

FORWARD PINELLAS

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September 20, 2016

Craig Hare, Director
Pinellas County EMS and Fire Administration
12490 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774

RE: Stretcher Transportation

Dear Mr. Hare:

As you know, the issue of transporting Pinellas County residents in ambulances rather than less costly wheelchair vans in situations where it is not medically necessary has long been a concern of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB). Our agencies have worked together to resolve this issue for a number of years albeit unsuccessfully. However, we were very pleased to learn of your recent proposal of a Sunstar Basic Life Support (BLS) transport rate and the amendment of the Pinellas County Code to allow stretcher vans for the transportation of "non-medical" clients. We understand that with these changes stretcher passengers will no longer be required to utilize ambulance services for non-emergency transportation. This will provide those passengers with a more cost-affordable option and significant cost savings to the public. We commend you and your staff on this effort and fully support your proposal. We are looking forward to its approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Best regards,


Patricia Johnson
Chair
Local Coordinating Board