



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB) SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Subcommittee held a public meeting beginning at 2:30 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

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
Via Zoom: Tracy Noyes, Florida Department of Transportation

OTHERS PRESENT

Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Robert O'Steen, Citizen

The purpose of the subcommittee is to develop an outline to identify ways to more effectively assist persons that are transportation disadvantaged. The recommendations of the subcommittee will be presented to the TDLCB Board for consideration.

[It is noted for the record that Oliver Cromwell had to leave the meeting at 3:05 p.m.]

[It is noted for the record that Gretchen Samter arrived at the meeting at 3:13 p.m.]

This was the first meeting of the subcommittee to hold a brainstorm session to identify opportunities to improve services for transportation disadvantaged persons. The items identified that the subcommittee would like to focus on include:

DISCUSS/IDENTIFY AREAS OF NEED/GAPS

1. Expand community knowledge of existing transportation disadvantaged options.
2. Expand community knowledge of how or whom to report concerns/needs.

BRAINSTORM SESSION ON HOW TO IMPROVE GAPS

1. Create a comprehensive list of transportation disadvantaged options available for citizens and how to communicate/market the options.
2. Create a list of who to contact when there is a concern (i.e., accessible bus stops, sidewalks covered with sand, how to bring concerns to the correct place).

IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE NEXT STEPS

1. Begin to gather a comprehensive list of resources at the next subcommittee meeting. Ms. Turner will ask Miranda Maldonado, Mid Florida Community Services, Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), what is available through the CTC and if Miranda is available to join in a future meeting via Zoom or in person.
2. The subcommittee will provide updates to the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) during regular TDLCB meetings.

Additional items to consider:

- Education should encompass the ways people can get from Point A to Point B in a collaborative way; not just TheBus and not one single agency for their individual transportation options.
- Buses going where people need to go, i.e., bus stops are too far from the destination. Could a shuttle be provided?
- Is there a citizen trainer program available for TheBus? Does it include how to ride the bus and access bus vouchers?
- Educate the helpers to help them assist the people who need help (teach kids how to ride the bus and share information with community support agencies).
- Scooters/Bicycles can provide a solution for transportation disadvantaged individuals.
- Possible Public Service Announcement (PSA) motto: So, you don't have a car, here's what you can do.
- Ensure the subcommittee utilizes existing programs versus creating something new (i.e., Florida Cares, Unite Us, etc.).

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in 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.