

Human Service & Paratransit Coordination

Lowcountry South Carolina Coordinated Public Transportation Expansion Plan

Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority

RLS & Associates was hired by Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority and the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) to assist the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority in expanding the availability of coordinated public transportation services throughout the lower four county portion of its service area. The Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority (LRTA) operates public transportation services in a five county region of southeastern South Carolina. The area includes concentrations with significant employment opportunities, and the Parris Island U.S. Marine Corp Base. Employees often live distant from the job opportunities and a significant number of workers in the hospitality industry are unable to find affordable housing near their places of employment. In response to those needs, LRTA, operating as Palmetto Breeze, began operating commuter routes, and limited demand responsive services.

In 2004, LRTA partnered with several human service agencies to establish a coordinated transportation service which was the first of its kind in South Carolina. In 2006, a mobility manager was hired to support the coordinated services. Within portions of the region, however, the client specific transportation services operated by various human service programs continue to operate, but they are not available to the general public or clients of other agencies. Palmetto Breeze, in conjunction with the Lowcountry Council of Governments would like to improve this network of services as an opportunity to effectively address unmet mobility in four counties.