



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a regular quarterly meeting beginning at 10:52 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 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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Allocco called the meeting to order at 10:52 a.m.
- A quorum was declared and the affidavit of publication was read into the record.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Ms. Elwin asked to add item D2, Review and Approval of the FY 2024 Rate Calculation Model for Hernando County.

Motion: A motion to approve the modified agenda adding item D2, FY 2024 Rate Calculation Model for Hernando County, was made by Ms. Samter and seconded by Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2023

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

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGE SERVICE PLAN (FY 2019 – FY 2023) ANNUAL UPDATE

The System Safety Certification was distributed to the Board as Appendix A to the FY 2019 – FY 2023 Annual Update. Chair Allocco asked for clarification on page 8, Table 3. Ms. Maldonado affirmed the table represented the highest level of education completed by adult population and does not include citizens still in school. Chair Allocco noted that Hernando County is no longer growing with just retirees and that approximately 25% of Hernando County's population is under the age of 25. Ms. Elwin noted that the fluctuation in income levels in Table 4 makes low- to mid-income groups more eligible for different types of services. Ms. Elwin also commented that Figure 6 on Page 10 depicts how many individuals are driving alone versus using other forms of transportation. An important goal for the Board and Hernando County is to make sure citizens are informed of the transit services available to them.

Motion: A motion to approve the Transportation Disadvantage Service Plan Annual Update was made by Mr. Cromwell and seconded by Ms. Hughart. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FY 2024 RATE MODEL CALCULATION FOR HERNANDO COUNTY

The Board conversed on the number of current trips and annual ridership projections and clarified that the FY 2024 Rate Model Calculation was a separate grant from the ADA grant. Ms. Maldonado noted the lower projection did not indicate fewer riders; it was an alignment for the projected ridership.

Motion: A motion to approve the FY 2024 Rate Model Calculation for Hernando County was made by Ms. Samter seconded by Mr. Bargerstock. The motion passed unanimously.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) AGENCY, Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services

Ms. Maldonado expressed her appreciation for the Board's participation in the public service demonstration during the TDLCB Annual Workshop. She also announced and thanked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7 on the recent receipt of five used vehicles (2014/2015 models with under 90,000 miles). Trans Hernando is completing minor repairs on the vehicles to ensure they are safe and road worthy but are excited to add five vehicles to their fleet. Chair Allocco inquired if maintenance is performed in house or contracted out. Ms. Maldonado affirmed services are contracted out. Chair Allocco encouraged Ms. Maldonado to keep the Board informed and enlist the Board's assistance when the CTC solicits its next Request for Proposal for a maintenance facility.

FEATURE PRESENTATIONS

1. Tracy Noyes, Florida Department of Transportation

Ms. Noyes provided handouts and gave an overview of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Section 5310 Grant process. She indicated there were challenges for most agencies to meet the 10% local grant match, especially with the increase in vehicle prices. Chair Allocco mentioned that most grants are now requiring grant matches at the local level which will drive communities to have a focused definition of need and that strong community involvement with the local government will be critical in defining those needs. Ms. Elwin commented on the important component the Board has by communicating and coordinating with FDOT on the transportation disadvantaged needs of the community. Chair Allocco commented that as Hernando County approaches 200,000 in population (large urban county), the County will have to provide more services, however, the County may not be able to provide the same level of services as counties that have populations as large as one million.

2. Oliver Cromwell, RATPDev LLC, Hernando County's Public Transportation Contractor

Mr. Cromwell shared a PowerPoint presentation on the history of TheBus in Hernando County, a map of the four fixed routes, TheBus ridership statistics from 2022, and which Federal grants fund Hernando County Public Transit. Ms. Elwin noted that Hernando County applies for the twenty percent, Use-of-Toll Revenue Credit (Transportation Development Credit) to help purchase transportation capital equipment. Ms. Samter encouraged the Board members to spend one day using public transportation before the next meeting, to better understand and experience what transportation disadvantaged individuals experience using public transportation. Ms. Samter complimented Hernando County's transit system stating the buses were clean and the drivers are kind and helpful. Mr. Cromwell offered for the Board to contact his office if they needed bus passes. Mr. Cromwell also noted, for the information of the Board, that Pasco County is not participating in the electronic farebox system called Flamingo Fares. It has caused a problem for connectivity using electronic fares if traveling from Hernando County southward through Pasco County to Hillsborough County and/or Pinellas County.

Mr. David Knazur and Ms. Gretchen Samter will provide member presentations for the August 9, 2023, meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – There were no Board comments.

MPO DIRECTOR COMMENTS –

- The draft FY 2024 - FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been submitted to FDOT and will be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (BPAC) on May 24, 2023, before being submitted to the MPO Board on June 1, 2023, for final adoption. The draft FY 2024 – FY 2028 TIP is available on the MPO web site for public review.
- On April 28, 2023, the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) uploaded the FY 2024 grant application and MPO staff is in the process of preparing the necessary resolutions for Hernando and for Citrus County. The grants reimburse the planning agencies, MPO, to administer the required activities of the Transportation

Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards. For FY 2024, the allocation for Hernando County is \$25,285, and \$24,398 for Citrus County.

- The MPO is preparing a solicitation for Requests for Qualifications for General Planning Consultants as the current contract expires September 9, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chair Allocco adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) will be held Wednesday, August 9, 2023, beginning at 10:00 at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida.

The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online at: www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo.