

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2015-02

Supporting Rural Transit

WHEREAS, In counties without a fixed route transit system, the Community Transportation Coordinator had long been the sole provider of public transportation; and

WHEREAS, The inclusion of Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation in Medicaid Reform has devastated the ability of Community Transportation Coordinators to provide service to the elderly, disabled and low income populations and eliminated the economies of scale that used to make these services viable; and

WHEREAS, Public transportation for Florida's elderly, disabled and low income population is in crisis due to the unintended consequences of Medicaid reform compounded by the large and disproportionate amount of unmet demand that has accrued in rural areas, as documented by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) 2014 "TD Latent Demand Report"; and

WHEREAS, The unintended consequences of this removal of mobility will include negative impacts on quality of life for residents and higher costs for taxpayers, as residents will be forced to enter nursing homes, will defer medical attention until the need is acute, and will not have access to job opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the policy body of the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby expresses its support for the work of the Finance Committee of the Putnam County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board in their efforts to identify funding sources to address the current crisis and permanent solutions to the issues facing transportation disadvantaged in Putnam County and all of Northeast Florida. Furthermore, the policy body of the Northeast Florida Regional Council urges the development of a solution to this crisis by providing our rural transit service providers with increased access to the Florida Transit Block Grant.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, on the Second day of April, 2015.



Kenny Eubanks
President

Brian D. Teeple
CEO