



## CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

Thursday, February 9, 2023

### MINUTES

The Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) held a regular quarterly meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2023, in the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. This meeting was advertised in the Citrus Chronicle newspaper.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Ruthie Davis Schlabach, Chair, Citrus County Commissioner  
Tracy Noyes, Florida Department of Transportation  
Walter "Bud" Osborn, Citrus County Veterans Services  
Stephen Brown, Citrus County Resident, Disabled  
David Douglas, Vice Chair, Citrus County, Public Transit User  
Sandra Woodard, Representative Children at Risk  
Cara Brunk, Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
Glorybee Perez, Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration  
Jerry Flanders, Career Source, Regional Workforce Development Board  
Elizabeth Watson, Persons with Disabilities Agency

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Esposito, Executive Director, Hernando/Citrus MPO  
Carlene Riecss, Transportation Planner III, Hernando/Citrus MPO  
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator, Hernando/Citrus MPO  
Joy Turner, Administrative Assistant III, Hernando/Citrus MPO  
Joanne Granger, Citrus County Transit Director  
Erin Kluis-Briggs, Citrus County Grant Administration

#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Schlabach requested a moment of silence.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board and staff followed the moment of silence.
- A quorum was declared and the affidavit of advertisement was read into the record.

#### ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE FOR 2023

**Motion:** Mr. Brown made a motion to elect Mr. Douglas as the LCB Vice Chair for the 2023 calendar year. Member Mr. Osborn seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

#### **Grievance Committee Members for 2023**

**Motion:** Ms. Woodard made a motion to appoint Mr. Osborne to the LCB Grievance Committee. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

**Motion:** Ms. Watson made a motion to appoint Mr. Brown to the LCB Grievance Committee. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

**Motion:** Mr. Brown was previously an alternate to the LCB Grievance Committee. Mr. Osborne made a motion to appoint Ms. Watson as alternate to the LCB Grievance Committee. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

#### APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (Limited to Board and Staff)

**Motion:** Mr. Douglas made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Watson seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion:** The December 8, 2022, minutes reflected that Cara Brunk was not in attendance at the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) meeting of December 8, 2022. Ms. Woodward made a motion to approve the December 8, 2022, LCB Board Meeting Minutes, as amended. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Commission for the Transportation Disadvantage Update – Ms. Riecsc shared a copy of the update. No action required as this is provided as information only.
- Legislative Day-March 16, 2023 – the Board held discussion on who should attend and how travel expenses would be paid for. Chair Schlabach will be attending other events surrounding Legislative Day and asked to be registered for this event. MPO staff will register the Chair.
- Innovative Service Development Grant – No action required as this is provided as information only. Chair Schlabach, however, did ask if Citrus County had applied for appropriations from this grant, in particular, if there were available funds to support the Homosassa line or alternative fuel options for buses. Ms. Erin Kluis-Briggs, Citrus County Grant Administration, provided a high-level overview of the process steps, timeline, and county match needed to apply for appropriations. Chair Schlabach asked how the MPO Board could help the MPO staff in providing direction and support. Ms. Elwin, MPO Coordinator, noted Citrus County was due for a major transportation update next year. The update would be provided by the Hernando/Citrus MPO's General Planning Consultant. Including an evaluation on the use of alternative fuel should be included in the scope of the update.
- Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Quarterly Report – Ms. Joanne Granger shared the CTC's quarterly report and provided information on the application process for CTC users. Ms. Granger will be adding an update for the Key Training Center going forward and noted no major updates for the Board. No action required as this is provided as information only.
- MPO Resolution-State Agency Attendance/Quorums – Mr. Bob Esposito shared the resolution requesting State Agency Members attend the quarterly meetings to help ensure quorums are met. Chair Schlabach is planning to reach out to the various agencies to ensure we have representatives on the Board and will begin having State Agency representatives periodically present information on their organization and the services provided during future Board meetings.
- Transportation Disadvantaged Eligibility Criteria – Ms. Granger shared the eligibility income criteria of \$1,200 per month was last updated in 2007. She asked for Board consensus to present an updated recommendation that aligns with similar agency criteria to the Citrus County Board of County Commission. A consensus to recommend was obtained.
- LCB Issue List – Ms. Riecsc shared updates on the LCB Issue List and noted the desire to set up a townhall or public outreach regarding bus service. A consensus of the Board for Ms. Riecsc to proceed was obtained. Ms. Granger provided updates on approval to proceed with bus shelters, how to provide transportation information to citizens who do not have access to Internet, increased ridership updates and ridership satisfaction surveys, and an update of percent rural to urban census for Citrus County.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Citrus County Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) Report**

