



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 9, 2015
To: Gary Watson, Douglas County Multimodal Division Director
From: Jamie Cochran, AICP – GS&P Project Manager
Subject: **Meeting Summary – Project Kick-off Meeting – April 7, 2015**

The project kick-off meeting for the Douglas County Transportation Services Study was held April 7, 2015 in Citizens' Hall at the Douglas County Courthouse. About 21 members of the public attended, in addition to the project staff and Douglas County DOT representatives.

Tom Worthan, Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, welcomed the group and stressed the importance of the study in terms of providing quality transportation services to County residents and preparing for the future. Randy Hulseley, Director of the County's Department of Transportation, explained the purpose and goals of the project and emphasized that much of the work effort on the study would be focused on obtaining feedback from residents on the nature of the services they need and what they are willing to financially support. Gary Watson, the Division Manager of the Multimodal Transportation Department, introduced his team members and welcomed the group to participate in the project. Watson will be serving as the County's Project Manager.

Jamie Cochran, Gresham, Smith and Partners, the Project Manager for the consultant team, gave a presentation on the overall approach to the project, the major parts of the study, the project schedule, the roles of the County Commission, the project team, and the public, and the various uses of the study when it is completed. The main focus of the project is to assess the current transportation services provided by Douglas County and GRTA to determine if new services are needed to meet citizens' needs or if current services should be modified. The project team will review the experiences of other counties that are similar to Douglas County to see if there are new ways to deliver service, new technology that can be incorporated into the current services, or new types of arrangements being used to fund services. The project team will have draft recommendations for review by the County staff and the County Commission by the end of 2015. Ms. Cochran emphasized how important it is to encourage your friends, family members, co-workers, and others to participate in the study so the team can reach as many citizens of the County as possible to get their feedback.

Next, the group then discussed various aspects of the study and the attendees were able to ask questions and make comments.

- It is important to know that this project is not replacing the planning for regional transportation services, it is focused on figuring out the best local circulation system for Douglas County that can connect to whatever system the region develops in the future (Randy Hulsey).
- The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) can help obtain data on the number of Uber drivers already operating in Douglas County (Jamie Cochran to follow up).
- Douglas County should not be considering bringing MARTA rail or buses to Douglas County (citizen).
- The Georgia Commute Options Program can help us learn more about alternative ways to commute (citizen).

The group then discussed what the major factors should be used by the County Commission to make transportation service decisions.

- Cost
- Demographics of the County
- Community acceptance
- What seniors need
- Connections to livable communities (LCI) areas
- Coordination with strategic development plan
- Economic development – need to get employees to employers
- Providing services to job centers outside Douglas County
- Need to have services to key places in the County (i.e. hospital, stores, etc.)
- We should grow our vanpool program
- We need to focus on sustainable transportation options

The attendees completed short surveys before they left the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at about 3 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Davidae Walker – Douglas County Rideshare
Jeremy Busby – Gresham, Smith and Partners
Grady Smith – MPE
Madeline Bramblett – citizen
Gary Jenkins – Douglas County Fleet Management
Matt Laverne – Douglas County Risk and Safety
Tom Worthan – Chair, Douglas County Board of Commissioners
Ann Jones Guider – Douglas County Board of Commissioners, District 4
Mark Teal – Douglas County Administrator
Richard Hagan – Douglas County Senior Services
Janet Hyde – City of Villa Rica

Audrey Johnson – Atlanta Regional Commission
Randy Hulseby – Douglas County Department of Transportation Director
Ben Skipper – Carroll County Board of Commissioners
Kim Smallwood – Douglas County Senior Services
Diane George – Douglas County Senior Services
Tracy Rye – Douglas County Planning and Zoning
Betty Mays – Douglas County
Kelley King – citizen
Michelle Wright – City of Douglasville
Mike Mulcare – Douglas County Board of Commissioners, District 3
Erica Parish – Paulding County Government
Jerie Blackwood – Douglas County Rideshare