

**AFF**

**Presentation of the 2018 Champions in Transportation Awards & Proclamation**

This event originally scheduled for December 10, 2018 was cancelled due to inclement weather and is rescheduled for Board action February 25, 2019.

The Board is requested to formally proclaim February 25, - March 4, 2019 as Champions in Transportation Week and present the 2018 “Champion in Transportation” Awards.

Now in its’ third consecutive year Durham County ACCESS in conjunction with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) will recognize some of the true unsung champions that utilize the demand response service. Without Durham County ACCESS, in many cases these recipients would not have a dedicated, safe and accessible means to travel to work, medical & health related appointments or trips to basic destinations for essential needs. The community and organizational awardees represent some of the heroes and true champions that work endlessly to support and advocate for greater mobility options and investment in public transportation, locally, statewide and at the national level.

The 2018 “Champion in Transportation” award categories and recipients are as follows:

**Passenger of the Year:** LeRoy Farrington (Rural General Public- Work Trip)

**Senior Citizen of the Year:** Mary Cropper (Senior Center Activities)

**Exceptional Customer Service**

**Employee of the Year:** Thandiwe (Tiny) Meek, First Transit

**Excellence in Advocacy:** David Rhew, Executive Director, NCPTA

**CHAIRMAN’S AWARDS**

**Heart of a Champion:** Randolph Lynch (First Transit)

**Spirit of a Durham:** Zack Hawkins, State Representative and TAB Member

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** Goal 1- Community and Family Prosperity and Enrichment and Goal 2 - Health & Well-being for All. Increased mobility and access to transportation enhances the quality of life, health and economic well-being of Durham County residents. The program and activities highlight the riders and partners that utilize and advocate for public transportation service.

**Resource Persons:** Linda Thomas, Durham County ACCESS, Transportation Program Manager, Deborah Crandell, Interim Director Durham County Cooperative Extension.

**County Manager’s Recommendation:** The County Manager recommends that the Board formally announce and present the 2018 “Champion in Transportation” Awards and proclaim February 25 – March 4, 2019 as “Champions in Transportation Week.”

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **Champions in Transportation Week**

A Transportation Recognition, Awareness and Customer Appreciation Initiative

Durham County ACCESS

February 25 – March 4, 2019

WHEREAS, Durham County ACCESS provides a vital link to mobility, independence and enhances the quality of life for Durham County residents; and

WHEREAS, Durham County ACCESS through a safe and dependable transportation network provided over 41,170 trips to disabled, elderly transportation disadvantaged and rural resident to medical, shopping, employment and training, community and social service destinations in FY17-18; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durham, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro MPO and the Federal Transit Administration work collectively with Durham County to support and strengthen the advocacy, policies and programs of the demand response service delivery; and

WHEREAS, Durham County is widely recognized as the City of Champions –it is truly fitting that on Monday, February 25, 2019 the Durham County Board of County Commissioners honored and presented Champion in Transportation Awards to dedicated customers, exceptional role models and leaders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wendy Jacobs, Chair of the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the BOCC in recognition of the value of this public transportation service, dedicated riders and leadership do hereby proclaim February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as “Champions in Transportation Week.”

I congratulate the recipients of this year’s “Champions in Transportation” awards and encourage all Durham county residents to observe this week by learning more about the services of Durham County Access and take an active role in championing the way for greater mobility throughout Durham County.

## **Agenda Action Supplemental Form Overview**

### 2018 “Champions in Transportation” Awards

#### **Background/Justification**

For the past three years, Durham County ACCESS in conjunction with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) celebrates the importance of the demand response public transportation service with several activities including a reception, award presentation and a proclamation naming Champions in Transportation Week. During the BOCC Meeting, Durham County ACCESS engages the Commissioner in recognizing and presenting awards to the award recipients.

The “Champions in Transportation” awards recognize some of the true and often unsung Durham County residents, as well as other non-profit and government champions that contribute to the success of the ACCESS program. The 2018 recipients despite being disabled, seniors or challenged by lack of transportation options rely on Durham County ACCESS for transportation to work, training, medical appointments and other social activities that ultimately contribute to the overall economic position, health and quality of life. During this time, Durham County ACCESS also takes a moment to recognize organizations and individuals for exceptional leadership and advocacy.

Prior to the Board of County Commissioners Board Meeting, DCA along with the Transportation Advisory Board will host a festive reception. The reception is followed by the Board of County Commissioners ceremonial presentation of the Champion awards and a request to the Board to proclaim January 25 – March 4, 2019, “Champions in Transportation” Week.

#### **2018 Champions in Transportation Awards Recipients**

##### **Passenger of the Year Award**

LeRoy Farrington (Rural General Public work trip)

##### **Senior Citizen of the Year Award**

Mary Cropper (Trips to Senior Center Programs)

##### **Exceptional Customer Service Award**

Thandiwe (Tiny) Meek, First Transit, Customer Service Representative

##### **Excellence in Advocacy Award**

David Rhew, Executive Director NCPTA

**Chairman's Awards*****Spirit of Durham Award***

Zack Hawkins, State Representative, TAB Vice Chair

***Heart of a Champion Award***

Randolph Lynch (Former First Transit Employee)

**Policy Impact**

Further engages the Transportation Advisory Board in their role and focus on service, outreach and advocacy.

**Procurement Background**

None

**Fiscal Impact**

Funds for promotional items and awards to support this initiative are budgeted through the 5311 Community Transportation Grant.