

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
September 1, 2015**

Present were Commissioners:

Betsy Benac, Chairman
Vanessa Baugh, First Vice-Chairman
John R. Chappie, Second Vice-Chairman
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice-Chairman
Robin DiSabatino
Carol Whitmore

Absent was:

Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Keira Reiter, Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court



Chairman Benac called the work session to order at 9:03 a.m.

REPORTS

BC20150901DOC001

1. **TRANSIT: HANDY BUS/PARATRANSIT SERVICE**

Chad Butzow, Public Works Deputy Director, William Steele, Transit Division Manager, and Ryan Suarez, Planning Manager, utilized a slide presentation to discuss paratransit services, handy bus services, customer satisfaction, innovation, service levels, staffing, and fares.

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Discussion ensued regarding origin and destination requirements, acquiring services, and trip scheduling.



Mr. Suarez continued the presentation and discussed one-way trip fare increases, Coordinated Transportation System Organization funding, and transportation disadvantaged (TD) requirements and capacity.



Discussion ensued regarding TD qualifications and prioritizing reservations, insurance billing, purchased transportation, Medicaid billing and transportation, and Medicaid participation.




Mr. Suarez discussed veteran's transportation and eligibility processes and assessments.

Discussion ensued regarding the fixed route system and service area, level of service and access, and Metropolitan Planning Organization encouragement to add financial eligibility verification to TD.




The presentation continued with discussion regarding customer satisfaction surveys, complaints, innovations such as pre-paid fares, marketing for the handy bus, resource constraints, paratransit ridership, resources utilized to provide service, overtime hours, average number of trips provided daily, capacity constraints, proportion of population over

60 years old, projections for full-time operators and daily bus needs, FY 2015 forecasts, prioritizing American Disabilities Act trips, fare comparisons, zone-based fares, staff recommendations on fare modifications, and capacity demands.

 Discussion ensued regarding competition, funding, financial qualifying stipulations, and recommended next steps: public involvement, reviewing public outreach, and implementing outreach analysis.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

 There being no citizen comments, Chairman Benac closed citizen comments.

Discussion ensued regarding resident implementation, driver recognition, handy bus service feedback, and new facilities.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Benac adjourned the work session at 10:25 a.m.

Minutes Approved: _____