

A G E N D A

WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, TO BE HELD JUNE 14, 2011, AT 6 P.M., AT THE COTTONWOOD COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING LOCATED AT 826 NORTH MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF:

Comments regarding items listed on the agenda are limited to a 5 minute time period per speaker.

1. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE COTTONWOOD AREA TRANSIT TAXI VOUCHER PROGRAM BY KATHY CHANDLER, PARA-TRANSIT MANAGER FOR THE NORTHERN ARIZONA INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.
 2. PRESENTATION REGARDING HOW HIRING DISABLED WORKERS HELPS THE COMMUNITY BY MIKE COSENTINO (REPRESENTING DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY).
- IV. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03.(A) the Council may vote to go into executive session on any agenda item pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03.(A)(3) Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body.

The Cottonwood Council Chambers is accessible to the disabled in accordance with Federal "504" and "ADA" laws. Those with needs for special typeface print or hearing devices may request these from the City Clerk (TDD 634-5526.) All requests must be made 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Members of the City Council will attend either in person or by telephone conference call.

City of Cottonwood, Arizona
City Council Agenda Communication



Meeting Date: June 14, 2011

Subject: Presentation - CAT Taxi Voucher Program (Kathy Chandler, Paratransit Manager/NAIPTA)

Department: Community Services

From: Richard Faust, Community Services General Manager

REQUESTED ACTION

Kathy Chandler, Paratransit Manager with NAIPTA will be making a presentation to the City Council involving CAT Taxi Voucher Programming and up-coming planning pertaining to this alternative form of transit service available to our community. Linda Norman, who sits on the NAIPTA Board has also expressed a desire for the City Council to review and discuss this potential program for viability in the CAT Transit System.

If the Council desires to approve this item the suggested motion is:

N/A.

BACKGROUND

The Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) has continually striven to provide a full spectrum of services to the public throughout their tenure in northern Arizona communities. Currently, NAIPTA has had a successful track record with their "Taxi Voucher" system in Flagstaff over the past four (4) years. This program has provided a second transportation option for Mountain Lift clients and has grown considerably over this period of time.

JUSTIFICATION/BENEFITS/ISSUES

NAIPTA has had discussions as to this program venue being offered in the Cottonwood area with the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) and will be bringing this item to the NAIPTA Board at the June 15, 2011 meeting for action and approval. The TAC felt this program would

be a tremendously successful collaboration between public/private entities. Benefit to the public would be realized and be viewed as a successful transit alternative for many clientele throughout the Cottonwood area. This program opportunity is available to Cottonwood through a match grant between NACOG (Northern Arizona Council of Governments) and Federal 5317 Grant funding at 100%. Such a partnership would be offered as a voucher system for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

This program would provide cooperation with local taxi companies, thereby providing and outlining eligibility agreements, along with the printing and distribution of vouchers in the Cottonwood area. Clearly, this coordinated transit alternative meets a need in the community, eliminates duplication and affords efficiency and service to the general population.

In addition, NAIPTA and NACOG will set up group trips based out of the Verde Valley Senior Center for shopping and social outings. Elaine Bremner, Verde Valley Senior Center Executive Director has been apprised of the potential of this program and has supported the efforts as a way to enhance coordination and efficiency of services, plus provide a viable service to seniors throughout the Verde Valley.

In final, the potential savings to CAT for providing trips in the manner will be about 1/3 of the cost of the trips moved from CAT Paratransit to taxi vouchers.

COST/FUNDING SOURCE

Once again, this Taxi Voucher program is a 100% partnership from Federal 5317 Grants along with NACOG funding which has been secured for the next two (2) years.

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager: _____

City Attorney: _____

ATTACHMENTS

- NAIPTA TAC Meeting Agenda Packet - June 2, 2011 (Pages 24, 25 & 26)



Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

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Cottonwood: 340 Happy Jack Way • Cottonwood, AZ 86326 • 928.634.2287 • FAX 928.634.1685

DATE: June 15, 2011
TO: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board
FROM: Kathryn Chandler / Paratransit Manager
SUBJECT: CAT Taxi Voucher Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the CAT Taxi Voucher Program at no cost to NAIPTA member agencies.

