

Team: North Port CHAT

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013 4:30 pm

Place: North Port Police Department

Next Meeting Time/Place: *Special CHAT Meeting:* **Forum on Juvenile Justice and Diversion Options in North Port.** Tuesday Oct. 29th, 2013, Multi-purpose room at Morgan Center (Additional details will follow.)

Meeting Goal

1) Update from SCAT; 2) Continue discussion about juvenile diversion options for North Port

Attendees:

Diane Ramseyer, Rhonda DiFranco, Vanessa Carusone, Chief Kevin Vespia, Maureen Coble, Janis Russell, Monica Becket, Ken Alexander, Kari Ellingstad, Sarah Blanchard, Phil Lieberman, Burce Burton, Faith Chapman

Welcome and Introduction

Introductions were made around the room.

SCAT Update

Sarah Blanchard and Phil Lieberman, of Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT), provided updates on the transit plans for North Port, including the Transportation Disadvantage program and the fixed route system. SCAT has created an online survey to collect additional feedback. This can be accessed at www.scgov.net/scat.

Transportation Disadvantage

- A plan update will be presented to the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board on 9/12/13
- There is a hope that the eligibility for paratransit —door to door services – will be broadened so that more can access these services. Eligibility criteria are currently being revised. The appeals process for missed Transportation Disadvantage trips is also being updated.
- Paratransit services are especially important in North Port because so much of the city isn't near a fixed bus route.
- In the future, eligibility for Transportation Disadvantage services may be based on a sliding scale; those with the ability to pay may still be able to access services but at a higher fare.

Fixed Route System

- The Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners will receive an update on a transit latent demand study that was conducted by the Charlotte and Sarasota County MPOs.
- Phil Lieberman provided an update on improvements to the fixed route system in North Port. Phase 1 will begin at the end of 2013/early 2014. Phase 2 will begin July 2014.
- (Refer to map on 3rd page). Areas that will be served every two hours are shown in red and blue. Areas where red and blue lines overlap will be served every hour.
- Service currently operates from Monday – Saturday, 5:20 am – 9 pm. Sunday service will be added in phase 2.
- SCAT is looking for feedback on possible transfer station locations.

Discussion

- Ken Alexander asked if shelters would be expanded. Sarah noted that SCAT has been working with the City of North Port to provide shelters, currently there are 5. Part of the future planning will be to ensure that all shelters are ADA accessible and provide at least benches, if not shelters, at each bus stop.

- A question was raised about park and ride from/to Sarasota, and whether this connects with fixed routes in North Port. Phil noted that SCAT was working to make the times fit. Red and blue lines are designed to connect to the “trunk line” which goes to Sarasota.
- Ken encouraged everyone to get on the bus and ride it to get a better understanding of the system, and the needs and opportunities for North Port.
- Janis Russell suggested that SCAT offer a free day pass to get additional feedback on proposed routes.
- Janis further suggested a Walmart (Venice) to Walmart (North Port) route, especially on Sundays. She has seen a need for this from a library perspective. The Sunday hours should also extend to the evening (at least 7 or 8 pm).
- Maureen Coble suggested asking for feedback from employers on potential usage. Other feedback could be received from Goodwill, Salvation Army/VFW, and the Health Interagency meetings.
- Vanessa Carusone suggested that SCAT look at county-owned lands as possible location for transfer stations.

Sarah Blanchard underscored that ongoing dialogue with the CHAT would be beneficial.

Juvenile Diversion Options for North Port

Vanessa Carusone underscored that it is important for the North Port community to clarify what it wants out of a juvenile diversion option. Once the characteristics of an ideal program (or programs) are identified, the community will be in a better position to determine whether existing programs align with community expectations. The group agreed this will be a good topic for special meeting for October.

Announcements

- September 23rd: Charlotte and North Port Drug Free Coalitions will be hosting a free seminar: "Teen Brain 101" - "Positively Impacting Our Teens". 2 identical sessions will be held: 12:30 pm and 4:30 p.m. RSVP is required. Call 941-979-7471 or email chrissie.salazar@yourcharlotteschools.net for all the details.
- **September 26th: Child Abuse Prevention Planning Meeting. 1:30 at the McClure Center.** 4215 Concept Ct., Bradenton, FL, 34211
- October 23rd: Charlotte County Health & Human Services is hosting “*What is Neighborhood Accountability Board & Civil Citation*”. 6pm-8:30pm at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex (4500 Harbor Blvd.).

Meeting Summary Submitted by Kari Ellingstad

Proposed SCAT Service in North Port, FL

