

## ANDREW NEIGHBORS REPORT TO THE ONE ATHENS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Advantage Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS) has served as the third party operator for Greene County's DOT 5311 Transportation System since 2004. A summary of that operation:

- In 2003 the Green County Board of Commissioners (BOC) made a decision to remove itself from the day to day management of the Greene County 5311 Transit System (GCT).
- The BOC entered into an agreement with ABHS to become the Third Party Operator (TPO) of the system, and agreed to provide financial support to the system in an amount sufficient to support the operations.
- GCT provides about 35,000 trips per year. Approximately 29,000 trips are to attend to medical needs or DHR programs. About 6,000 trips are for personal reasons, i.e. work, shopping, visits with friends & relatives, meetings, church, school etc. Approximately 2,000 of these trips involve "intra county" travel, i.e. the majority of which involve taking Greene County Citizens to other counties for medical visits, shopping, or schools.

I met with Byron Lombard, the County Administrator to discuss some implications of an integrated transportation system involving several counties, and how it would be perceived by the County Officials and Taxpayers.

- The county made a decision to get out of the transportation business, and support the operation financially. The current commission continues to support that decision.
- As the TPO, Advantage must respond to the needs of the citizens, and provide the services they request, if feasible. In addition the riders pay a fee for the trips they take.
- The BOC would probably not oppose any expansion or change which benefited Greene County citizens, businesses, or the Greene County economy. The county would probably not increase their contribution based on any expansion or intra county travel.
- The county "owns" the DOT provided vehicles and provides maintenance, fuel and oil at a reduced price. They would not want to subsidize the operation in support of other counties and would expect them to provide an appropriate amount of support.
- He would like to be kept informed about any proposed changes.

### US Department of Transportation – Federal Transit Administration Fact Sheet

- Human Services Transportation Coordination, Sect: 5303, 5310, 5311, 5314, 5316, and 5317
- Other than Urbanized Area Formula Program, Sections 5311 and 5340
- Formula Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities, Section 5310
- Job Access and Reverse Commute, Section 5316
- New Freedom Program, Section 5317