

Lake County Division of Transportation Paratransit Coordination with LCCTSC Policy

Established 3/2/2016

Endorsed by the Public Works and Transportation Committee

From: County Engineer

Directed to: Director of Planning & Programming and Senior Planner/Paratransit Coordinator

Purpose

Provide direction to LCDOT to work with the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee (LCCTSC) to assist with their long-term goal of coordinated countywide paratransit service to meet the needs of seniors, persons with disabilities or medical needs, low-income residents and those in need of transportation for access to employment. The Public Works and Transportation Committee (PWTC) has endorsed this policy. It is intended that this policy shall be modified from time to time; as recommended by staff and as directed by the PWTC. Lake County is a partner in the coordination of regional paratransit transportation. This policy is not intended to exclude local decisions on local services, but to provide a framework for County involvement in regional coordination of services.

Work Plan

The procedures outlined below shall be followed:

1. Utilize “¼% Sales Tax funds” to provide a staff position (the Paratransit Coordinator), to serve as project coordinator to help achieve the said long-term coordinated countywide paratransit service goal of LCCTSC.
2. Work with Pace as the region’s public transit provider to broaden regional paratransit services offered to Lake County residents.
3. Work with, and provide recommendations to, the LCCTSC to identify and pursue enhancements to eligible paratransit services presently being delivered, whether by public or private providers, that can be incorporated into the reaching of the said long-term goal of coordinated countywide paratransit service.
4. Apply for grants on behalf of LCCTSC, in concert with paratransit operators, which provide a regional benefit and enable progress to be made towards reaching LCCTSC’s long-term goal of coordinated countywide paratransit service (regional benefit is considered as crossing borders and connecting areas beyond a single Township or Municipality).
5. Utilize “¼% Sales Tax funds” to provide funding, up to 70% of the local match, for grants received for pilot paratransit projects with regional benefit (pilot project considered to be a pilot for up to 5 years from the date the service is initiated).

6. Work with the LCCTSC and the project partners to develop a sustainability plan within 2 years of the date that the grant funded pilot project service is initiated. Implementation of the sustainability plan shall begin in the 3rd year and County funding shall adjust incrementally from the 3rd thru the 5th year (County funds 70% of the local match in years 1 and 2; 55% of the local match in year 3; 40% of the local match in year 4, and 25% of the local match in year 5 with the project partners providing the balance of the local match).
7. Work with CMAP, RTA, Pace and other regional partners to evaluate the prospects of and report on the method proposed to sustain any service that may be instituted, whether by public or private providers, as part of a plan or program towards reaching the said long-term goal of coordinated countywide paratransit services.
8. Working with the Lake County Board and LCCTSC, plan for the County's ultimate role in a long-term, sustainable, countywide paratransit service (such as partially funding a consolidated paratransit 24/7 call center, or other possible countywide opportunities utilizing ¼% Sales Tax).
9. Hire a consultant to facilitate a plan to lay out the next steps to provide regional coordinated paratransit in Lake County (utilizing ¼% Sales Tax funds and possible grant funding).
10. The County will provide up to \$500,000 per year for regional paratransit related initiatives. This includes staff position, County match for grants, and any consultant fees as identified in items 1, 5, 8 and 9 above.