



CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

Thursday, February 13, 2025

MINUTES

The Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on February 13, 2025, at 9:45 a.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Citrus Chronicle newspaper, on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website and the Citrus County website. The agenda was available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Janet Barek, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
David Douglas, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Dave Newell, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Stephen Brown, Person with a Disability
Joanne Granger, Transit Services Director, Mass Transit Coordinator
Casey Ladd, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Deirdre Barrett LaBelle, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Gisela Ruiz, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Debbie Letterman, Regional Workforce Development Board
Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities

MEMBERS ABSENT

Walter “Bud” Osborn, Veteran Services Representative
Katie Lucas, Local Medical Community Representative
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant
Barbara Branch, Director of Day Services, Key Training Center
Michelle Sikavitsas, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Maria DeJesus, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Tiffany Kersey, Citrus County Transit

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chairman Barek called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and led a Moment of Silence for Patty Massullo, the wife of State Representative Ralph Massullo.
- 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. Douglas to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newell and the motion passed 10-0.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2025

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to elect Mr. Douglas as LCB Vice Chairman for 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newell and the motion passed 10-0.

ELECTION OF GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

After Board discussion the following LCB Board members were nominated as the Grievance Committee for 2025:

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

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the nominated LCB Grievance Committee members and positions for 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 10-0.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2024, REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Ms. Granger noted a correction to update wheelchair users from 24,077 trips to 2,477 trips for Action Item 1, Review and Approval of the Annual Operating Reports (AOR) for State Fiscal Year 2024 of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Agency.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the November 14, 2024, Minutes of the LCB's Regular Public meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Douglas and the motion passed 10-0.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Annual Review and Approval of the LCB Grievance Procedures

Ms. Elwin reviewed the annual update of the LCB Grievance Procedures incorporating the process to report adverse incidents involving Persons with Disabilities.

[It is noted for the record that LCB member, Jeannette Estes, excused herself temporarily from the meeting.]

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Newell to approve the LCB Grievance Procedures. The motion was seconded by Ms. Letterman and the motion passed 9-0.

2. Review and Approval of the updated Application for Transportation Disadvantaged

Ms. Elwin explained the Transportation Disadvantaged Application was updated to remove specific amounts of threshold of poverty and fares to eliminate the need to update the forms as these amounts change. Ms. Granger also stated that the application was updated to clarify the language that an application is needed to receive transportation services through the State Transportation Disadvantaged Fund, however, an application is not needed to ride transit. This change would preclude the use of outdated forms.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. LaBelle to approve the updated Application for Transportation Disadvantaged. The motion was seconded by Mr. Douglas and the motion passed 9-0.

REPORTS

Quarterly Report for October 1 through December 31, 2024, by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)- Joanne Granger, Transit Director

[It is noted for the record that TDLCB member, Jeannette Estes, returned to the meeting.]

Ms. Granger, representing the CTC, reported that the total trips for October were 4,688, the total trips for November were 4,575, and the total trips for December were 5,372. Total trips for the quarter are evenly divided between the deviated fixed route and door-to-door service. The top three trip categories were for nutritional, employment, and medical purposes. The majority of trips were for transportation disadvantaged (TD) and the rest public. Unduplicated client counts included 35 wheelchair clients and 178 ambulatory clients. Of the ambulatory clients, 559 trips were ambulatory requiring the driver to deploy the lift as though they were in a wheelchair; however, that is not a field in the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged quarterly report. One hundred one unduplicated TD clients used the Orange Line (fixed route), and TD clients are encouraged to use the fixed route whenever possible. Mr. Douglas was encouraged to hear TD clients are using the fixed route. Ms. Granger also relayed there has been an increase in clients using walkers on the fixed route.

Key Training Center Quarterly Report for October 1 through December 31, 2024 – Theresa Flick, Programs and Services Director

Barbara Branch, Director of Day Services and representing The Key Training Center on behalf of Theresa Flick who could not be present at the meeting, reported that 13,028 trips for ambulatory clients were provided October through December 2024, and 2,242 trips were for non-ambulatory clients. Trips by purpose were 7,787 medical trips, 0 employment, 6,718 educational, 155 shopping, and there was an increase in recreational trips at 610 trips due to the holidays. Ms. Branch thanked Ms. Granger and the Citrus County Transit (CCT) team for providing easy and accessible transit service. She reported there are 11 clients using CCT for transportation to the day program and the caring and respectful service The Key Training Center clients receive is appreciated. The Key Training Center is struggling to find CDL drivers that can pass a background screening. Additionally, repairing vehicles is a challenge because of the age of the vehicles and the difficulty in getting repair parts. She noted that Mr. Newell with the Florida Department of Transportation is working with Key Training Center on the replacement of vehicles.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

Jeannette Estes, Regional Operations Manager at Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), gave a feature presentation on the services provided by APD, how to apply for services, navigating the APD website (www.apdcares.org), and who potentially qualifies for APD services. She relayed that an individual has to have one or more statutorily defined developmental disabilities in order to utilize their services. Ms. Estes identified the developmental disabilities: Spina bifida, intellectual disability, Downs syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, severe forms of autism, Prader-Willi syndrome, and Phelan-McDermid syndrome. Ms. Elwin expressed that the services provided by APD enable people to live a satisfying life. Ms. LaBelle expressed the need for a program to assist with the challenges of transitioning to adulthood for individuals who are between the ages of 22 and 25. Ms. Estes shared that an *Adult Pathways* waiver will be forthcoming to assist the 18 to 26 age group.

Debbie Letterman, Regional Workforce Development Board, volunteered to be a presenter at the May 8, 2025, LCB meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no further Board comments.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Elwin provided the following updates:

- Mr. Esposito hosted a telephone call with State Senator Nick DiCeglie and Commissioner Bays on February 3, 2025, to advocate for rural arterial funds for Hernando and Citrus Counties.
- Mr. Esposito hosted a Microsoft Teams meeting with FDOT, Pasco County, and Hernando County staff members on January 27, 2025, to discuss County Line Road. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has agreed to include funding for the design portion between Mariner Boulevard/Shady Hills Road to the Suncoast Parkway in the FY2025 Work Program. The construction phase will be programmed in FY2033 at one-half with the counties sharing the other half. The next follow-up Teams meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2025.
- Ms. Elwin noted that the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) is working on the Regional 2050 LRTP. County Line Road was recently added to the Regional Priorities List and Mr. Esposito is going to ask to have SR200 (Citrus) added later this summer.
- Mr. Esposito attended the Pasco MPO Board meeting December 11, 2024, and he participated in a second radio interview (WWJB) [on January 15, 2025] to encourage the public on the importance and ways to get funding sources for local roads, especially for local county roads.
- Mr. Esposito is attending the February 13, 2025, Gulf Streets Safe Summit Dignitary Panel in Tampa, Florida. Commissioner Bays (Citrus) and Todd Crosby, Assistant County Engineer for Hernando County, are also attending as panelists.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2025, 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.

Chairman Barek adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.