



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Wednesday, August 9, 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

Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Vice Chair, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Tracy Noyes, Florida Department of Transportation
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
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
Elizabeth Watson, Agency for Persons with Disabilities Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Allocco, Chair, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
John Eberle, Regional Workforce Development Board
Anthony Cavaliere, Representative from the Public Educational Community
David Knazur, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Tony Graham, Veterans Service Officer

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

- Vice Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board and staff followed the Invocation.
- A quorum was declared, and the affidavit of publication was read into the record.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Samter to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 10, 2023, TDLCB ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Cromwell to approve the May 10, 2023, Minutes of the TDLCB Annual Public Workshop. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whitted and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 10, 2023, TDLCB REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Bargerstock to approve the May 10, 2023, Minutes of the TDLCB Regular Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hughart and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC SERVICE VIDEOS ON TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICES

During the May 10, 2023, Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Annual Public Workshop and the May 11, 2023, Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Annual Public Workshop, the board members participated in demonstrating a wheelchair user and a visually impaired person boarding and offboarding on a public transit vehicle equipped for persons with a disability. As a result of these workshops, two public service videos were created to highlight the public transportation services offered in Hernando and Citrus counties.

Each video is approximately four minutes in length and were shown to the MPO Board at their meeting on August 3, 2023. Ms. Elwin conveyed her appreciation for the Board's participation in creating the videos. The videos are available on the MPO web site and Ms. Turner will send the Board the YouTube links for sharing. Mr. Whitted will ask to have the videos posted on the Hernando YMCA web site and Ms. Maldonado will check with the Mid Florida social media team to ascertain if the videos can be shared on their web page.

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

The quarterly report was included in the agenda packet and Ms. Maldonado conveyed that the Innovative Service Development grant award was made by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged to Mid Florida for the veteran's program shuttle service.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN FY 2024 – FY 2028

Ms. Maldonado reviewed the new program for the five-year period pursuant to the executed Memorandum of Agreement between Mid Florida Community Services dba Trans Hernando and the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. The five-year program reflects current demographic data as obtained by the United State Census Bureau and updated information from sources identified therein.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Noyes to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) FY 2024-FY2028. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samter and the motion passed unanimously.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

Ms. Gretchen Samter asked for a show of hands on who had been able to ride public transportation and asked them to share their experience. Ms. Noyes shared her experience in south Florida where the bus ride experience was good but walking to the bus stop along congested streets and dealing with the weather elements of heat and rain created a hardship. Ms. Samter guided the Board members through an exercise to use cell phone mapping apps to input an address and identify how to select public transit as a mode of transportation to that address. Ms. Samter invited David Philipsen, a resident of Hernando County, to share his experiences using public transit and he expressed his concern of losing the ability to use the Flamingo card (a multi-county, regional electronic farebox system), and how the proposed transit app would work. He agreed with Ms. Noyes that getting to a bus stop, walking along congested streets, weather elements, and balancing ridership and the need for more grant funding, are challenging.

Ms. Samter indicated that the consensus from the members is that Hernando County provides good resources for a small community but how can the TDLCB Board assist in making those resources better. Mr. Whitted shared that for months after moving to Hernando County, he was not aware that TheBus was a transportation option for him. Ms. Samter would like to explore how to educate the community, especially teenagers, on the use of public transportation which could be a critical life skill.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Whitted to establish a subcommittee with the following members: Messrs. Cromwell, Whitted, and Mss. Noyes, Rodriguez, and Ms. Samter. Mr. Cromwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Samter volunteered to chair the subcommittee as she is interested in finding ways to more effectively assist the transportation disadvantaged with specific action steps that can be taken with community partners.

MPO staff will assist the subcommittee, as members of a public body, to advertise meetings in accordance with Government in the Sunshine, reserving meeting space for a two-hour meeting once per month, at a time and date to be determined.

Mr. David Knazur will provide the member presentation for the November 8, 2023, meeting since he was unable to be present at this meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. David Philipsen, a Hernando County resident, shared his concern on outdated information on the transit web site. Mr. Cromwell, General Manager of RATPDev LLC, the transit contractor of Hernando County's public transit system, thanked Mr. Philipsen for his comments and advised that Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit Grants Administrator, is developing a new web site which should be available soon. Mr. Cromwell invited Mr. Philipsen to meet Darlene Lollie and encouraged him to provide input on the new web site.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Whitted advised that the YMCA's Togetherhood Program, of which Mr. Whitted is Chair, in partnership with TheBus, is adding a bus stop in South Brooksville. Togetherhood is also taking the lead for the 2023 South Brooksville Community Resource Block Party scheduled for November 4, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Frederick Kelly Elks Lodge. He will reach out to Board members, TheBus, and Mid Florida, among others, to obtain their support and participation in this event. Mr. Whitted will email MPO staff with more information for staff to forward to the Board members.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito reviewed the following items with the Board:

- 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Scope A is near completion and a purchase order has been issued to Kimley-Horn for Scope B. The final scopes, C and D, will need to be issued immediately after the new contracts are approved by the MPO Board.
- Vulnerability & Risk Assessment (Resilience) Study – A final Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for August 23. The General Planning Consultant, Benesch, will be providing recommendations on this project. Expected MPO Board review is October 5, 2023.
- Traffic Counts – Annual traffic counts are complete for Hernando County and a level of service analysis will be forthcoming on US 41 (from SR 44 to SR 200) and SR 200 in Citrus County and US 41 and County Line Road area in Hernando County.
- Mr. Esposito suggested to conduct 2024 TDLCB meetings in one day versus Hernando County on Wednesday morning and Citrus County on Thursday morning. The suggestion was well-received by the Board members and will be placed on the November 8, 2023, agenda for the TDLCB. The idea is to conduct the Citrus County TDLCB meeting on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, and then the Hernando County TDLCB meeting on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility. Members who serve on both boards were pleased with the idea.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Vice Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. 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.