



CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

Thursday, August 8, 2024

MINUTES

The Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on August 8, 2024, at 9:30 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

Ruthie Schlabach, Chairman, Citrus County Commission
David Douglas, Vice Chairman, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Walter “Bud” Osborne, Veteran Services Representative
Stephen Brown, Person with a Disability
Joanne Granger, Transit Services Director, Mass Transit Coordinator
Deirdre Barrett LaBelle, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Casey Ladd, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Gisela Ruiz, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Jerry Flanders, Regional Workforce Development Board, Alternate
Katie Lucas, Local Medical Community Representative
Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Newell, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Administrative Assistant III
Theresa Flick, Programs and Services Director, Key Training Center

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chairman Schlabach called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. 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.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Agenda Item E4, Review and Approval of the 2025 Meeting Schedule, is being added under Action Items and Agenda Item E3, Review and Approval of the Annual Operating Reports (AOR), is being postponed until November 14, 2024.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Douglas and the motion passed 8-0.

[It is noted for the record that LCB member, Elizabeth Allacci, representing the Florida Department of Children and Family Services, arrived at the meeting.]

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 9, 2024, REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

[It is noted for the record that LCB member, Stephen Brown, representing a Person with a Disability, arrived at the meeting.]

Motion: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Douglas to approve the May 9, 2024, Minutes of the LCB's Regular Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 10-0.

REPORTS

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

Ms. Granger, representing the CTC, reported that April and May trip totals remained steady while June trips dropped due to limited operational days (20) caused by excessive heat. Total trips for July returned to normal and the CTC expects that trend to continue through the balance of the year.

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

Ms. Flick, representing The Key Training Center, reported that 18,301 trips were provided April through June 2024. The majority of trips were for ambulatory passengers (16,051) and 2,250 trips were provided for wheelchair users. Most trips were for doctor and dental appointments (9,151) followed by 8,235 trips for educational purposes. There were 366 trips for shopping and 549 trips for leisure/recreation.

[It is noted for the record that LCB member, Gisela Ruiz, representing the Florida Department of Health Care Administration, arrived at the meeting.]

ACTION ITEMS

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FY2025 ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE ADOPTED TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN (TDSP) FY 2023-FY 2027

Ms. Elwin reviewed the annual update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan with the Board. Chairman Schlabach noted that half of the Citrus County population is eligible for transportation disadvantaged services. Chairman Schlabach asked if the US Census is the best gauge for accurate population versus data from the Bureau of Economic & Business Research (BEBR). Ms. Elwin noted that BEBR data was used for the 2024 projections at the *medium* level and is footnoted on page 24. Ms. Estes requested that her name to be corrected to *Jeannette* on page 3 and Chairman Schlabach requested that her title remain as Chairman versus Chair. Chairman Schlabach asked for an update on bus-stop shelter benches. Ms. Granger relayed that of the seven shelters that were purchased, six have been installed. The Hernando school bus shelter is in the permitting process and should be installed before the end of the county fiscal year.

[It is noted for the record that LCB member, Bud Osborn, representing Veterans Services, arrived at the meeting.]

Chairman Schlabach asked for an update on ridership for the reinstated Homosassa route. Ms. Granger affirmed she would provide an update at the next LCB meeting, November 14, 2024. Chairman Schlabach suggested including route data from the Beverly Hills to the Target complex in the November 14 update, especially for employment ridership. Mr. Flanders asked how a business is added to the Door-to-Door Stop Locations list on page 13. Ms. Granger responded a business would call Citrus County Transit. Ms. Granger relayed route stops are also driven by passenger input. Ms. Elwin shared that Citrus County Transit conducts an annual survey to obtain community input on what is needed from the transit system. Ms. Estes asked if an appeals process existed for riders who are suspended from transit service. Ms. Granger confirmed a grievance procedure existed and Ms. Granger makes the initial decision, but the complainant can raise a concern to the Grievance Committee. If the complainant is not satisfied with the Grievance Committee, the concern can be sent to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) ombudsman. Ms. Elwin acknowledged the goal is to not escalate a complaint and commended Ms. Granger and her team for their responsiveness to the needs of the riders.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the Annual Update to the Adopted Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) FY 2023-FY 2027 for submittal to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) after updating Table 4, *Door-to-Door Stop Locations*, to

include the Target complex, Starbucks, and the soon to open Hobby Lobby. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Douglas and the motion passed 12-0.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE REPORT (AER) OF THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC)

