



# CTD Public Workshop: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transportation Services

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The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) is hosting a public workshop on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The purpose of the workshop is to gather public input on the use of CTD funding to serve individuals who are also eligible for complementary paratransit services under the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). CTD has provided the following questions for stakeholders to consider addressing as part of their public comments at the workshop. These questions were developed in response to some of the public comments that were provided at the February 25, 2021 Public Workshop.

- If CTD is authorized under Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, to subsidize a portion of ADA complementary paratransit services, what is the benefit to riders if these trips are currently available?
  - If the budget impact of supplementing ADA trips is zero, then would funding these trips take funding away from non-ADA (i.e., TD “non-sponsored”) trips?
- ADA *complementary* paratransit services function as an extension of the fixed route system to ensure individuals with disabilities have access to the same level of services afforded to the general public:
  - Are non-fixed route public transportation systems subject to the same federal requirements to provide a comparable service to persons with disabilities as is offered to the general public?
- How would maintaining the current CTD policy, where ADA trips are not eligible for reimbursement under the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund (TDTF), impact the coordination of other funding to deliver paratransit services to the TD population?
  - If the TDTF is statutorily designed to be the “payor of last resort,” how does this endanger the use of other federal funding sources to provide the most transportation possible?
  - Are there examples where the CTD policy resulted in “unraveling” coordination of other funding sources?

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires transit entities to separate ADA complementary paratransit trips from “sponsored” unlinked passenger trips within the National Transit Database (NTD):
  - If CTD purchases ADA trips, would that make them “sponsored” (within the NTD) and no longer considered “ADA” under the FTA?
  - Would CTD paying for ADA trips reduce the availability of enhanced match federal funding for ADA paratransit service costs?
- If CTD purchases ADA trips (beyond the rider’s fare), how would the rate of reimbursement be determined?
  - Would Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) that are not transit agencies be expected to reimburse the full cost of ADA trips?
  - If the cost of an ADA-trip is to be covered, should the cost of a bus trip also then be covered?

For more information about the public workshop, including the agenda and web link/phone number to participate, please visit the CTD website at: <https://ctd.fdot.gov/>. Stakeholders interested in providing public input on this topic may also submit their comments to David Darm, CTD Executive Director, via email at [David.Darm@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:David.Darm@dot.state.fl.us).