Ms. Granger shared highlights of items contained in the COA with the Board. Mr. Douglas asked if the COA would include bus service to Marion County in the future. Ms. Granger affirmed this is currently contained in the COA and they are actively working on a solution. Ms. Granger also shared bus service has restarted Social Security trips on the last Monday of every month, post covid. Ms. Kluis-Briggs noted that if the LCB Board wanted to share their input on the LCB Board's top three to five priority items of the COA, she would take their input to the Citrus Board of County Commission (BOCC). Ms. Riecsc noted that once a date to present to the BOCC had been confirmed, she would circulate that information to the LCB Board and encouraged Board and public participation at the meeting.

**Motion:** Ms. Woodward made a motion to recommend approval of the Comprehensive Operational Analysis Report to the Citrus County Board of County Commission. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

### **LCB Annual Bylaws Update**

Mr. Esposito shared the annual Bylaws update to reflect a change in the quorum requirement.

**Motion:** Mr. Brown made a motion to recommend approval of the LCB Annual Bylaws Update as amended to add Person's With Disability membership. Ms. Woodward seconded the motion and it carried 10-0.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ms. Heather Flory, Hernando resident, asked if the Transportation Disadvantage Eligibility Criteria would include all members of a household and if a shuttle could be added for Homosassa to get to main bus lines. Ms. Granger explained the difference between eligibility requirements by individual versus household and the current requirement would apply to an individual making less than the eligibility criteria (i.e., a minor within a household with no income, would qualify). Ms. Granger noted Citrus and Homosassa have four para-buses that could be used to shuttle to main bus lines but the BOCC would have to approve adding additional lines. Chair Schlabach asked if this topic could be added to a future workshop. Ms. Granger affirmed.

Ms. Eva Petrovsky, a resident of Beverly Hills, asked 1) the date to apply for the Innovative Service Grant, 2) what is being legislated during the March 16, 2023, Legislative Day, and 3) with double bus ridership there is a need to double up on services (more buses, more frequent daily runs and Saturday service). Chair Schlabach indicated doubling up on services is a good idea but the challenge is finding available funds and that is why working with grants is important. For Legislative Day, Chair Schlabach noted she attends to look for opportunities to obtain more money for Citrus County and to attend seminars to gain a better education of what funds and programs are available to bring back to the LCB Board. Ms. Granger noted the State will send out notification when an Innovative Service Grant becomes available and how to apply.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no Board member comments.

#### **MPO STAFF COMMENTS**

Mr. Esposito indicated Alfred Benesch and Associates will be giving an update to the BOCC regarding the Citrus County Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) study. Ms. Granger noted she is working on getting this added to the March 28, 2023, agenda. At the request of Brooksville Mayor, Blake Bell, Mr. Esposito attended the Brooksville GOP meeting and provided an update on the MPO and the services the MPO provides. Mr. Esposito also indicated it is critical to have a quorum for the upcoming LCB Annual Public Workshop and Regular Meeting on May 11, 2023, and asked the Board to mark their calendars to attend.

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

Chair Schlabach adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m. The Annual Public Workshop of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, beginning at 10:30 a.m. followed by their Regular Meeting to begin no earlier than 10:45 a.m. Meetings will be held at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida.