

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

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 10:18 am

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held their regular meeting on May 11, 2022, beginning at 10:18 a.m. in-person at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun and the agenda was available on the MPO Website.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Allocco, TDLCB Chairman
Cara Brunk, FL Dept of Elder Affairs
Denise Clark, Public Education Community
John Eberle, Regional Workforce Board
Holly Ferguson, Veterans Services
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Children-at-Risk
Emily Hughart, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Tracy Noyes, FDOT
Gretchen Samter, Citizen Advocate, Public Transit User – Participating via Zoom
Elizabeth Watson, Persons with Disabilities Agency
Kevin Bargerstock, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Joe DeGeorge, Hernando County Transit/TheBus, Vice Chair
Chris Mundell, HCSB Transportation

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Benita Dixon, Private for Profit Transportation
David Knazur, Florida Department of Children & Family Services
Kathleen Winters, Local Representative Medical Community

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cayce Dagenhart, Transportation Planner II
Bob Esposito, Executive Director Hernando/Citrus MPO
Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III
Julia Scourtas, MPO Financial Operations Assistant
Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services

A. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Allocco called the public meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.
- The public notice was entered into the record for the regular meeting.
- Members from the Annual Workshop remained to participate in the regular meeting; consequently, there was a quorum for the meeting.

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

Motion: A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Denise Clark and seconded by Mr. Kevin Bargerstock. The motion passed unanimously.

C. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes February 9, 2022

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes from February 9, 2022, was made by Ms. Denise Clark and seconded by Mr. Joe DeGeorge. The motion passed unanimously.

D. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Membership Update

Ms. Riecss indicated that Chris Mundell will be replacing Denise Clark as representative for the Hernando County School Transportation Department. She indicated that Ms. Clark had been a TDLCB member for over a decade. Ms. Clark was presented with a certification of appreciation.

Additionally, Ms. Riecss indicated that Ms. Samter was reappointed to the TDLCB although she will be the citizen representative for the disabled.

2. Quarterly Report – Miranda Maldonado

Ms. Maldonado provided a quarterly report from TransHernando, for the period from January 1, 2022-March 31, 2022.

She also advised the Board that Mid Florida Community Services would be applying for the Innovation and Service Development grant by the end of the week. She advised that they were also in process of their triennial review with the FDOT.

3. Innovation and Service Development Grant

This topic was discussed in D2.

4. Planning Agency Survey

Ms. Dagenhart advised the TDLCB that the survey's in the Board packet was for members to comment on the MPO Staff's performance.

5. Planning Agency Grant FY 2022-2023.

Ms. Riecss advised the TDLCB that the MPO Board signed off on the Planning Agency Grant for FY 2022-2023. This grant provides funding for administrative costs associated with the TDLCB.

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan – Annual Update

Ms. Riecss outlined the changes to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan which included:

- TDLCB Membership updated to reflect current roster
- Page 24 - Service priorities changed to read “educational and employment” (from some educational and job)
- Page 41 – Hernando County Senior Services – Title III, rates for transporting clients to various meal sites in congregate dining program are a contract cost of \$11.63 (from \$10.63)
- The current Grievance Procedures were included
- The Cost/Revenue Allocation and Rate Structure justification was reviewed
- Appendix C - The vehicle inventory was updated
- Appendix D - The rate/model worksheet was updated with the CTC approved 2023/2024 worksheet

Chairman Allocco opened the item to the public, there was none.

Motion: A motion to approve the Annual update to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan was made by Ms. Gretchen Samter and seconded by Mr. Kevin Bargerstock. A roll call vote was taken and carried unanimously.

2. Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Annual Evaluation

Ms. Dagenhart discussed Mid Florida Community Services annual evaluation. Chairman Allocco noted that there were no complaints made to the Help Line. Ms. Riecss clarified that the absence of calls to the Help Line did not mean there were no complaints, it means any complaints that were made regarding the TD services were able to be handled by Mid Florida/Trans Hernando without being referred to the State.

Ms. Samter praised the Transit Services in Hernando County, both TheBus and TD. She discussed the previous cross county transportation provided by UZURV and stated funding that may be available to restart that program. She is dependent upon public transportation and does have a need to travel to Pasco County.

Commissioner Allocco opened to the public, there was none.

Motion:

A motion to approve the CTC's Annual Evaluation was made by Ms. Gretchen Samter and seconded by Ms. Denise Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Samter asked that the TDLCB send a letter to Chris Spencer and Francis Boyle expressing our strong support for State funding of the UZURV program. She reminded the TDLCB that the program provided much needed cross county transportation and she was really disappointed when the program ended. Commissioner Allocco seconded the motion with an addition requesting Ms. Samter work with MPO staff , Carlene and Cayce. Ms. Samter accepted the modification and the motion carried unanimously.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/UPDATES

Ms. Emily Hughart provided an update regarding her agency, Florida Department of Health Administration. She discussed Statewide Medicaid managed plans and 3 programs that were available.

She told the TDLCB that in 2020 over ½ of the births in Florida were Medicaid covered. There are 5,180,000 people enrolled in the state, and 52,369 in Hernando County.

Commissioner Allocco asked why the numbers for births covered by Medicaid are so high, Ms. Hughart stated that it's based on eligibility and that was not her area of expertise.

Joe DeGeorge provided an update regarding his agency which operates Hernando County Transit, TheBus. He indicated the ridership is on the way up since the pandemic. Discussion ensued regarding the care and maintenance of the bus fleet, and the electrostatic sprayers that are used on a daily basis to disinfect the buses.

He further said that the drivers are very caring and professional, the passengers using the system are wonderful, and they are able to provide quality service with on time performance. Commissioner Allocco stated that the on time service was a major accomplishment and meant that there was community buy in.

Discussion ensued regarding the Flamingo Cards. Mr. DeGeorge indicated that Pasco County does not use them. They are convenient for the riders, they can download the app, one time purchase of the card which can be reloaded with a debit or credit card.

Mr. Esposito said he would contact Pasco County to encourage them to use the Flamingo card.

Commissioner Allocco requested that Mr. Esposito provide the TDLCB with a presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities of the MPOs, and how that relates to the TD program.

G. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:

The Chair adjourned the meeting, noting that the next regular meeting of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) will be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, FL