



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning District Commissions
Key Human Service Stakeholders

FROM: Neil Sherman

DATE: May 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Announcing the Third Round of Planning Workshops to Finalize Regional Coordinated Human Service Mobility Plans and the second New Freedom Grant and the Senior Transportation Grant

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the third Regional Planning Workshops on the development of a local Coordinated Human Service Mobility Plan for your area and to inform you of a second round of New Freedom grant opportunities and a new Senior Transportation grant.

As you know, “locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans” are now required to access the federal transportation programs including the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310), the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC under Section 5316), and a new program called the New Freedom Program (Section 5317). Each of these programs provides unique and necessary mobility opportunities for older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons with low incomes for your community.

Over the last year with the help of our consultants from KFH Group and Cambridge Systematics, Inc., DRPT has worked with small urban and rural communities to organize region-specific Coordinated Human Service Mobility Plans. The plans have been developed with special help from the Planning District Commissions (PDCs) and include the interests, needs, and prioritization of strategies, activities and/or projects for your region as identified by key stakeholders. Each draft plan can be reviewed at <http://www.kfhgroup.com/drpt-chsmplans.htm>

During the upcoming workshops, we seek to obtain your final approval on the plan before its promulgation to the public and state and local agencies. We remind you that any entity or community provider interested in accessing these federal transportation programs in the future will be required to include its interests and needs within the local plan.

We also look forward to sharing with you this year’s second Request for Proposals (RFP) for New Freedom Grants to be awarded this summer. This grant solicitation will be of special interest to most localities within the Commonwealth because the Governor and the Secretary of Transportation agreed to use state general funds as match for the federal dollars. The Projects will now be funded at 95% federal and state funds and 5% local match. New Freedom Projects encourages new services and facility improvements to address the transportation needs of persons with disabilities and go beyond those services required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A new grant for Senior Transportation will also be shared with you at the workshops. This program will support voucher, volunteer and training programs for older adults and will be funded with 95% state funds.