



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Wednesday, November 8, 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
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Vice Chair, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Dave Newell, Florida Department of Transportation
Kevin Bargerstock, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services, Alternate
Anthony Cavaliere, Representative from the Public Educational Community
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
Ian Martin, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Jeannette Estes, Agency for Persons with Disabilities Representative
Kathleen Winters, Local Medical Community Representative
John Eberle, Regional Workforce Development Board

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tony Graham, Veterans Service Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Via Zoom: Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services, Community Transportation Coordinator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Vice Chair Allocco called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 Mr. Cromwell to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and the motion passed 12-0.

[It is noted for the record that Kevin Bargerstock, member representing Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services, arrived at the meeting.]

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 9, 2023, TDLCB REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the August 9, 2023, Minutes of the TDLCB's regular public meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newell and the motion passed 13-0.

[It is noted for the record that Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Vice Chair member representing Local

Representative for Children at Risk arrived at the meeting.]

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 for fiscal year 2023 provided 3,457 shuttle service trips for veterans and their families for medical, food, and trips to the Veterans Administration. Chair Allocco asked what caused the increase of trip requests for August. Ms. Maldonado explained the increase was produced by more requests due to the hurricane and the second call to cancel requests because of the hurricane.

ACTION ITEMS

1. ANNUAL OPERATING REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) AGENCY, Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Samter to approve the Annual Operating Report of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Fiscal Year 2023, to authorize the Chair's signature thereon, and for submittal of the executed Annual Operating Report to the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and the motion passed 14-0.

2. ANNUAL EXPENDITURE REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) AGENCY, Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the Annual Expenditure Report of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Fiscal Year 2023, to authorize the Chair's signature thereon, and for submittal of the executed Annual Expenditure Report to the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and the motion passed 14-0.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

- Elizabeth Alacci, from the Florida Department of Children and Family Services gave a feature presentation to explain what adult protective services for a vulnerable adult and how the Florida Department of Children and Family Services receives reports and investigates abuse, and how their agency works with other state agencies to provide services to a vulnerable adult. To report abuse, call the hotline at 1-800-96ABUSE (1-800-962-2873) or by completing a web report at www.myflfamilies.com. Ms. Rodriguez shared her experience of having web reports rejected and being on hold on the hotline for 2+ hours. Ms. Samter commented that it can be difficult to know where to send individuals for services. Ms. Estes suggested having a delegate from Hope Florida provide a presentation to the Board. Chair Allocco suggested using email to create a public record when requesting assistance from government agencies.
- Ms. Winters will provide a feature presentation at the February 8, 2024, TDLCB meeting. Ms. Estes will investigate having a delegate from Hope Florida provide a feature presentation at the February 8, 2024, TDLCB meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizens present.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- There was Board discussion on the possibility of conducting joint meetings with the Hernando and Citrus Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Boards and the meeting start time for 2024. Chair Allocco emphasized the need for the public to have access to these meetings and the challenges a joint meeting would present to the transportation disadvantaged public. Mr. Martin asked if there was an option for the public to attend these meetings virtually and Mr. Esposito acknowledged MPO staff will investigate the need for public virtual attendance.
- Ms. Samter noted that the sub-committee established during the August 8, 2023, TDLCB meeting to find ways to more effectively assist the transportation disadvantaged with specific action steps that can be taken with community partners will meet the first Tuesday of the month beginning December 5, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The

meetings are currently scheduled for December 5, 2023; January 9, 2024; February 6, 2024; and March 5, 2024. MPO staff will be send out meeting invites, and the meetings will be open to the public.

Subcommittee members include Messrs. Cromwell, Whitted, and Mss. Noyes, Rodriguez, and Ms. Samter, but Ms. Samter encouraged all board members to participate if they were available.

- Chair Allocco asked if the MPO had access to Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on local radio stations. Ms. Elwin indicated information is being provided to the county Public Information Officers and the MPO can review establishing PSAs for future use on the radio.
- Chair Allocco wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and expressed his appreciation for the time and commitment of the Board.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito reviewed the following items with the Board:

- FDOT Project #257165-3 US 41 from SR 44 to S of Withlacoochee Trail Bridge: Construction started October 3rd, 2023 (anticipated to last 2 years) and there will be a groundbreaking ceremony November 30, 2023. Location to be determined.
- Outlook meeting notices will be sent out for the 2024 Committees and Transportation Disadvantaged meetings.
- The TDLCB Annual Public Workshop will be held February 8, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. The TDLCB Regular Meeting will follow.
- 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Scope A was completed, and Scope B is underway. The final scopes, C and D, will need to be issued immediately after the new GPC contracts are approved by the MPO Board which is tentatively scheduled for December 7, 2023.
- Traffic Segment Studies in Citrus County (US41 and SR 200) and Hernando County (County Line Road and US 41) will commence upon the approval of new GPC contracts (anticipated December 7, 2023).
- Chair Allocco shared that the MPO Board expressed their support at the November 7, 2023, board meeting to pursue applying to the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) for a study to be conducted for an interchange on Centralia Road in Hernando County. Mr. Esposito affirmed the study request would have to come from Hernando County and he has forwarded the application to Scott Herring and Todd Crosby, Hernando County Department of Public Works. Hernando County Administrator, Jeff Rogers, was copied on the request.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chair Allocco adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. The annual public workshop of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024, beginning at 1:30 p.m., followed by the TDLCB regular meeting which will begin no earlier than 2:00 p.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.