



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

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 newspaper and the agenda was available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Allocco, Chair, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Tracy Noyes, Florida Department of Transportation
Kimberly Dibenedetto, Representative from the Public Educational Community
Karla Lagos, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services, Alternate
Gerry Whitted, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Emily Hughart, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Tony Graham, Veteran Services Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Knazur, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Gretchen Samter, Person with a Disability
Oliver Cromwell, Hernando County Public Transit System
Cara Brunk, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
John Eberle, Regional Workforce Development Board
Elizabeth Watson, Agency for Persons with Disabilities Representative
Vacant, Local Medical Community Representative
Vacant, Private Not-For-Profit Transportation Representative
Vacant, Citizen Advocate
Vacant, Person Over 60+
Vacant, Florida Association for Community Action for Economically Disadvantaged

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Carlene Riecsc, Transportation Planner III
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Allocco called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and led the Invocation.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board and staff followed the Invocation.
- A quorum was declared and the affidavit of advertisement was read into the record.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR 2023

Motion: A Motion to elect Ms. Shanika Figueroa Rodrigues as Vice Chair for 2023 was made by Ms. Lagos and seconded by Ms. Noyes. The Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Ms. Hughart. The Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2022

Motion: A Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Ms. Hughart and seconded by Ms. Lagos. The Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

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Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged – Update

Mr. Bob Esposito shared that the Draft 2022 Annual Performance Report for the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged was being provided for information purposes and recited the Commission's Mission Statement. Ms. Noyes mentioned she had heard questions at other Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board meetings on the standard definitions for qualification and why the standard definitions vary between counties. She also asked where to find Hernando County's standard definitions. Ms. Maldonado affirmed the definitions could be found on the application form and counties define standards to best meet the needs of their respective counties.

Legislative Day – March 16, 2023

Mr. Esposito shared that Commissioner Schlabach, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, will be attending Legislative Day. Chair Allocco encouraged the Board to reach out to their local legislatures, Blaise Ingoglia, Jeff Holcomb, and John Temple, or Mr. Bob Esposito, prior to March 16 for any specific issues they want raised during Legislative Day.

Innovative Service Grant

Mr. Esposito shared there was a webinar February 8, 2023. It was mentioned the webinar covered the application process for the Innovative Service Grant and there was Board discussion on what qualifies for the Innovative Service Grant and how Hernando County, through Mid Florida Community Services, has historically used monies received from the Innovative Service Grant.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Quarterly Report – Ms. Maldonado indicated the quarterly report was provided for information purposes only.

MPO Resolution – State Agency Attendance/Quorums

Mr. Esposito shared Resolution 2023-02 Requesting Attendance by State Agency Members Serving on the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards for Hernando and Citrus Counties. Mr. Esposito also indicated a copy of the Resolution and a letter would be sent to local State Representatives informing them of the Resolution.

ACTION ITEMS

TDLCB Annual Bylaws Update

There were no Board or public comments.

Motion: A Motion to adopt the TDLCB Annual Bylaws Update was made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez. The Motion passed unanimously.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Recommendation

There were no Board or public comments.

Motion: A Motion to support Mid Florida Community Services as Community Transportation Coordinator from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2028, was made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Ms. Dibenedetto. The Motion passed unanimously.

TDLCB MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Kimberly Dibenedetto gave a presentation on the services provided by the Hernando County School District Transportation Department. Ms. Dibenedetto assists with evaluating and training bus drivers, investigating bus accidents, and evaluating bus stops. She also shared information on Project Looking Ahead (PLA) which is a job transition program for individuals ages 18-22 and school buses provide transportation to and from school to work. Chair Allocco asked about the current school bus driver shortage and encouraged Ms. Dibenedetto to assist the County by communicating new school bus stop locations prior to the new school year.

Mr. Cromwell was not able to attend the February 22, 2023, meeting. Chair Allocco affirmed Mr. Cromwell and Ms. Tracy Noyes will provide member presentations for the May 10, 2023, meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - There were no citizen comments.

MPO DIRECTOR COMMENTS - Mr. Esposito provided updates on current projects the MPO is working on.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez shared questions that were brought up during a recent Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) meeting surrounding the Flamingo Fare Card and how domestic violence or homeless individuals could fund the cards and locate bus stops. Ms. Elwin referred Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez to Oliver Cromwell, Hernando County Public Transit System, for assistance.

Mr. Gerry Whitted shared several points surrounding access to bus stops and how to communicate this information to the disadvantaged. Ms. Elwin shared there is an on-going ADA bus stop construction program that was approved by the Board and Aaron Pool, Development Services Director, oversees this project.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chair Allocco adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m. The Annual Public Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by the TDLCB Regular Meeting which will begin no earlier than 10:15 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. **Note: Meeting agenda listed May 24, 2023, which was incorrect.**