

# Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

## MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a regular quarterly meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Hernando County Building 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 Chair  
Chris Mundell, Hernando County School District – Transportation  
Holly Ferguson, Alternate, Veterans Services  
Ian Martin, Alternate, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration  
Gretchen Samter, Citizen Advocate representing Persons with Disabilities  
Elizabeth Watson, Persons with Disabilities Agency  
Kevin Bargerstock, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Oliver Cromwell, General Manager Hernando County Transit System (RATPDev)

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cara Brunk  
Tracy Noyes, Florida Department of Transportation

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Esposito, Executive Director Hernando/Citrus MPO  
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator  
Carlene Riecscs, Transportation Planner III  
Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services  
Kimberly Dibenedetto, Hernando County School District  
Charlotte Cromwell, Citizen

### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Allocco called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and led the Invocation.  
The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of board and staff followed in Invocation.  
A quorum was declared and the affidavit of advertisement read into the record.

### APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

**Motion:** A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Elizabeth Watson and seconded by Mr. Chris Mundell. The motion passed unanimously.

### APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2022

**Motion:** A Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Ian Martin and seconded by Ms. Gretchen Samter. The motion passed unanimously.

### CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Ms. Riecscs advised the TDLCB that we have a new member, Oliver Cromwell, replacing Mr. Joe DeGeorge from RATPDev is the contractor responsible to operate the system in Hernando County.

Ms. Riecscs discussed the TDLCB Bylaws. She indicated that the bylaws are required to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Staff is contemplating changing the quorum to a majority of the filled membership positions. The quorum is currently seven and if the membership fluctuates down, seven may be difficult to achieve.

Ms. Riecscs updated the TDLCB regarding the annual training for the CTD program in Orlando this year. Of particular interest was a discussion regarding communication with the elected officials in Tallahassee.

Ms. Maldonado from Mid Florida Community Services presented the quarterly report from the CTC.

### TRAINING 101 MATERIALS

Ms. Riecscs distributed the Training 101 Materials documents to the Committee. Discussion ensued regarding the transportation disadvantaged terminology. He noted that there is not a standard definition that fits each entity. He noted

that the goals are similar but the service may be different from one organization to another. Mr. Allocco noted to the members that their agencies need to understand the services offered by each other to assist customers who need assistance.

### **CTC QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Ms. Maldonado reviewed the quarterly progress report. She indicated a new driver has been hired and they are now fully staffed. The Veterans Ride Program has been funded by the Innovative Service Program.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

Ms. Riecss advised the TDLCB that the MPO Board approved the calendar dates for 2023. All meetings of the TDLCB will continue to be held in the Hernando County Building Training Room, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida 34601, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The website will be updated shortly, she said.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Certificate of Appreciation – Joe DeGeorge**

Ms. Riecss advised the Board that Mr. Joe DeGeorge, General Manager for the Hernando County Transit System Contract Operator, retired. It is request of the Board to present him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his time served on the TDLCB Board.

**Motion:** A Motion to have the Chair sign the Certificate on behalf of the TDLCB was made by Gretchen Samter. Mr. Ian Martin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Appoint a New TDLCB Vice-Chair**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Chris Mundell to appoint Gretchen Samter as the new vice chair replacing Mr. DeGeorge who retired. Ms. Holly Ferguson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **Appoint Grievance Committee**

Ms. Riecss explained that a new Grievance Committee needed to be appointed. After a brief discussion and nominations, a motion was made.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Gretchen Samter to appoint the following members to the Grievance Committee: Oliver Cromwell, as Chair, Gretchen Samter as Vice-Chair, Kevin Bargerstock and Elizabeth Watson as Members. The motion was seconded by Ian Martin and carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of the Annual Operating Report (AOR)**

Ms. Riecss introduced the Annual Operating Report and indicated the report was submitted to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) before the September 15, 2022, deadline but required review and approval by the TDLCB.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ian Martin to approve the Annual Operating Report. The motion was seconded by Chris Mundell and carried unanimously.

### **BOARD MEMBER PRESENTATIONS**

Kevin Bargerstock, representing the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, provided information about the services offered including vocational rehabilitation, vehicle modifications, and assistance with training and employment opportunities. He noted they are heavily involved with the school system to help middle school and high school students to become work ready as well as assisting employers with workplace modifications, when necessary, for someone with a disability need. Mr. Bargerstock provided the website address (<https://www.rehabworks.org/>) which contains information including application for assistance. The members discussed the services the office provides. Mr. Bargerstock also noted how they coordinate with other agencies including the Lighthouse for the Blind and Division of Blind Services.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizens in attendance for public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida.