

**From:** Tracy Homfeld [<mailto:thomfeld@co.collin.tx.us>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:27 PM

**To:** Eric Gleason

**Subject:** Rural transit in Collin County

**Importance:** High

Mr. Gleason,

Collin County is still trying to work through our next steps in determining how the transit needs of our residents will be met. The NCTCOG has suggested a three step process in order for us to identify this need. I spoke with Ms. Huddleston and this was her suggestion:

- 1) For Immediate need 0-30 days, Taxi Cab vouchers. Funding provided as a loan from the RTC up to \$10,000.
- 2) Interim 30-90/120 days, county vets existing transit providers for a short term contract and funding provided by TxDOT
- 3) County Long Term solution – RFI process to determine provider; to be funded by TxDOT.

Here are the commissioner courts questions.

- 1) For the immediate need taxi cab voucher program, COG has told us that this funding is a loan from the RTC and must be paid back. Is this something that TxDOT would be able to repay? **No, there would need to be an active grant agreement between the County and TxDOT during the time the expenses were incurred.**
- 2) I asked Jessie if it's the responsibility of the county to identify the transit provider. She told me that, since the county is the designated Rural Transit District then it would be the responsibility of the county. She asked that I check with you on the legal foundation. Since then the commissioners court has looked into this and found the attached statue regarding the definition of a rural transit district. I don't think we qualify as the designated rural transit district. If this is the case, would TxDOT we the ones to identify the provider? **Collin County must first take the steps outlined n the attached statute to form itself as the designated Rural Transit District for Collin County. Having done this, the County can choose to provide the service itself by setting up its own transit operations, or, it can choose to contract out to one or more providers for those services.**
- 3) If we are the authority to designate the provider, can we appoint more than one provider to cover the rural areas? Or even if TxDOT were to appoint the provider, could there be more than one to cover the rural areas if it makes the most sense? **The Rural Transit District can identify as many providers as it deems fit to provide service in Collin County. This decision needs to follow all necessary and appropriate procurement steps.**

If you would prefer to speak on the phone, please let me know when you are free and I can call you. The Comm. Court is meeting again on Monday and will discuss this topic and I would like to give them more info regarding their questions. **Please let me know if you want to discuss further.**

Thanks again for your help,  
Tracy Homfeld