participants can receive help with their resumes and learn about job opportunities. Food will be provided.

Mr. Pillsbury presented some literature on ergonomics. The DOR evaluates their clients' work environments and suggests that sitting is healthier and easier on your body than standing, but workers should take period stretching/walking breaks.

Ms. O'Daly is retiring in early November and there are two new job openings at the Conservancy. The Conservancy would like TACCD to head a subcommittee and provide input on ADA access to recreation sites.

Mr. Bonar announced that the Special Olympics track and field qualifier is Saturday, May 19th at Reno High School. Transportation will leave the senior center at 6:00am and return between 5:00pm and 6:00pm. The swimming qualifier will be at the Carson Aquatic Center on Sunday, May 20th. Transportation will leave the Senior Center at 6:45am and return at 3:00pm.

People's First held their Spring Dance at Kahle Community Center on Friday, April 20th from 6 – 8pm. Thirty people showed up and had a good time with their friends. People's First will hold an event at Magic Carpet Golf on Thursday, May 17th at 5:30pm.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Tahoe Transportation District – Proposed Transit Policy Changes

Mr. Fink announced that TTD is proposing to modify some of their policies and their ADA demand response service area. TTD took over direct operations of south shore transit in 2016 and adopted new transportation plans including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transit Master Plan (TMP), and Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) in 2017. TTD is facing staffing issues and fleet issues – they are having a difficult time employing drivers and sustaining their fleet. TTD is also subject to transit performance measures and must adhere to strict requirements from many different regulatory agencies.

Some of TTD's proposed route changes will modify route alignments so that all services run through LTCC. TTD is partnering with LTCC to install electric charging infrastructure for their new electric buses. In April, TTD staff presented new service scenarios to their board called the "Balanced Approach" and the "Most Sustainable Approach." The public comment period is now open for proposed policy changes, but the public comment period for proposed route changes will not be open until after the May board meeting.

Mr. Fink went through proposed policy changes and explained that TTD is working to modify service to align with surrounding agencies and improve efficiency so they can meet their performance targets. TTD is particularly constrained by farebox recovery requirements and must change services to maximize farebox. The following are TTD's proposed policy changes:

- Consolidate demand response service area to a one-mile corridor from fixed routes.
- Increase automatic age eligibility to 65 and older. Persons who are between 60 and 65 will still qualify as long as they keep their eligibility current with TTD.
- General public access to demand response service will be discontinued. Personal care attendants will still be able to ride for free with their clients.
- The discounted fixed route fare will only apply to adults 65 and over, TTD demand response cardholders, medicare card holders, and veterans with a service connected disability. Medi-Cal and Medicaid cardholders will no longer receive a reduced fare.
- Youth fare will be discontinued. Age 4 and under will ride for free, ages 5 through 64 will ride at full fare.
- TTD, JAC, and DART are partnering to offer free transfers between services in Carson Valley.
- The Specialized Transportation Service (STS) will be discontinued.
- TTD's Mobility Management program will be discontinued.
- The maximum occupied wheelchair lift and ramp capacity will be reduced from 800 to 600 lbs.

Ms. O'Daly expressed concern that residents in Meyers and North Upper Truckee will lose access to paratransit service at their homes. Several attendees indicated they are worried about losing service to the Round Hill shopping center particularly because there are

many demand response riders who work in this center. They suggested extending the proposed fixed route to the Round Hill shopping center.

The public comment period for these policy changes will be open until May 11th. Mr. Fink also explained some of the route changes TTD is considering which will include splitting Routes 50 and 53 into four new routes. Frequency on Route 50 will increase from 60 minutes to 30 minutes. A new route will provide service to Meyers as a fixed route in the Balanced Approach and a commuter route in the Sustainable Approach.

Mr. Pillsbury is concerned that the Mobility Manager position will be dissolved because the position is very helpful for social services groups. It's important to have a that position for coordination with social services groups and to teach people how to ride the bus. Mr. Gerdeman hopes Advance might be able to fill some of the functions of the mobility management position.

Mr. Pillsbury is frustrated that past SSTAC meetings have not been well received and recommendations are often not implemented. Social services providers have never had a seat at the table and would like to be included in board discussions. TTD staff and TRPA staff will look into this suggestion and make recommendations to their boards.

Mr. Fink talked about the monetary support TTD receives from local governments and noted that the City of South Lake Tahoe does not contribute any funding to public transit. Mr. Fink encouraged attendees to advocate for more public transit funding from their local communities.

Ms. O'Daly asked if TTD would be able to increase bicycle capacity on buses. Mr. Fink explained that there are only enough spaces for two bikes currently on buses, but TTD is looking into purchasing bike trailers for added bicycle capacity. Ms. O'Daly also thinks all public agencies should add travel options to their board packets so that members of the public know they can access meetings using public transit or bike trails and sidewalks.

Ms. Lambdin mentioned there are often parking issues at the County courts during heavy jury traffic days. She is hoping the proposed TTD routes will better serve Al Tahoe Blvd and Johnson Blvd. Ms. Lambdin is also concerned that the qualifying age for senior housing is 62 and the discounted fare and demand response eligibility is proposed to increase from 60 to 65, which would exclude certain senior housing residents who don't yet meet this age requirement.

TTD plans to come back to the SSTAC/TACCD meeting in May to present any changes and a final plan for route recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM. The next TACCD meeting will be held on May 21st at the Department of Rehabilitation between 12:00pm and 2:00pm.