

Governor's Development Council
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September 1, 2010

Ms. Debbie Dlugolenski
Director
The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
270 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Interim report from the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services
Transportation

Dear Ms. Dlugolenski:

The purpose of this Interim Report is to provide an update to the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) on the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation's (herein referred to as "the Committee") progress to date in assessing rural and human services transportation (HST) per Section 4 of House Bill 277 (HB 277). Due to the recent passage of this bill, the Committee was not provided with sufficient time to produce a full report but wishes to provide OPB with an understanding of ongoing efforts and key milestones. Consistent with HB 277, a draft report will be provided to the State Advisory Subcommittee for Rural and Human Services Transportation on or before July 1, 2011, and a final report will be provided to OPB by the Governor's Development Council (GDC) on or before September 1, 2011. The following items are detailed below:

- An explanation of the current GDOT-based statewide plan update effort that will serve as the primary source of information for the Committee's work;
- The proposed meeting schedule and work program for the Committee and State Advisory Subcommittee for Rural and Human Services Transportation (herein referred to as "the Subcommittee");
- A proposed public involvement plan;
- Future interim reporting expectations;
- A shortened version of the legislation outlining tasks and reporting requirements (Attachment A); and
- The HST Governance Flow Chart (Attachment B).

GDOT/DHS/DCH Statewide Plan Update:

In March 2010, incorporating HB 277's predecessor SB 22 HST requirements as its basis, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) engaged a consultant team lead by CHA to update and finalize Georgia's interim HST plan, originally created in 2007. This effort utilizes American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and will allow Georgia to continue to attract federal HST dollars.

The GDOT/Department of Human Services (DHS)/ Department of Community Health (DCH) Statewide HST Plan Update is currently underway and integrates fully with the HB 277 requirements. Both the

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GDC and GDOT have met and agreed to use the data and information gathered under this plan update to inform the Committee's effort. The GDOT is working cooperatively with DHS and DCH along with Georgia's regional commissions to produce this plan update. The effort will take place in two phases, including (1) a plan update, and (2) the execution of pilot projects.

Phase One – the plan update consists of four (4) parts:

- Part One – Agency Coordination
- Part Two – HST Needs Analysis
- Part Three – Preferred Alternatives
- Part Four – System Implementation

Utilizing the twelve (12) regional commissions (RCs), the HST consultant team (the CHA team) has already held initial workshops within each RC area. The purpose of these meetings has been to gather information, present the HST plan update effort and seek comment from the various local, regional, and rural HST participants, funders, providers, Area Agencies on Aging, users and other social service entities. From these meetings it has been determined that there is much interest in rural and HST coordination and that a regional approach to HST coordination is appropriate, especially given the vast differences between regions in their current coordination efforts. Further, it has been determined that additional regional workshops on each project phase will be the best way to develop a regional approach appropriate to each RC area. This information, in addition to ongoing research, will be provided to the Committee in the near future to satisfy much of their data collection needs.

Phase Two – In phase two, the pilot projects identified in part 4, system implementation, will be executed. The pilot projects are expected to be initiated in time to provide the Committee an opportunity to assess their effectiveness and include any resulting recommendations in the September 2011 report to OPB.

Meeting Schedules and Work Program:

The HST Committee held an orientation meeting on August 11, 2010 formally initiating the HB 277 reporting process. The Committee is seeking to hold a joint meeting together with the HST Subcommittee in October, as schedules of key participants allow, to initiate communication with the advisory board. The Advisory Subcommittee is composed of the following members, as prescribed by the language in HB 277:

- Chair - Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner
- State School Superintendent
- Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Commissioner
- Department of Community Health (DCH) Commissioner
- Department of Labor (DOL) Commissioner
- Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner
- Governor's Development Council (GDC) Commissioner

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It is currently contemplated that the Committee will meet bi-monthly and will meet jointly with the Subcommittee quarterly between now and next June to complete their work in conjunction with the GDOT/DHS/DCH Human Services Statewide Plan update. The schedule of exact meeting dates are being developed at this time.

