



**Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged
Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Welcome new LCB Members
4. Introduction of Board Members and Staff
5. Declaration of Quorum/Reading of notice into the record

**B. APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (limited to Board and Staff
Comment)**

C REVIEW OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes August 11, 2021

D CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION ITEMS

1. CTD Business Meeting
2. Annual CTD Workshop Highlights
3. Quarterly Report – Miranda Maldonado

E ACTION ITEMS

1. Annual Operating Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
2. Grievance Committee – Election of a Vice-Chairman
3. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan – Holiday Schedule
4. 2022 Calendar Meeting Dates

F AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

1. Gretchen Samter - Ride the Line Challenge
2. Tracy Noyes – FDOT Agency Presentation

G CITIZEN COMMENTS

H ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the LCB is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL

The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online at:

www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo

C REVIEW OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes August 11, 2021

The minutes from the Wednesday, August 11, 2021 Regular Meeting are attached for review and approval.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the meeting minutes from Wednesday August 11, 2021.

Attachment: Draft Meeting Minutes for the August 11, 2021, regular meeting

D CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION ITEMS

1. CTD Business Meeting

The CTD's October 25, 2021, business meeting addressed several issues which may be of interest to the LCB. A copy of the agenda is attached and the full packet can be found at: https://ctd.fdot.gov/docs/MeetingPackages/2021Meetings/20211025_CTDBusinessMeetingPkg.pdf

Of particular note:

- Phase Down of COVID-19 Rescue Plan

Executive Director, David Darm, provided an update on the Phase Down of the CTD Covid-19 Rescue Plan or "Rescue Plan" for short. The rescue plan involved providing supplemental money, or "rescue funding", to the localities that were having an especially challenging time with their finances due to the large and sudden loss of ridership due to COVID-19. Ridership is recovering nicely in most areas, so the Board voted to phase the Rescue Plan out by December 31, 2021. There will be one more meeting of the CTD before the end of December to approve an annual fiscal report.

- The Innovation and Service Development (ISD) Grant

The Innovation and Service Development (ISD) Grant was eliminated this past year due to the repeal of the MCORES program. The following information is important to provide context to the Legislative Budget Request discussed in the next bullet point. The repeal of MCORES impacted two transit disadvantaged (TD) programs for Hernando citizens:

- One program expanded service locations, hours and number of days of operation so that citizens in the rural areas were not limited to service one (1) or two (2) days per week; It provided three (3) connector stops for the fixed route service allowing travel into Pasco County; it made employment, recreational and same day additional trips available to the transportation disadvantaged; and it allowed the implementation of the Veterans Reduced Fare Program that did not have a limit on where the veterans could be taken.

In MCORES this program was approved for \$239,987.00, which is 90% of the estimated program cost.

- The other program was for TD citizens from Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee counties that provided cross-county as well as evening and weekend trips (The TBARTA UZURV contract). This program included on-demand and scheduled ambulatory and wheelchair trips seven (7) days a week that would have been non-stop and door to door. UZURV estimated that between 12/1/2020 and 6/30/2021 17,500 trips were provided for approximately 200 riders. Within MCORES this program was approved at \$817,047.00, which was 90% of the estimated total cost.

The repeal of MCORES also impacted Citrus County's program to provide rides to veterans that were intercounty door to door transportation to the VA hospital in Tampa, the Villages and to Gainesville. This program was approved to receive \$51,457.00 through MCORES, which was 90% of the estimated total cost.

In FY 2021-2022 the CTD contracted with the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), to review the ISD and make recommendations for improving the program. CUTR concluded that the CTD is embracing innovation and making changes to the program as they see necessary which keeps the program relevant and useful to the population.

Recommendations for improving the program fell into three categories: Grants, Transparency, Engagement & Collaboration, and Foster Innovation. One major thought shift to come from the recommended program improvements is the acknowledgement that innovation is not expected to succeed the first year, and that proper and realistic expectations should be set.

- Legislative Budget Requests FY 2022-2023

The Commission is requesting a total of \$10 million in additional budget authority to address the following issues:

- \$4 million in recurring revenue to the Trip & Equipment (T&E) Grant Program (the funding for the COVID-19 Rescue Plan came from this funding source). The request is in keeping with the projected revenues of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund (TDTF) that provides the funds for all the TD programs in the State; and
- \$6 million in nonrecurring revenue to the ISD Grant Program. This request is intended to restore a portion of the funding for the ISD Grant Program which was originally funded at \$10 million under the MCORES program.

