



CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

Thursday, February 8, 2024

MINUTES

The Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) held a regular quarterly meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Citrus Chronicle newspaper and the agenda was available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Douglas, Vice Chair, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Dave Newell, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, Alternate
Stephen Brown, Person with a Disability
Joanne Granger, Transit Services Director, Mass Transit Coordinator
Cara Brunk, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Deirdre Barrett LaBelle, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Walter “Bud” Osborne, Veteran Services Office Alternate
Emilio Santiago, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Katie Lucas, Local Medical Community Representative
Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ruthie Schlabach, Chair, Citrus County Commissioner
Debbie Letterman, Regional Workforce Development Board
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Vice Chair Douglas called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m., immediately following the Annual Public Workshop and led the 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 publication was read into the record.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR 2024

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to elect Mr. Douglas as LCB Vice Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Osborn and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newell and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2023, LCB REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Motion: The November 9, 2023, minutes reflected that Elizabeth Watson versus Jeannette Estes attended the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) meeting of November 9, 2023. A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the November 9, 2023, Minutes of the LCB’s Regular Public Meeting, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Quarterly Report – Joanne Granger, Transit Director

Ms. Granger, representing the CTC, reported that from October through December 2023, the CTC averaged 4,096 total trips. November and December reflected fewer trips due to the holidays. Most trips continue to be employment, medical, and nutritional related, respectively. The majority of paratransit door-to-door trips are transportation disadvantaged averaging 1,858 for the three-month period. Ms. Granger informed the Board that new flyers and schedules are available for the paratransit and deviated fixed routes.

Key Training Center Quarterly Report – Theresa Flick, Programs and Services Director

The Key Training Center reported that 17,373 trips were provided October through December 2023. The majority of trips were for medical purposes (8,687) and for educational purposes (7,818). The Key Training Center has applied for 5310 grant funds requesting three vehicles and assistance with operating funds. Ms. Flick expressed her appreciation to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for their assistance to acquire vehicles. Ms. Estes asked how successful the use of Citrus County transit for community-based employment trips was versus using Key Training Center transportation. Ms. Flick confirmed the use of county transit services is working well.

ACTION ITEMS

1. ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LCB BYLAWS

Motion: The Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities was omitted as a designated member [C.2.b.(15)] in the Bylaws. A motion was made by Mr. Newell to approve the LCB Bylaws, as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Elwin noted for the record that Emilio Santiago, member representing the Florida Department of Health Care Administration, was attending the meeting.]

2. ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LCB GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the LCB Grievance Procedures and authorize the Chair's signature thereon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newell and the motion passed unanimously.

3. ELECTION OF GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

After Board discussion the following LCB Board members were nominated as the Grievance Committee for 2024:

1. David Douglas, member
2. Katie Lucas, member
3. Jeannette Estes, member
4. Steve Brown, alternate member

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Osborne to approve the modified list of LCB Grievance Committee Members. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Newell nominated Mr. Douglas as the LCB Grievance Committee Chair for 2024. Mr. Newell and Ms. LaBelle nominated Ms. Lucas as the LCB Grievance Committee Vice Chair for 2024.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Newell to approve Mr. Douglas as the LCB Grievance Committee Chair for 2024 and Ms. Lucas as the Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed unanimously.

FEATURE PRESENTATION-VETERAN SERVICES

Bud Osborn, Veteran Services Representative, shared that there is a veterans' clinic in Lecanto albeit the Lecanto clinic does not offer as many medical services as other facilities. Auditory, optical, and radiology services are provided at The Villages and additional services would be provided in Gainesville. Due to population growth, Gainesville has exceeded capacity and those services are now offered in Tampa. Transportation from Veteran Services is performed by volunteers and not always reliable. Citrus County Transit can provide scheduled and reliable service to the veteran community, but the challenge is training veterans on how to utilize the services offered by public transit. Ms. Granger affirmed the information is available online and informational flyers are available to hand out. Ms. Granger also mentioned most veterans' facilities will coordinate services for individuals using public transportation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Leanne Smith, a resident of Beverly Hills, commented on the need for a local Veterans' Hospital that can offer more services to the veterans. Ms. Smith did compliment Citrus County Transit for the services they provide to the veteran community and suggested making business cards available that list the days/times county transit is available to veterans' facilities.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Estes shared that a presentation on the Hope Florida initiative will be provided to the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) and asked if the Citrus LCB would be interested in having a similar presentation at the next board meeting. The Board expressed their interest and upon confirmation from Ms. Estes, the feature presentation for the May 9, 2024, LCB meeting will be from a representative of the Florida Department of Families and Children presenting on the Hope Florida initiative. Ms. Lucas will provide the feature presentation for the August 8, 2024, meeting.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

- The 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which is one of the MPO's single largest studies is wrapping up and will be presented to the MPO Board for adoption in October 2024. Work on the 2050 LRTP began approximately one year ago and is a 25-year look forward on which roads should be built and the priority thereof.
- Staff is also involved in the process of developing the new two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY2025 – FY2026.
- The MPO is conducting an in-depth level of service analysis on US 41 and SR 200 in Citrus County and on County Line Road and US 41 in Hernando County.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Vice Chair Douglas adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2024, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online at: www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo.