



COUNCIL on AGING

YOUR SOURCE AND VOICE ON SENIOR ISSUES

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The mission of Council on Aging is to transform Charlotte-Mecklenburg into a *senior-friendly** community through education and advocacy.

CURRENT EMERGING ISSUE STATUS REPORT

DATE: 06/11/2008

IDENTIFIED ISSUE: CREATING AN ADVISORY BOARD TO ADDRESS TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY FOR AGING ADULTS

The Council on Aging vision for transportation is appropriate, affordable, and accessible transportation for aging-in-place older adults where their mobility is not restricted. Currently, there is not a forum for transportation providers to collaborate on transportation issues that specifically target aging adults.

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Mecklenburg County has in excess of twenty-five different agencies (public and private) that focus on transportation issues that impact the older adult population.
- Transportation services for older adults are fragmented and lack coordination throughout the County and between agencies.
- Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) operates several bus routes and light rail LYNX services every day of the week.
- Mecklenburg Transportation System (MTS) coordinates bus routes and services for Mecklenburg County residents throughout the County and into the suburban outlying areas.
- Mecklenburg Transportation Services (MTS) does not have an active Transportation Advisory Board to bring forth their issues.
- Mecklenburg County Commissioners are acting as a quasi-Advisory Board in name only, but are not intimately involved in the day-to-day operations.
- New Freedom Initiative is a comprehensive plan that represents an important step in working to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to learn and develop skills, engage in productive work, make choices about their daily lives and participate fully in community life. One of its initiatives is to expand transportation options.

COUNCIL ON AGING EDUCATION/ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- Council on Aging's Transportation Task Force has taken certain steps **on** becoming an Advisory Board to proactively address transportation issues impacting aging adults.
- Council on Aging is participating in the New Freedom Initiative through workshops and seminars.
- Simon & Simon Research and Associates, Inc. have been contracted by CATS to study transportation issues in Mecklenburg County for individuals with disabilities, senior citizens, and individuals with lower income.
- Council on Aging has participated in several of the CATS Coordinated Transportation Stakeholder Workshops to develop strategies to improve countywide transportation.
- Council on Aging [Transportation Task Force](#) meets monthly and is currently developing by-laws for the future Transportation Advisory Board. If you would like to contribute to positively impact this process, please contact [Eric Young](#).

RESOURCES/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- For more information on the CATS Coordinated Transportation Stakeholder Workshops, contact [Vida Covington](#), Manager of Operations Administration, CATS, 704-432-0457.
- For more information on the New Freedom Initiative and the Transportation Advisory Board, contact [Vincent Brown](#), Assistant General Manager, STS, 704-336-2637.
- For more information on the New Freedom Initiative, please visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/newfreedom/>.