- Upcoming Initiatives for the CTD in 2022
 - Public Transportation and Transportation Disadvantaged Day at the Capital will be on February 16, 2022.
 - A redesign of the AOR report format
 - Improvements to the quality assurance review process requirements; and
 - The newly created Rider & Stakeholder Relations Subcommittee will look at ways to increase awareness of the programs and to coordinate getting more information out to the public.

Attachment: CTD 2021 October 25, 2021, Business Meeting Agenda Only

2. Annual CTD Workshop Highlights

Staff attended six sessions at the conference. Below is a summary of highlights from the sessions that may be of interest to Board members.

- **The Future of Transportation Session**
 - There has been a serious spike in the seriousness of vehicular crashes within the past year. This is significant because there were fewer vehicles on the road. People have been getting more reckless in their driving habits.
 - When we only look at the number of fatalities at an intersection or a roadway, we are ignoring locations where serious injuries occur which may be impacting a larger number of people. While fatalities are important, they may be outliers on the dangerous roadway scale.
 - There is an expected 60% growth expected in the 65+ population and a 46% growth in those with asset limited income while employed.
 - We have many statewide plans in Florida, though there is no Statewide Transit Plan.
 - 95% of crashes are due to human error, not roadway design or lack of proper signage.
 - A big problem throughout the state right now is driver retention, the lack of new already licensed drivers, and lack of mechanics. With buses requiring more maintenance as they age, this is quickly becoming a crisis for the Transit Operators.
 - Autonomous transit vehicles have been very popular where they have been in use. More people are coming into the area to experience them, and the locals are pleased with their performance.
 - There is a successful “No Fare” transit system in Indian River.

- **The Future of the Coordinated Disadvantaged System Session**

“Everyone makes mistakes, don’t let that keep you from taking risks.”

Mr. Darm spoke of what we can expect for 2022 from the CTD.

- Promote greater awareness of the TD Programs & other mobility options to riders and advocates.
- Continue to support innovative service projects that improve access, cross- county mobility etc.
- Engage State & local partners to improve coordination of funding & service delivery.
- Facilitate informational workshops & forums to expand knowledge & skills.
- Improve accuracy/consistency of data to evaluate & improve service quality.
- Id policies & funding solutions that respond to the growth & demand of the program.
- **Reimagining Community Transportation Session**
 - There is still a big problem with trips going from Urban areas to Rural areas (and vice versa) in terms of the way the grant programs regulate how their money can be used, so agencies have to find ways around this.
 - Wheelchair accessible vehicles are vital to TD programs. The presenter stated that every vehicle should be wheelchair accessible. By making sure all vehicles were wheelchair accessible, their ridership increased 300%.
 - Getting the information to the citizens is critical. The presenter says they put their fliers in every apartment complex, senior living facility, senior community, homeless shelters, schools, grocery stores – especially in Environmental Justice areas. They make sure that Social Services, Housing Services, Veterans Groups and Church Groups all have their information.
 - The presenter from Pensacola stated that they began focusing their bus schedule on the needs of the users to better coincide with work and class, so that people using their services can get to work by 8:00 a.m., or to class by 1:15 p.m. etc. They also began using “rideshare clustering” as an addition to the fixed schedule. This means the busses would take people to a designated rideshare lot where drivers can meet them and take them the rest of the way into work or school.
 - Pensacola also sought out the community groups who provide assistance to and services for the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled to determine how to better serve their community, reduce wasted time and increase efficiency.
 - One agency began working with the people in the homeless shelters. They had identified that one reason people are homeless is because they have no way to be contacted, so they can’t apply for jobs, they have no reliable transportation to and from a jobsite and many have no driver’s license. The Transit provider established non-driving positions that the homeless population could fill, they provided transportation, including trips to and from drug and medical testing required as part of the job offers. The agency reports that they filled 1 driver and 3 service island positions from this population. Many of the people in this program were able to move into an apartment and even buy their own vehicle. They also state

that these are exemplary employees who work hard and are proud to be a part of a company that actually cares about people.