The joint meeting dates will be set based upon the work program and the expected completion dates for each of three phased reports. It is expected that a first preliminary report will be ready by November and will allow the Committee and Subcommittee to identify key coordination problems, potential solutions sets and areas for additional research. A second preliminary report in the first quarter of 2011 will evaluate specific solution sets and how they can be applied in Georgia and will result in a third preliminary report consisting of draft recommendations to be presented in the second quarter of 2011. A composite report, in draft form, will incorporate key portions of each of these phased reports and will be routed through the reporting process identified in HB 277 (submitted to the Subcommittee on or before July 1, 2011, finalized and submitted to OPB on or before September 1, 2011). See Attachment B.

Public Involvement Plan:

The committee has also developed a public involvement plan to enable input from a wide range of stakeholders throughout the state. During the months of October and November, GDC staff and when possible, at least one HST Committee member will attend meetings in each of the state's twelve regional commissions to gather input from local and regional stakeholders. Further, an email repository will be provided for stakeholder comment and a website will be established to disseminate reports, meeting dates, and other pertinent information.

Future Interim Reports:

It is anticipated that there will be at least one additional interim report that is likely to be provided to OPB early in the first quarter of 2011. This report will be completed as data become available and will detail the state of HST in Georgia as well as best practices nationwide that may serve to assist Georgia in its efforts to coordinate HST services.

If you have any questions regarding this information please contact Jannine Miller, GDC Executive Director or David Cassell, GDC Principal Planner at 404-463-3007.

Sincerely,



Sonny Deriso
Chairman of the Governor's Development Council

Attachment A: HB 277 Summary of HST Coordination (from Section 4)

Legislative Background:

HB 277, Section 4 establishes the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation which is required to examine various aspects of the current coordination and operation between rural and human services transportation in Georgia. Specifically HB 277 requires the GDC to:

- 1) An analysis of all programs administered by participating agencies, including capital and operating costs, and overlapping or duplication of services among such programs, with emphasis on how to overcome such overlapping or duplication;
- 2) The means by which transportation services are coordinated among state, local, and federal funding source programs;
- 3) The means by which both capital and operating costs for transportation could be combined or shared among agencies, including at a minimum shared purchase of vehicles and maintenance of such vehicles;
- 4) An analysis of those areas which might appropriately be consolidated to lower the costs of program delivery without sacrificing program quality to clients, including shared use of vehicles for client trips regardless of the funding source which pays for their trips;
- 5) An analysis of state of the art efforts to coordinate rural and human services transportation elsewhere in the nation, including at a minimum route scheduling so as to avoid duplicative trips in a given locality;
- 6) A review of any limitations which may be imposed by various federally funded programs and how the state can manage within those limitations as it reviews possible sharing opportunities;
- 7) An analysis of how agency programs interact with and impact state, local, or regional transportation services performed on behalf of the general public through state, local, or regional transit systems;
- 8) An evaluation of potential cost sharing opportunities available for clients served by committee agencies so as to maximize service delivery efficiencies and to obtain the maximum benefit on their behalf with the limited amount of funds available; and
- 9) An analysis of possible methods to reduce costs, including, but not limited to, greater use of privatization.

GDC – Committee Reporting Requirements:

HB 277, signed by Governor Perdue on June 2, 2010, also requires that the Governors Development Council (GDC), through the GCCRHST (the Committee) submit reports according to the following schedule:

- ▶ July 1 - The Governor's Development Council shall submit the preliminary report of GCCRHST :
 - The members of the State Advisory Subcommittee for Rural and Human Services Transportation.

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- Comments and recommendations may be submitted to: The Governor's Development Council for a period of 30 days.
- ▶ September 1 -, the Governor's Development Council shall submit a final report to:
 - The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for review and consideration.
 - The report shall address each of the HB277 GCCRHST specific duties
 - Each report shall focus on existing conditions in HST coordination and shall make specific recommendations for means to improve such current practices, including cost implications and impact on client service.
- ▶ January 15 - the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget shall submit the final report and any affiliated budget recommendations to the presiding officers of the General Assembly,
 - Copies to the chairpersons of the transportation committees, the appropriations committees, and the health and human services committees of each chamber of the General Assembly."

Attachment B: HB 277 Governance Flow Chart

