

**LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH PRESIDENT'S AWARENESS  
COMMITTEE FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 14, 2007  
291-8308  
[disability@lafayettegov.net](mailto:disability@lafayettegov.net)**

**Board Members Present:** Steve Jankower, Dr. Ronald Cheek, Richard Phelps

**Absent Board Members:** Carol Glover

**Excused Board Members:** Paul Fontana

**Guests in Attendance:** Mary Ann Ficaro, Harold Arceneaux, Peggy Stelly, Mark Guillory,

**LCG Staff Present:** Ben Berthelot, Dana McPherson, Mike Mitchell, Lou Anna Angelle

1. Steve Jankower called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes from the March 12, 2007 and April 10, 2007 meeting were approved.
3. Steve Jankower introduced Dana McPherson, Transit Supervisor to discuss the possibility of extending the partransit service outside the city limits.

Ms. McPherson read the following letter to the committee:

**LAFAYETTE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT  
INTERNAL MEMORANDUM**

---

Traffic & Transportation Department  
Transit Division (594)

Telephone: 291-8571

E-mail: [dmcpherson@lafayettegov.net](mailto:dmcpherson@lafayettegov.net)

Fax: 291-7066

**TO:** Tony Tramel

**DATE:** May 10, 2007

**FROM:** Dana McPherson

**SUBJ:** Assessment of Parish Para-Transit Services

**Background:**

Annually, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides Section 5307 Formula Assistance Funds to transit agencies to assist with operational activities. Lafayette receives such assistance and matches those federal funds at a 50/50 Federal-Local basis. Those local matching funds have typically been supplied by LCG using only city general fund dollars. Attached you will find a spreadsheet providing the operating cost and fund sources of the Transit Division. As a result of matching funds being made available from the city general fund, para-transit services have historically been limited to the corporate limits of the City of Lafayette. This is a policy decision made by the Lafayette City-Parish Council and Administration. Recently, the Disability Awareness Committee has requested we explore the possibility of providing para-transit services throughout Lafayette Parish.

**Analysis:**

- 1 -\$20,000 for one year of service, to provide demand response transportation services for the general public from their city center to our transit terminal in downtown Lafayette. Larry Baker with COA stated the programs were in place for approximately 11 months, however ridership was typically only 1-2 passengers per day.

Transit staff made contact with the following entities in an attempt to ascertain the approximate number of individuals who might benefit from services outside of the City of Lafayette.

# Disability Committee Meeting Minutes

Page 2

May 17, 2007

- Council on Aging
- Lafayette Association of Retarded Citizens
- S.M.I.L.E CAA
- The Advocacy Center

None of these organizations could provide any potential ridership estimates.

Subsequently, staff determined the methodology to determine monthly and annual cost of this service was based on miles and hours of service provided in addition to a daily vehicle cost. This data was based on the existing contractual relationship with Acadiana Transit.

The formula for cost is as follows:

$$\text{\$61.75 (Daily Vehicle Cost) + \$0.25 x (miles traveled) + \$10.70 x (hours of service) = Cost of Service}$$

Attached you will find a spreadsheet, which details approximate cost of service based on benchmark miles and hours of service and the daily cost of a 22 passenger vehicle. These figures are, of course, approximate but provide valid numbers for potential services.

### Findings:

The ability to provide additional transit service is directly related to the Council providing/appropriating funding to expand existing service. At issue, is the inability to identify city general funds to match federal dollars for this service as such change must compete with all other needs of LCG. The most appropriate match source would be the Parish General Fund however the total parish government funds budget is approximately \$10.5 million. These funds are typically used for drainage and road maintenance.

One other option includes establishing user fees to pay for the service, however the cost of para-transit trips typically exceed \$10-\$25 per ride. Therefore it is believed such an approach is not viable.

Please provide this information to the Awareness Committee per their request for information. Should you have any questions, you may contact me at Ext. 8571.

---

Dana McPherson  
Transit Supervisor

C: Mike Mitchell (w/attachments)  
Disability Awareness Cmte. (w/attachments)

Disability Committee Meeting Minutes

Page 3

May 17, 2007

Dana McPherson discussed the following handout:

Acadiana Transit      Lafayette City-Parish Cost for Paratransit Service

DAY SERVICE							
Daily Vehicle Rate	61.75						
Vehicle Mileage Rate	0.25						
Hourly Rate	10.70						
Number of operating days	303						
Mileage Range:	Mileage Range Cost (.25/mile):	Daily Cost (Based on 12 hours - 10.70/hour):	Operating Days	Mileage Cost	Annual Cost Per Range:	Total Daily Cost (Includes Vehicle Rate 61.75/vehicle)	Total Cost (Includes Vehicle Rate 61.75/vehicle):
50	\$12.50	\$128.40	303	\$140.90	\$42,692.70	\$202.65	\$61,402.95
100	\$25.00	\$128.40	303	\$153.40	\$46,480.20	\$264.40	\$80,113.20
150	\$37.50	\$128.40	303	\$165.90	\$50,267.70	\$326.15	\$98,823.45
200	\$50.00	\$128.40	303	\$178.40	\$54,055.20	\$387.90	\$117,533.70

\*A fuel adjustment is allowed in the existing contract. Those figures were not calculated in this document.

Total Transit O&M Budget FY (05-06)	\$3,320,220	
Regular Bus Service <i>(Fuel, Maintenance Supplies, Overtime, Salaries, etc)</i>		\$2,636,488
Paratransit		\$376,750
Night Owl Service		\$307,000
<b>Total Operational Costs</b>	<b>\$3,320,238</b>	
<b>Fund Sources to Provide Service</b>		
Total Fund Costs	\$3,320,220	
(LESS) Bus Fares		\$326,644
(LESS) State Grant		\$151,528
(LESS) Other Revenue <i>(Charters, Advertising)</i>		\$10,000
Total Amount of Fund Sources	\$488,172	
<b>Differential</b>	<b>\$2,832,048</b>	
<b>Total Remaining for 50/50 Split</b>		
City General Fund		\$1,416,024
FTA Operating Grant		\$1,416,024
Total	\$2,832,048	
<b>Differential</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>*Night Owl and Paratransit Fares are not included in Budget, as these funds are retained by vendor (Acadiana Transit).</b>		

After Dana's presentation there was a brief discussion by the committee members regarding the information she provided. Steve Jankower asked if she had looked at any pilot programs and she indicated that she was unable to find a pilot program. Steve asked that she contact other agencies that could assist with this project.

The committee members would like to have a one year pilot program started. They have agreed to meet with anyone necessary to get this starting including the area mayors from the municipalities. Dr. Cheek would like meeting with City-Parish President, Joey Durel to further discuss this pilot program.

The following proposal was discussed by the committee:

- The municipalities would be contacted informing them about the pilot program and request their participation in sharing the cost for the one-year program.
- The committee will promote the program.

There was a brief discussion about the cities of Broussard and Carencro who had contracted with Lafayette Parish Council on Aging (COA). The committee would like to have Larry Baker (COA) attend the next meeting to discuss the program.

**4. Phone calls:**

- Lucas Lupa, SW Independence Center, looking for information on the Committee. Ben Berthelot sent him the By-Laws.
- Linda Williamson – she felt that the Festival International Office didn't take the handicap citizens into consideration in their planning process.

**5. Old Business**

Dana McPherson gave a brief summary about the Paratransit Survey that was recently sent out.

- 6.** Richard Phelps mentioned the conditions of sidewalks in the City of Lafayette. He indicated that the blind members of the committee need to have the sidewalks repaired.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, June 11, 11:30 a.m.** in the Council Briefing Room on the first floor of City Hall.