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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

06-09

June 13, 2006

CONTINUATION OF PARATRANSIT TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, from time to time, the Governor's Paratransit Task Force (the "Task Force") has been charged with various tasks relating to the establishment and implementation of a statewide paratransit system to meet the needs of transportation dependent populations and enhance mobility opportunities for all Rhode Islanders;

WHEREAS, the Task Force has not met for several years;

WHEREAS, there is a significant need for further coordination and monitoring of paratransit services to advance a high quality, cost effective transportation system that meets the needs of Rhode Island's citizens;

WHEREAS, such coordination and monitoring is best addressed through annual assessments to ensure high quality, equity, and cost-effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the key state agencies and departments currently involved in the purchase, delivery and/or planning of statewide paratransit services are: the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, the Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals, and the Department of Human Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby order as follows:

1. The Task Force is hereby charged as follows:
 - a. Improve the mobility of Rhode Islanders, with particular emphasis on the elderly and disabled;
 - b. Promote the collaboration among all statewide entities involved directly or indirectly in paratransit services;
 - c. Ensure coordination of both fixed route and paratransit services;
 - d. Develop initiatives to expand and improve services to dependent populations;
 - e. Ensure conformance to funding mandates and state transportation plans;
 - f. Seek all possible revenue streams to strengthen the statewide system and ensure cost-effective and efficient operation; and
 - g. Monitor the services provided by paratransit carriers to ensure an appropriate level of customer service.
2. The Task Force shall consist of eight members and one non-voting *ex-officio* member. The Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, or designee, will serve as chair, the Director of the Department of Elderly Affairs, or designee, the Executive Secretary of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, or designee, the Director of the Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals, or designee, the Director of the Department of Human Services, or designee, a consumer of paratransit services to be appointed by the Governor, two public members to be appointed by the Governor, and the General Manager of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, or designee, shall serve *ex-officio*.
3. The Task Force shall develop an annual report to the Governor of procurements and program performance.
4. A Paratransit Program Review Subcommittee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Task Force, consisting of three or more members of the Task Force who do not represent either the paratransit broker or paratransit carriers. The Subcommittee shall be responsible for:

- a. Monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of all paratransit contracts and, where necessary, making recommendations for the termination or modification of such contracts.
 - b. Coordinating with the Bureau of Audits in its regular review process.
5. All state agencies and departments that procure paratransit services shall utilize the RIDE system, unless the Task Force or Governor determines that it is in the best interest of the State to do otherwise. Each state agency or department that procures paratransit services shall be solely responsible for establishing eligibility criteria for those services.
 6. All participating agencies and departments shall cooperate fully in providing staff and technical support as required by the Task Force.
 7. Executive Orders 94-5, 95-6, 97-6, and 01-1 are hereby superseded and rescinded.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereof.

So Ordered:



Donald L. Carcieri

Dated: 6/13/06