

RESOLUTION 2006- 134

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY FLORIDA, APPROVING A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR SOLICITATING AND CONSIDERING PUBLIC COMMENT PRIOR TO RAISING FARES OR IMPLEMENTING MAJOR SERVICE REDUCTIONS OF THE DEVIATED FIXED ROUTE IN ST JOHNS COUNTY FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, under 49 USC Chapter 53, Federal Transit Laws, Section 5307, a recipient/grantee must have a locally developed process to solicit and consider public comment before raising fares or carrying out a major service reduction of the deviated fixed route.

WHEREAS, the county of St. Johns is the recipient of Federal Transit Administration grants for the purpose of operating a deviated fixed route transit system in St Johns County Florida.

WHEREAS, as a recipient/grantee, St Johns County Florida is responsible for the local development of a Public Participation Process.

WHEREAS, the Public Participation Process is for any fare increase and or major service reduction in the deviated fixed route.

WHEREAS, a major service reduction is defined as elimination of a published fixed route or a twenty-five percent (25%) or more reduction in revenue hours or miles.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of St Johns County Florida that:

1. A locally developed Public Participation Process has been developed in accordance with 49 USC Chapter 53, Federal Transit Laws, Section 5307 and is hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
2. The attached Public Participation Process is approved by the Board of County Commissioners of St Johns County Florida.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida this 16th day of May, 2006

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: James E. Bryant
James E. Bryant, Chairman

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: Robin L. Platt
Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE May 19, 2006

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS
FOR
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5307 PROGRAM**

ST JOHNS COUNTY URBANIZED AREA

BACKGROUND

Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 grantees must develop a local process to solicit and consider public comment prior to a fare increase or major service reduction. A major service reduction is defined as elimination of a published "fixed-route" or a twenty-five percent (25%) or more reduction in revenue hours or miles. St Johns County is the recipient of 5307 funds in the St Johns County Urbanized Area (FTA designation as a 'small urban system'. The responsibility for operating the fixed-route system for St Johns County is delegated by contract to an operator.

ADOPTED PROCESS

The following outlines the adopted process for obtaining public comment on fare increases for the general public and/or major service reductions.

- A. The County contract is with St Johns County Council on Aging (SJCCOA) for the urbanized area. The contractor shall be the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 operator and administer the day-to-day operations of the deviated fixed route system in the urbanized area.

- B. The County, with the assistance of SJCCOA, the deviated fixed-route operator, shall provide opportunity for public comment through the following steps at a minimum:
 1. Legal advertisement of local meetings, such as County Commission meetings, at which fare increases and/or service reductions affecting the general public are discussed.

 2. Posting of a notice, in deviated fixed route vehicles, notifying riders of any meetings at which fare increases and/or service reductions to the general public are discussed. This should be done thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date and notices shall remain on display for the entire 30-day period.

 3. Information regarding a fare increase and/or a service reduction shall be provided to the St Johns County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB). The LCB shall then make its recommendation to the County.

4. A minimum of two (2) advertised public meetings shall be conducted by the county for the express purpose of receiving public comment on a fare increase and/or service reductions. These public meetings shall be conducted, as a minimum under the following conditions:

a. One meeting site shall be conducted in connection with the published LCB meeting schedule closest to the proposed change.

b. A final public meeting on the fare increase and/or service reductions shall be conducted at an advertised County Commission meeting. At this meeting all other public comments shall be presented.

This process has been reviewed and approved by the St Johns County Commission at its regular meeting on the 5-16-06 in resolution 06-134.