



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Thursday, May 9, 2024

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a regular quarterly meeting at 1:30 p.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 Commission
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Vice Chair, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Dave Newell, Florida Department of Transportation
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Kevin Bargerstock, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services
Sam Kinard, Representative from the Public Educational Community, Alternate
Gretchen Samter, Person with a Disability
Melissa Arceneaux, Citizen Advocate
Darlene Lollie, Public Transit System
Ian Martin, Florida Department of Health Care Administration, Alternate
Elizabeth Watson, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Alternate
John Eberle, Regional Workforce Development Board

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tony Graham, Veterans Service Representative
Gerry Whitted, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means

OTHERS PRESENT

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 1:30 p.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

Agenda Item E2, Review and Approval of the FY 2025 Rate Model Calculation for Hernando County, and Agenda Item F1, Feature Presentation, is being moved to the August 8, 2024, agenda. Agenda Item F2, Feature Presentation, is being removed as TDLCB member, Kathleen Winters, is no longer able to serve on the TDLCB.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Watson to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newell and the motion passed 12-0.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 8, 2024, TDLCB Annual Public Workshop

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the February 8, 2024, Minutes of the TDLCB's Annual Public Workshop. The motion was seconded by Ms. Arceneaux and the motion passed 12-0.

2. February 8, 2024, TDLCB Regular Public Meeting

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Samter to approve the February 8, 2024, Minutes of the TDLCB's Regular Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and the motion passed 12-0.

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

The quarterly report of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) was included in the agenda packet and Ms. Maldonado shared that the Innovative Service Development (ISD) grant used for veteran services program will cease July 1, 2024. The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) is no longer accepting Innovative Service Development applications for programs that have been approved and repeated for several years. The veteran services program funded by the Innovative Service Development grant funding has existed for a number of years providing reduced fares and shuttle service to the Veterans Administration hospital in Tampa. The CTC will continue offering the shuttle service and costs for that program will be absorbed by the trip and equipment grant funding they receive. The CTC will review the ISD options and reapply next year. Ms. Maldonado announced that Mid Florida Community Services has changed their name to *You Thrive Florida*. While the name and logo have been rebranded, there are no changes to personnel or offered programs.

ACTION ITEMS

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC)

Ms. Elwin reviewed the annual evaluation with the board. Chair Allocco asked if obtaining repair parts for the vehicles has improved. Ms. Maldonado affirmed that during the pandemic it was difficult to get vehicles repaired but that has improved; especially since receiving donated vehicles from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Ms. Elwin shared that a revised goal to convert riders from paratransit to fixed route will be included in the next update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP). Chair Allocco suggested conducting random, quarterly telephone calls to measure for the Call-Hold Time goal. Ms. Elwin indicated she would review the standard and recommendation with the CTD.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the Annual Evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). The motion was seconded by Ms. Rodriguez and the motion passed 12-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ms. Lollie shared Demand Response service is available for the residents who live within 3/4 mile on either side of the fixed route system but are unable to access the fixed route transit system due to a disability.
- Ms. Samter encouraged board members to experience riding on *TheBus*.
- Mr. Graham, Veterans Service Officer, was nominated to make a presentation at the August 8, 2024, meeting.
- With the recent changes in Board membership, the Subcommittee working to explore ways to educate the community on available services for the Transportation Disadvantaged will be Gretchen Samter (Chair), Gerry Whitted, Melissa Arceneaux, Elizabeth Alacci, and Darlene Lollie. Sam Kinard will advise the subcommittee if he is able to participate.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

- As a reminder, the July 11, 2024, meeting of the MPO Board is canceled as the Hernando County Commission is scheduling a workshop that day. Necessary agenda items will be presented at the June or August meetings.
- The TDLCB was provided a list of the public engagement meetings associated with the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) adoption. Ms. Elwin explained the development of the 2050 LRTP is in process and public involvement is important and encouraged the participation at the public meetings and workshops.
- The MPO conducts quarterly staff meetings with Ocala Marion TPO and Lake-Sumter MPO. The federal and state government agencies encourage the interaction between contiguous MPOs/TPOs or that have similar demographics.
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has scheduled a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Good Neighbor Trail (GNT) on May 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in Tom Varn Park in Brooksville.
- Mr. Esposito is attending the Florida Transportation Planning Exchange (TransEx) conference in St. Petersburg on May 7-8, 2024.
- The MPO Board welcomes, Councilman Gene Davis, as an alternate board member representing the City of Inverness.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) is scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2024, beginning at 1:30 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.

Chair Allocco adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.