3. Quarterly Report – Miranda Maldonado

Quarterly Report from Miranda Maldonado with Mid Florida

Attachment: Quarterly Report July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

E ACTION ITEMS

1. Annual Operating Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Each county is required to prepare and submit an Annual Operating Report to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) by September 15. This report includes information from the CTC, contractors and Coordinated Contractors regarding trips, mileage, vehicle, employees, revenue, and expenses. Once these reports are reviewed and approved by the CTD, an Annual Performance Report is prepared. This report is published to meet the statutory requirements outlined in Section 427-13 (12), Florida Statutes to provide an overview of the program and a summary of trends statewide.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the AOR for Fiscal Year 2020/2021, authorization for the Chair’s signature thereon, and for submittal to the CTD.

Attachments: Hernando Transit Annual Operating Report

2. Grievance Committee – Election of a Vice-Chairman

At the last meeting, staff recommended the TDLCB elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the Grievance Committee. Kathleen Winters was elected Chair of the Grievance Committee; however, the Board postponed designation of a Vice-Chair until November 17, 2021. During discussion regarding this item, there were several questions about the membership requirements and role the Grievance Committee plays in the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

Grievance Committee Membership:

Rule 41-2.012, Florida Administrative Code requires that the TDLCB appoint a Grievance Committee to process and investigate complaints from agencies, users, transportation operators, potential users of the system and the Community Transportation Coordinator in the service area. and make recommendations to the TDLCB and the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged.

There are no specific requirements regarding the composition of the Grievance Committee only that it comprises current members of the TDLCB.

Hernando County’s Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan establishes the requirements for the Grievance Committee which includes three (3) regular members, and at least one (1) alternate. A Chair and Vice-Chair are to be selected from the Grievance Committee Membership. The alternate is a member of the Grievance Committee so would be able to serve as either the Chair or Vice-Chair..

If the Board wanted to amend the composition of the Grievance Committee, or any procedures relating to their function, it could be addressed during the Spring TDSP update.

Grievance Committee Role:

The first step in addressing a complaint falls within the purview of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) which is Mid Florida Community Services. The CTC has a local process to address complaints which has been effective, so much so that a formal grievance has not been filed with the Grievance Committee and the committee has not been called to convene.

If a complaint cannot be resolved by the CTC, the aggrieved party may file a grievance to the Grievance Committee in accordance with the procedures outlined in the TDSP.

The Grievance Committee's role is to serve as a mediator and examine the complaint, investigate the overall situation and determine if there is a programmatic change(s) that could be made to address the complaint. A report would be prepared outlining findings and recommendations which is then forwarded to the TDLCB for discussion at their next meeting with copy to the CTC.

Conclusion:

At this time, staff would request election of a Vice-Chairman of the Grievance Committee.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the TDLCB elect a Vice-Chairman of the Grievance Committee from the committee membership.

3. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan – Holiday Schedule

The holiday schedule for TD service in the approved TDSP reflects the schedule adopted by Hernando County BOCC. The CTC Mid Florida has requested that the holiday schedule be amended to reflect Mid Florida Community Services calendar.

At the August 11, 2021, TDLCB meeting, the Board had several concerns about the request and deferred action pending additional information.

Operational Impact:

The Board was concerned about reducing the services to the Transportation Disadvantaged. They requested historical data relating to ridership on the days that would be added to the holiday schedule

June 19th (Juneteenth) Ridership

Year	Number of Trips
2020	41
2019	66
2018	96

December 31st Ridership

Year	Number of Trips
2020	0 (Mid Florida did not run on this day)
2019	47
2018	38

Mid Florida has indicated that if they were to provide services on the dates that have been adopted as holidays by their Board of Director's, employees would be entitled to holiday pay pursuant to their policies.

TDLCB - TDSP Amendments:

Pursuant to Section 427.0157, Florida Statutes, the TDLCB is considered an advisory body. The goal of the TDLCB and the CTC is to work together to ensure that the program guidelines are being followed, the services are being provided efficiently and effectively, that the needs of the eligible residents are being met, and that the information is spread across the community and gets to the people who need it.

Mid Florida has indicated that their calendar is provided to all riders at the beginning of the year so they may schedule trips with the dates in mind, this is particularly important to the clients requiring medically necessary transportation. Their staff has indicated a willingness to work with individuals for alternative arrangements.

The TDLCB may address their concerns regarding the holiday schedule in the annual CTC evaluation for consideration by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The contract for services is between the CTC and the CTD.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the TDLCB review and approve the proposed amendment to the TDSP.

