

Transportation Sub-Committee meeting

June 13, 2006, 2:00 p.m.

Attending: Carol Barnett, Eve Austin, Becca Dougherty, Stephen Kingsberry, Bonnie Hitch, Meghan Gorman (via phone conference).

We reviewed the membership list and will seek new members for this sub-committee. There are several interested persons who could not make this meeting- Kyle Hodges, Kathy McCool, Doyle Dobbins and Lloyd Schmitz. We will meet in the first Wednesday of the month, starting with August 2, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the DART offices.

Bonnie will develop a list of our accomplishments to share with the Commission at their June 22nd meeting. If you have something to add to her list, please e-mail to Bonnie. Examples are the Transportation Directory that they now print and make available on their web site.

We reviewed the Joint Sunset Committee recommendations about internal changes that were suggested for DART. They will be added to the matrix developed for the sub-committees to document their goals and objectives. We then spoke at length about some of the larger transportation issues that we want to capture on this matrix-taxi service, over the road buses, airport shuttles, etc. and developed several goals related to these efforts. For example, we could investigate the allegation that nursing home and assisted living facilities are not using their vans to take their residents on local trips so residents are forced to rely on DART. This would eliminate many DART trips if the facilities would more fully use their vehicles. We could encourage the state to offer financial incentives for local taxi services to become accessible by adding an accessible vehicle to their fleet.

Bonnie will investigate the activities of other states, through the Project Action web site, to see what innovative ways they are encouraging the growth of accessible transportation options in their states. Meghan can also give us information about dates for ADA compliance by the transportation industry as they were allowed additional time to phase in to ADA requirements.

(Those of us in New Castle Co. brainstormed after the end of the meeting and want to add this to the end of the minutes). We would like to suggest the inclusion of positive human interest stories in the local newspapers about the rewards of being a para-transit driver and/or client and to spotlight all the positive things that are implemented by DART First State. There are several News Journal reporters, for example, who write human interest stories, such as Beth Miller and Victor Greto, among others.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.