

**OneAthens**  
**Public Transportation Implementation Committee**  
**Multimodal Transportation Center**  
**August 6, 2007**

Team Members Present: Beth Gavrilles (Chair), John Devine (RDC), Butch McDuffie (Athens Transit), Ron Hamlin (UGA Transportation), Andrew Neighbors (ABHS), Alice Kinman (ACC Commission), Ed Graham (Chamber)

Guests: Jim Dove (RDC), Blake Aued (ABH), Larry Dendy (OneAthens)

Present from Staff: Delene Porter

1. Beth welcomed group and had Team review and approve minutes of previous meeting.
2. Update was given on Regional Transportation Plan activities:
  - A. Try Transit Day was discussed. It did not cost ACC anything because the buses were running anyway; Andrew said that Greene County spent a small amount on advertising.
    - i. Group agreed that the effort was not a failure- the 5311 Transit Mangers had calls of interest and this will be a process.
    - ii. It is worth trying again- talk to Transit Mangers about finding a better day
    - iii. Is there fear in using the Athens Bus?
    - iv. Could tie into senior day at the mall.
  - B. Northeast Georgia Surface and Air Transportation Commission- Jim Dove shared that the Commission was formed by an act of the legislature in 1989.
    - i. It included Barrow, Madison, Clarke, Morgan, Elbert, Oconee, Greene, Oglethorpe, Jackson, and Walton.
    - ii. It first began looking at creating a new airport, but got bogged down in discussions of location
    - iii. It also discussed Athens-Atlanta commuter rail
    - iv. There is some interest in reviving the commission
    - v. It cannot tax but can purchase real property
  - C. Commuter bus to Atlanta
    - i. Butch talked to GRTA- they are no longer interested in starting a commuter bus, for several reasons.
      - a. ACC is not eligible for Congestion Mitigation for Air Quality funds (which is what GRTA uses) because we are in compliance with EPA Air Quality Standards.
      - b. Athens is not within GRTA's Atlanta MSA
    - ii. State legislation could help with funding a commuter bus- will get GTA's legislative agenda soon

3. Local update- Team discussed list of recommended Transit Services
  - A. Draft Recommended Transit Services:
    - i. Increase the hours and service area where “The Link” operates to create a county-wide demand response service.
    - ii. Increase frequency of all fixed routes to a minimum of once every 30 minutes.
    - iii. Have early Saturday service and create Sunday and Holiday service.
    - iv. Develop and implement a Marketing and Public Awareness program targeted to help identified segments of the population.
    - v. Develop a Community Outreach program that will work with employers, community groups, and service providers on discounted pass sales and teach staff “Travel Training/Trip Planning”
    - vi. Allow agencies like East Athens Development Corporation and Hancock Community Development Corporation to administer program to purchase and distribute discounted passes to clients with verified need.
    - vii. Continue to pursue additional and alternative funding sources at the local, state, and federal level for expansion of all transportation services.
    - viii. Encourage local elected officials to discuss “Regional” transportation options at the policy-maker level.
  - B. No changes to fare structure are recommended.
  - C. Team also discussed service to Athena Industrial Park on Olympic Drive and the Industrial Park west of the Mall. Employers may not see a need for transportation, but there may be Athenians who could get jobs in these areas if they were able to get to them. It is difficult though, since most of these employers use round-the-clock shifts and are spread out. ARMC is contracting with Athens Transit for a shuttle services to and from their off-site parking- would need a large employer or group of employers to afford the commitment.
  - D. Team will further explore cost.
4. Next meeting will be on Thursday, August 30 at 8:30am at the Multimodal Transportation Center.