

**HERNANDO COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD
Minutes of the November 14, 2018 Regular Meeting**

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a public meeting on November 14, 2018, at the Hernando County Government Center, 20 North Main Street, John Law Ayers Commission Chambers, Room 160, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Tampa Bay Times and the agenda was available on the MPO's website at www.hernandocitrusmpo.us.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Mitten, TDLCB Chairman
Verene Kurtz, Hernando County Resident, Disabled
Karla Lagos, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Alternate
Denise Clark, Public Education Community
Daniel Hopkins, Mass Transit, Alternate
Kathleen Winters, Local Representative Medical Community
Penelope Barnard, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
John Eberle, Regional Workforce Development Board
Robert Bradburn, Florida Department of Children & Family Services
Tony Graham, Hernando County Veterans Services

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Benita Dixon, Private-for-Profit Transportation
Jabari Hampton, Florida Department of Transportation District Seven

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III
Colleen Conko, Administrative Assistant II
Joel Mendez, Trans Hernando Transportation Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mitten called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

A quorum was declared.

Ms. Riecss read into the record the notice of public meeting.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: *Ms. Winters motioned to approve the November 14, 2018, Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) meeting agenda as presented. Mr. Eberle seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 REGULAR MEETING

Motion: *Mr. Graham motioned to approve the September 12, 2018, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Lounsberry seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

CTD Annual Conference Event Update

Ms. Riecss stated that she had attended the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Annual Conference and Expo which was held in October at Daytona Beach. She provided an overview of information that had been provided at the conference:

- The CTD had reported that there was an anticipated \$2 million deficit in the budget for FY 2019/2020. It was implicated that funding for the mobility enhancement grant would possibly be impacted.

Ms. Riecss stated that the Hernando County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), Trans Hernando, is aware of the anticipated deficit and is currently working on alternatives to make up the funding.

- Changes to the Florida Administrative Code included:
 1. Insurance requirements for the CTC were amended.
 2. A new local representative from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities was added to the TDLCB membership.
 3. A new grant category was added. (More information will be provided as it becomes available.)

TDLCB Vacancies

Chairman Mitten noted the significance of the TDLCB and the importance of getting the vacancies filled on the board.

Ms. Riecss reported the following TDLCB vacancies:

- Florida Association for Community Action
- Hernando County, Public Transit User
- Local Representative Children at Risk
- Florida Department of Elderly Affairs
- Citizen Advocate, Hernando County

- Hernando County Resident, 60+ Years
- New Position – Local Representative for Persons with Disabilities

Ms. Riecss stated that she had been contacted by Ms. Elizabeth Watson who informed her that beginning in February 2019, Ms. Watson will be the new Local Representative for Persons with Disabilities for both Hernando and Citrus Counties.

Ms. Riecss reported that press releases and advertisements have been sent out by staff to help fill the vacancies on the board. She noted that applications are also available on the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization's website.

Chairman Mitten inquired about the past history of vacancies on the TDLCB. Ms. Riecss responded that the current open positions on the board have been vacant for a long period of time.

Discussion ensued regarding methods/contacts that can be utilized to reach out to the public/agencies to help fill the vacancies.

Presentation/Update – Tony Graham, Veterans Affairs

Mr. Graham provided the TDLCB with a brief overview of the services that the Hernando Veterans Services department provides.

Mr. Graham reported that Veterans Affairs (VA) is an agency that helps align veterans and their families with possible VA benefits through the process of applying for claims. He noted that the services of the VA help veterans with financial needs by providing direction to various agencies that may be able to assist with expenses such as utilities and rent.

Mr. Graham stated that VA has representation on the TDLCB due to the shuttle service it provides through the use of volunteer drivers. He noted that the shuttle service provides transportation to veterans, free of charge, to and from Hernando County and the James A Haley VA Hospital for medical appointments. He noted that the James A Haley VA Hospital provides the vans and the VA provides the volunteer drivers.

Chairman Mitten inquired about the percentage of veterans that are qualified to utilize the services of the VA. Mr. Graham responded that all veterans are accepted in the program.

Discussion ensued regarding how to educate and make veterans aware of other services and/or programs that are provided and available from other various agencies.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

It was noted that Mr. Graham's presentation provided information for both agenda items D and E.

TRANS HERNANDO

Mr. Mendez introduced himself as the new transportation coordinator who will be replacing the previous coordinator, Ms. Michelle Hale. It was noted that Mr. Mendez had no update at this time.

Chairman Mitten asked Mr. Mendez to clarify how the deficit of the mobility enhancement grant will affect Trans Hernando's services. Mr. Mendez responded that the CTD provides the mobility enhancement grant once every three years. He noted that the three-year duration of the grant has been exhausted and noted that the agency at this time is seeking other funding resources. He stated that the CTD did set aside funding to help agencies with transportation. Mr. Mendez stated that the funding has helped Trans Hernando with the ability to increase its ridership services.

Mr. Eberle stated that Career Source provides veterans with benefits that will help assist with job seeking, education and other services.

Ms. Riecss responded to Chairman Mitten's question regarding the clarification of services each organization from the TDLCB provides to the public. She reported that staff has been requesting TDLCB members to volunteer at each TDLCB meeting to speak about the agency they represent to help educate and inform the public of the available services they provide.

Ms. Riecss asked for a volunteer for the February 13, 2019, TDLCB meeting.

It was noted that Ms. Clark volunteered to speak about her agency, Public Education Community, at the February 2019, TDLCB meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Grievance Committee Appointments

Ms. Reicss reported that the Grievance Committee should only be represented by voting members of the TDLCB. She noted that she and Ms. Hale were not permitted to serve on the committee. Ms. Reicss noted that since the grievance committee was created, there has been no record of any required grievance committee meeting.

It was noted that Ms. Clark and Ms. Winters volunteered.

2019 TDLCB Meeting Schedule

Ms. Reicss provided the TDLCB with the anticipated 2019 meeting dates. She noted that the meeting location of the TDLCB will be moved from the Hernando County Government Center to the Hernando County Building Division Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville and the meeting dates proposed are:

- February 13
- May 22 (For the Annual Public Hearing and the Regular Meeting.)
- September 11
- November 13

Motion: *Ms. Winters moved to approve the 2019 TDLCB meeting schedule. Ms. Clark seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Eberle reported that Medicaid recipients of Hernando County will be receiving information regarding their expiring manage care program. He noted that the Medicaid recipients will now have the opportunity to update/change their plans.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

It was noted that at this time that there was no citizen comment.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

It was announced that the next Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Hernando County Building Division Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville.

The Meeting Minutes of the November 14, 2018, Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board's (TDLCB's) are anticipated to be approved on February 13, 2019.



John Allocco, TDLCB Chairman

cvc