RELATED STRATEGIC WORKPLAN OBJECTIVE

Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Strive for continuous improvement in all we do
- ❖ Put the customer first

Goals:

- ❖ Apply imagination, creativity and innovation to improve the service we deliver
- ❖ Take steps to achieve sustainable fiscal strength... be willing to go outside the box.

BACKGROUND:

History: NAIPTA has a Taxi Voucher program that has been in operation in Flagstaff for the past four years. This program provides a second transportation option for Mountain Lift clients and has grown from providing 210 trips in FY07 to providing about 3464 trips in FY11. Many of the vouchers provided are used for trips before and after the hours Mountain Lift operates. Others are used for trips that could be taken on Mountain Lift. The cost to NAIPTA per voucher used is about 1/3 the cost of a trip taken on Mountain Lift.

A year ago NAIPTA recommended replacing the costly Kachina Dial A Ride program with a taxi voucher program. The Coconino County taxi voucher program provided a more cost effective option and offered service more County districts. This program is growing and should serve close to the same number of customers in four of Coconino county's districts for about half the cost of the former program.

NAIPTA has the opportunity to provide a Taxi Voucher program in Cottonwood similar to the model established in Flagstaff and Coconino County. NAIPTA would offer CAT Paratransit clients the additional transportation option of taxi vouchers for their trips. NAIPTA would also set up group trips from the Senior Center for shopping, social outings, etc.

Value of this service: Most of the clients we transport with CAT Paratransit now are transit dependent. The trips we provide enable them to get to doctors appointments, the nutrition





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program at the Adult Center, grocery shopping and to run other errands on Monday through Friday from 7am to 6 pm. Taxi vouchers can also be used for trips where customers need to take items with them that can't be taken on the Paratransit vans such as pets not in carriers, large items that can't be secured, and high volume purchases.

This program also affords the opportunity to partner with other agencies to coordinate transportation. If this program is approved, NAIPTA will be working with NACOG and the Verde Valley Senior Center to provide group trips from the Senior Center. This coordinated effort meets a need in the community, eliminates duplication and affords efficiency.

Proposal: NAIPTA partner with NACOG to provide the funding and facilitate the CAT Taxi Voucher program. This program would be similar to the taxi voucher programs NAIPTA has established in Flagstaff and Coconino County.

- Funding: NAIPTA commits \$15,000 of the 5317 grant funding secured for a taxi voucher program for FY12 and another \$15,000 for FY13. NACOG has committed the matching \$15,000 for this program for FY12 and another \$15,000 for FY13.
- NAIPTA will set up a Taxi Voucher program with the same guidelines and procedures already established in current NAIPTA programs. These guidelines include eligibility, agreements with taxi companies, printing and distributing vouchers in the Cottonwood area. NACOG has a list of persons who are now using their services who will be informed of the program and how they may be eligible.
- NAIPTA and NACOG will set up group trips based out of the Verde Valley Senior Center for shopping, social outings, etc. The Senior Center will do some surveys at the Center to determine the trip needs and wants. These group trips will also be purchased out of the voucher program from the various transportation providers at a reduced price.
- The potential savings to CAT for providing trips in this manner will be about 1/3 of the cost of the trips moved from CAT Paratransit to taxi vouchers.

TAC DISCUSSION:

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) Approve the CAT Taxi Voucher program
(recommended): The funding is currently available at 100% from grants that NAIPTA and NACOG have already secured for the next two years. This program is a cost effective way to give CAT Paratransit clients another option for transportation in partnership with other organizations.
- 2) Do not approve the CAT Taxi Voucher Program **(not recommended):** Not putting this program into affect at this time means we lose the funding as it can not be used for anything else. We lose the opportunity to save 1/3 the cost of the CAT Paratransit trips that could be moved to the voucher program.





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FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this program can be covered with federal funds (5316/5317) is 50% of total with remaining 50% from NACOG for two years (FY12 & FY13). There is no cost to NAIPTA partner agencies.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Kathryn Chandler
Paratransit Manager

Jeff Meilbeck
General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

None

Draft