4. 2022 Calendar Meeting Dates

TDLCB meetings for 2022 will continue to occur in the Hernando County Building Department Training Room at 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida 34601 at 10:00 a.m.

The proposed meeting dates are:

- Wednesday, February 9, 2022
- Wednesday, May 11, 2022, for the annual workshop and regular meeting
- Wednesday, August 10, 2022
- Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the proposed TDLCB 2022 meeting dates listed above.

F AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

1. Gretchen Samter - Ride the Line Challenge

At the August 11, 2021, meeting Board Member Gretchen Samter challenged the other board members to take a trip on the Bus to gain experience and a greater understanding of the Public Transportation service. Were you able to do this? What did you experience?

2. Tracy Noyes – FDOT Agency Presentation

G CITIZEN COMMENTS

H ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the LCB is scheduled for Wednesday February 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL

Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, in-person at the Hernando County Building Division Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun and the agenda was available on the MPO Website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Allocco, TDLCB Chairman

Kevin Bargerstock, Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Chris DeAnnuntis, TBARTA

Joe DeGeorge, Hernando County Transit/TheBus

John Eberle, Regional Workforce Board

Holly Ferguson, Veterans Services

Emily Hughart, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Tracy Noyes, FDOT

Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Children-at-Risk

Gretchen Samter, Citizen, Hernando Public Transit User

Elizabeth Watson, Person with Disabilities Agency

Kathleen Winters, Local Representative Medical Community

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Diez, Executive Director

Cayce Dagenhart, Transportation Planner II

Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services

Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III

Terri Saenz, Administrative Assistant III

A. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Allocco called the regular meeting of the TDLCB to order at 10:00 a.m.
- Notice of meeting publication was read into the record by Ms. Dagenhart.
- Declaration of Quorum

B. APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA – (LIMITED TO BOARD/STAFF COMMENT ONLY)

Motion: Ms. Winters made a motion to approve agenda with no modifications. Mr. DeGeorge seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 19, 2021

1. Regular Meeting Minutes May 19, 2021

Motion: Ms. Samter made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with no modifications. Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Annual Public Workshop Minutes May 19, 2021

Motion: Ms. Winters made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with no modifications. Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD)

The agenda for the CTD's June 3, 2021, business meeting was attached to the packet with a link to the full agenda.

2. Innovation and Service Grant Update (ISG)

Mr. Diez stated that the CTD previously provided funding from around the state and M-CORES funding was part of that grant. Senate Bill 100 repealed M-CORES and believed the money would stay in place for service grants, however that money went away along with the M-CORES. UZURV relied on that funding and can no longer provide the service and the impacts to Trans Hernando. He asked Ms. Maldonado to comment whether it hurt them.

Ms. Maldonado said they are able to transport as normal for at least a couple more years financially however if there is no replacement in funding, they may have to cut programs. The ISG covered their Veteran's trips, dollar fares, trips to Tampa that they have in connection with the County. They extended hours into rural locations where in the past they only went to Ridge Manor, Istachatta 2-3 days a week. They will not be able to continue that without additional funding.

Ms. Samter stated she hates that the UZURV has been discontinued because now it will take her 3 hours to get to college along with other people.

3. Quarterly Report – Miranda Maldonado

Ms. Maldonado stated they received a new transit vehicle and a new driver, and that Mid Florida is also unhappy that the funding for several of the Transportation Disadvantaged programs was dissolved with the repeal of MCORES.

4. Annual CTD Workshop

Mr. Diez stated the annual CTD business meeting is a requirement for staff to attend. It is in Dayton Beach on October 24 -- October 27, 2021, and Cayce, Carlene, and Ms. Maldonado plan to attend.

5. Agency Presentations

Ms. Dagenhart reported that Ms. Brunk was unable to attend today's meeting for her presentation but asked that her presentation be moved to a future meeting. Mr. DeGeorge gave an update regarding TheBus and that they will be launching the Flamingo Fares on September 7th where customers will go online to obtain a pass and can use with other transit lines, HART, PCPT, PSTA, SCAT along with TheBus. Discussion took place regarding the Flamingo Fares.

Chairman Allocco asked for volunteers for presentations at the next meeting. Ms. Noyes and Ms. Samter volunteered. As part of her presentation for the next meeting, Ms. Samter challenged the other board members to ride the bus for a while, see what it is like to work out the bus schedule and where you want to go and what the ride is like.

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. Actual Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Each year Planning Agencies are required to report actual expenditures of transportation disadvantaged funds to the Commission. These funds should include local and direct federal funds. The AER must be submitted to the CTD by September 15, 2021.

Motion: Ms. Samter made a motion to approve the AER and submit it to the CTD. Mr. DeGeorge seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Election of a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Grievance Committee

Motion: A motion was made to elect Ms. Kathleen Winters as the chair of the Grievance Committee, and Ms. Samter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The election of a Vice-Chair was tabled until the next meeting on November 17, 2021, so that MPO staff could investigate whether their alternate could serve as the vice-chair if the elected member is unavailable. There were also questions regarding the actual role of the Grievance Committee. The current members on the Grievance Committee are:

- Robert Bradburn – FL Department of Children and Families
- Kathleen Winters – Local Representative of the Medical Community
- Denise Clark- Public Education Community
- Ian Martin – Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

3. Transportation Disadvantaged Plan (TDSP) Amendment

This item required a roll call vote but was tabled until the next meeting. There were several questions as to what the historic ridership has been on the proposed holidays, how much of an impact it would make on the budget to fund drivers to work on the proposed holidays and if Mid Florida could staff transit on those days if the holidays are not approved by the TDLCB. Chairman Allocco posed the question: what happens if the TDLCB does not approve the requested change to the TDSP?

Both Ms. Maldonado and Ms. Riecss confirmed they would investigate and provide answers at the next meeting.

F. CITIZEN COMMENTS

The Chair opened the meeting for general citizen comment. No citizens were present; the Chair closed the public comment period and moved to the meeting adjournment.

G. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chairman Allocco adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m. and reminded the board the next meeting would be on Wednesday November 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL

COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED



Business Meeting Agenda October 25, 2021 2:00 PM until Completion

*Dr. Phillip Stevens, Acting Chairman
Christinne Gray, Commissioner
Renee Knight, Commissioner
Dr. Robin Tellez, Commissioner
Mike Willingham, Commissioner*

**Ocean Center Daytona – Room MO2AB
101 N. Atlantic Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 23118**

**GoToMeeting Webinar: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/351113549>
Call-In Number: (872) 240-3412; Conference Code: 351-113-549**

Item #	Agenda Item	Speaker(s)
I.	Call to Order	Chairman Phil Stevens
II.	Pledge of Allegiance	Chairman Stevens
III.	Introduction of Commissioners and Advisors	Commissioners and Advisors
IV.	Public Comments (Comments limited to the current agenda items)	Public
	Action Items	
V.	Approval of June 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes	Chairman Stevens
VI.	Review and Approval of FY 2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan	Rachelle Munson, CTD General Counsel
	Information Items	
VII.	Update on Phase Down of CTD COVID-19 Rescue Plan	David Darm, CTD Executive Director
VIII.	Presentation on Innovation & Service Development Grant Technical Assistance Project	Martin Catala, University of South Florida-Center for Urban Transportation Research
IX.	Executive Director Report	David Darm
X.	Commissioner and Advisor Reports	Commissioners and Advisors
XI.	Public Comments	Public

XII.	Commissioner and Advisor Closing Comments	Commissioners and Advisors
XIII.	Adjournment	Chairman Stevens
	Next Meeting: December 15, 2021 – Webinar and Teleconference	

When operating under Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law, the Florida Supreme Court recognizes the importance of public participation in open meetings. The Commission provides that right of access at each public meeting and adheres to Chapter 286.011, Florida Statutes. This meeting will be recorded and a summary of the discussion will be published at a future date.

Members of the public interested in speaking during the "Public Comments" segments are encouraged to complete the attached public comment card and return to David Darm prior to the meeting date at: David.Darm@dot.state.fl.us. The chairman will call on each speaker in the order public comment cards are received. Public comments are limited to five (5) minutes per speaker.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Chapter 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons in need of special accommodation to participate in the meeting (including an agenda) shall email David Darm or contact our office listed below, at least 48 hours before the meeting:

Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
605 Suwannee Street, MS-49
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450
(850) 410-5703 or (800) 983-2435
(850) 410-5708 (TDD/TTY).
This meeting is subject to change upon the chairman's request.