

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

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 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

Joe DeGeorge, Hernando County Transit/TheBus, Vice Chair

Cara Brunk, FL Dept of Elderly Affairs

John Eberle, Regional Workforce Board

Holly Ferguson, Veterans Services

Tracy Noyes, FDOT

Gretchen Samter, Citizen, Hernando Public Transit User

Elizabeth Watson, Persons with Disabilities Agency

Kathleen Winters, Local Representative Medical Community

Karla Lagos, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Benita Dixon, Private for Profit Transportation

OTHERS PRESENT

Cayce Dagenhart, Transportation Planner II

Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services

Mary Elwin, Operations Support Supervisor

Joella Aboytes, Florida Department of Children and Family Services

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Allocco, TDLCB Chairman

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

Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Children-at-Risk

Emily Hughart, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Denise Clark, Public Education Community

A. CALL TO ORDER

- Vice Chairman DeGeorge called the regular meeting of the TDLCB to order at 10:00 a.m.
- Vice Chairman DeGeorge introduced himself and the Members Introduced Themselves
- Notice of meeting publication was read into the record by Ms. Dagenhart.
- A quorum of members was declared.

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

Motion: Ms. Winters made a motion to approve agenda as presented. Mr. Eberle seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

C. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 11, 2021

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

D. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD)

Ms. Cayce Dagenhart explained that the agenda from the June 3, 2021, CTD business meeting and reviewed a few highlights from the meeting which included: Phase Down of COVID-19 Rescue Plan, The Innovation and Service Development (ISD) Grant, Legislative Budget Requests FY 2022-2023, and Upcoming Initiatives for the CTD in 2022.

2. Annual CTD Workshop Highlights

Ms. Dagenhart stated that the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) 2021 Annual Conference held in Daytona Beach Florida, October 24-27, 2021. The CTD conducts these annual workshops for Transportation Disadvantaged partners to provide information regarding any changes or developments in the TD program. Ms. Dagenhart provided highlights from several sessions she attended including: The Future of Transportation Session, The Future of the Coordinated Disadvantaged System Session, and Reimagining Community Transportation Session.

3. Quarterly Report – Mid-Florida Community Services

Ms. Maldonado indicated there were a lot of good discussions at the CTD Workshop. Ms. Maldonado indicated that there are a lot of programs hurting for drivers however Mid-Florida is fully staffed. She also noted that the Veteran's programs through Mid-

Florida have been able to function even though the provision of state funds for the program was cut when MCORES was repealed.

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.

Motion Ms. Samter made a motion to approve the AOR and submit it to the CTD. Ms. Winters seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

The election of a Vice-Chair was tabled until this November 17, 2021, meeting 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 members on the Grievance Committee leading up to this meeting were:

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

Ms. Dagenhart let the Board know that Mr. Bradburn had to resign from the committee due to changing roles in the FL Department of Children and Families. It was also noted that Mr. Ian Martin could no longer serve on the grievance committee.

Ms. Samter volunteered to serve on the Committee in place of Mr. Bradburn. Mr. DeGeorge volunteered to serve on the grievance committee in place of Mr. Martin. Ms. Samter also volunteered to serve as the committee's Vice Chair.

Motion Ms. Winter made a motion to have Ms. Samter replace Robert Bradburn on the Grievance Committee. Ms. Dixon seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Motion Ms. Samter made a motion to appoint Mr. DeGeorge to the grievance committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Noyes, and it carried unanimously.

Motion Ms. Winters made a motion to appoint Ms. Samter as Vice Chair. Ms. Noyes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

As of the November 17, 2021, meeting, the members of the grievance committee are as follows:

- Kathleen Winters – Chair - Local Representative of the Medical Community
- Gretchen Samter – Vice-Chair, Citizen Advocate, Hernando Public Transit User
- Denise Clark - Public Education Community
- Joe DeGeorge - Mass Transit or Public Transit Board, TheBus

3. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan – Holiday Schedule

Ms. Maldonado provided a Holiday Schedule in the meeting packet along with an impact on the ridership numbers these days. They are requesting a change in the TDSP language for the established holiday schedule to be that which Mid-Florida Community Services, Inc. has approved Holiday Schedule.

Motion Ms. Samter made a motion to approve the update of the TDSP as presented. Ms. Winters seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. 2022 Calendar Meeting Date

Motion: Ms. Winter made a motion to approve the 2022 Meeting Calendar of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeGeorge and it carried unanimously.

F. AGENCY PRESENTATIONS:

At the previous meeting, Ms. Samter had challenged all board members to ride TheBus. Few members were able to do so, mainly because they did not have access to the bus from their home. Ms. Noyes indicated her son rides the HART Bus. Ms. Samter noted that Google Maps can be used to assist with route planning. Discussion ensued by members on the review of their routes. Ms. Samter praised Hernando’s bus system as the buses are clean and the drivers are wonderful.

Mr. DeGeorge noted some of the newer features of Hernando’s system including RouteShout and the Flamingo App. He noted the disinfectant process of the buses. He noted that ridership is near pre-COVID19 levels.

Ms. Samter offered to provide information from her experiences with riding public transportation.

Ms. Noyes indicated that the Florida Department of Transportation District 7 staff hosted the Section 5310 grant workshop which was successful. Topics addressed the overview, procurement planning, transit, and the triennial review process. She reviewed the grant application process. Four (4) applications within Hernando were awarded \$298,100 in capital and \$500,000 in operating.

Cara Brunk with the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs offered to make a presentation at the next meeting of the TDLCB. Mr. DeGeorge offered to make a presentation on public transportation at the next meeting of the TDLCB.

G. 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.

H. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Vice Chairman DeGeorge adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. and reminded the board the next meeting would be on Wednesday February 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL. He wished everyone a happy holiday.