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. LaBelle to approve the Annual Expenditure Report (AER) for FY 2023-FY 2024 and submittal to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Douglas and the motion passed 12-0.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL OPERATING REPORT (AOR) OF THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC)

Agenda Item E3 was postponed until November 14, 2024.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule with consideration being given to move the August 14, 2025, meeting to September 11, 2025, in order to allow sufficient time to prepare the Annual Operating Report (AOR) for its submittal by September 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion passed 12-0.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

Katie Lucas, Volunteer Coordinator for HPH Hospice and LCB member representing the Local Medical Community, gave a feature presentation on hospice services in Citrus County. She explained that hospice is more about education and communication versus death and dying. Hospice provides services to help the patient live the best life left to live, not just for the patient but for the entire family. Ms. Lucas relayed that HPH is an affiliate of Chapters Health System which is the largest not-for-profit hospice in the country and services are paid through Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, and there is a foundation to raise funds, so no individual is turned away.

Ms. Lucas emphasized the myth that “*people go to hospice to die*” is not true. Hospice also provides five days of respite per month. Respite can be used when there is a need to ensure a loved one is cared for at the hospice house to enable caregivers to attend events such as weddings, graduations, travel, etc., and respite can be used to monitor a patient when there is a change in medication. Ms. Lucas shared that most hospice patients are at home and hospice can provide at-home services and equipment to ensure the patient’s needs are met. There are weekly meetings with the clinical manager, nurses, physician(s), and social worker so that the patient’s status can be shared within the group based on varied observations. Finally, Ms. Lucas conveyed that generally hospice is provided for six months but services may be extended based on the individual's decline and, in some cases, patients have graduated from hospice either permanently or to return later. The Board thanked Ms. Lucas for her informative presentation.

Dierdre LaBelle, Local Representative for Children at Risk, volunteered to present at the November 14, 2024, LCB meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ms. Labelle thanked Ms. Granger for sharing the Citrus County Transit route maps at the May 9, 2024, LCB meeting. The Learning Coalition recently moved to Emerald Oaks Plaza in Crystal River, and they have been sharing the printed route maps with their clients.
- Ms. Estes, representative for the State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities, expressed her appreciation for being a member of the LCB and thanked Theresa Flick and the Key Learning Center for being one of their best “Key” providers and ensuring the success of individuals with disabilities to live their best lives.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito provided the following updates:

- There will be two public workshops for the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) on August 5, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in Brooksville and at 5:00 p.m. in Inverness. The workshops can be attended in person or virtually. An email invitation was sent earlier this week – please share with others who would benefit from this information. *[Subsequent to the meeting, the workshops were postponed due to tropical storm Debby and rescheduled for August 22, 2024.]*
- A 2055 Florida Transportation Plan development is also in progress. A flyer was distributed for the public and partners to engage in the process, and the website is <https://www.floridaftp.com>.
- A Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit Dignitary Panel Representative is needed for an October 9, 2024, meeting from 1:00-5:00 pm at the Port Tampa Bay Cruise Terminal-2, 651 Channelside Drive, Tampa, Florida. The Summit is an educational event that brings together community partners to elevate our efforts on how to design and implement safe and equitable transportation facilities for all modes of transportation. Each MPO/TPO is being asked to provide high level decision makers (appointed, elected, board member, county administrator, division director or community leader) to be part of a moderated dignitary panel. The moderator will ask questions to prompt a dialogue following Gil Penalosa's presentation. It's envisioned that panelists will respond and discuss doable change they now see possible.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 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.

Chairman Schlabach adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.