



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB) ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held its Annual Public Workshop 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
David Knazur, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Kevin Bargerstock, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services, Alternate
Gretchen Samter, Person with a Disability
Gerry Whitted, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Oliver Cromwell, General Manager of RATPDev LLC, Transit Contractor Designee of Public Transit System
Cara Brunk, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Emily Hughart, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Holly Ferguson, Veteran Services Office Alternate

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Eberle, Regional Workforce Development Board
Elizabeth Watson, Agency for Persons with Disabilities Representative

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services, Community Transportation Coordinator
Anthony Cavaliere, Representative from the Public Educational Community
Dorique Holmes, Hernando County Public Information Coordinator
John Cancel, Hernando County Public Information

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Allocco called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and led the Invocation.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board and staff followed the Invocation. Ms. Dibenedetto introduced Anthony Cavaliere, Hernando County School District Manager of Operations, as the new TDLCB representative from the Public Educational Community. The Board also recognized a new member, David Knazur, of the Florida Department of Children and Family Services.
- A quorum was declared and the affidavit of publication was read into the record.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Chair Allocco suggested the agenda be modified to move the public service demonstration after the Citizen, Board Member, and MPO Director comments to accommodate two Board members that were still in transit to the meeting.

Motion: A motion to approve the modified agenda was made by Mr. Cromwell and seconded by Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cromwell shared that a new bus stop was established at the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Muhammad Ali Way and a bus stop at the back of Oak Hill Hospital on Cortez Boulevard will be reestablished and is in the permitting process. Ms. Dibenedetto and Mr. Cavaliere commented on the School District's bus driver shortage. Currently there are 13 open routes and several drivers out on medical leave, which is causing a shortage of 20-25 drivers on a regular basis. Chair Allocco inquired on the process and requirements for bus driver applicants and encouraged the Board to share this information, as applicable. Applicants can apply at the District's main office on California street behind Nature Coast Technical High School (4057 California St, Brooksville, FL 34604) and can ask to speak with Anthony Cavaliere. Applicants are required to have a high school diploma, five-year clean driving record, and the District will provide the necessary training for applicants to obtain their CDL driver's license.

MPO DIRECTOR COMMENTS – The director recognized the MPO staff for recommending the public service demonstration.

PUBLIC SERVICE DEMONSTRATION OF BOARD AND OFFBOARDING BY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS ON A PUBLIC TRANSIT VEHICLE EQUIPPED FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Chair Allocco explained that the importance of the public service demonstration was for the Board to understand what is involved in receiving services on a public transportation vehicle equipped for persons with disabilities. Chair Allocco also shared that Board member Gerry Whitted, who is a wheelchair user, would be participating in the demonstration and Tracy Noyes, another Board member, would demonstrate how the Trans Hernando system would assist a person who is visually impaired. The meeting temporarily adjourned to the parking lot for the public service demonstration at 10:17 a.m.

The meeting returned to order at 10:45 a.m.

Chair Allocco recapped the benefits and importance of the Board to fully understand and comprehend how to assist persons with disabilities to utilize the public transportation services. Chair Allocco thanked the Board for participating in the demonstration and recognized the professionalism of the service he received from Trans Hernando. He also provided the contact information for Hernando County's Community Transportation Coordinator, Trans Hernando at (352) 799-1510.

Miranda Maldonado, our Community Transportation Coordinator representative, explained the application process to receive services from Trans Hernando and provided a paper copy of the application which is also available on-line at <https://fs29.formsite.com/krCFWM/form1/index.html>.

The Board discussed some of the challenges of only having two wheelchair spaces available on Hernando County's transit systems.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chair Allocco adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) immediately followed the Annual Public Workshop.