



CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

Thursday, September 11, 2025

MINUTES

The Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on September 11, 2025, 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, 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, Chair, Citrus County Commissioner
David Douglas, Vice Chair, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Michelle Sikavitsas, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
David Knazar, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Deirdre Barrett LaBelle, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Gisela Ruiz, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Debbie Letterman, Regional Workforce Development Board
Joanne Granger, Transit Services Director, Mass Transit Coordinator, non-voting representative of the CTC

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Brown, Person with a Disability
Katie Lucas, Local Medical Community Representative
Casey Ladd, Florida Department of Elder Affairs

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant
Theresa Flick, Director, Key Training Center

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Barek called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.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

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Douglas to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 8-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 8, 2025, REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Douglas to approve the May 8, 2025, Minutes of the LCB's Regular Public meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 8-0.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and Approval of the FY 2026 Annual Update to the Adopted Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP)
Ms. Elwin presented key updates to the FY 2026 TDSP Annual Update. She noted that Appendix F, which outlines the current fare structure and was not included in the agenda packet but will be added to the final document. Additionally, the Complaint and Grievance Process has been relocated to an appendix to enhance user accessibility. Population figures in Tables 2, 3, 5, and 7 have been updated

to reflect 2024 data. Transportation services to Veterans Administration offices and hospitals, as well as the Social Security Administration Office, have been added to page 25 of the agenda packet.

Ms Elwin continued to review edits to the document and highlighted that on page 37, the inclusion of language stating that individuals living within ¾-mile of a fixed-route who are unable to ride due to a disability cannot be charged more than twice the standard fixed-route fare, in accordance with federal law. Ms. Estes requested a revision to the bullet point under “Developmental Services” on page 29, proposing the updated language: “This program is sponsored by the Key Training Center for persons with developmental disabilities.” Ms. Elwin also confirmed, in response to Ms. Sikavitsas’ inquiry, that the Bus Transit System Annual Safety and Security Certification on page 54 will be updated to reflect the most recent certification dated February 15, 2025.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Letterman to approve the FY 2026 Annual Update to the Adopted Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) with aforementioned amendments and for submittal to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Mr. Douglas and the motion passed 8-0.

2. 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 submittal to the Commission of the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Ms. Sikavitsas and the motion passed 8-0.

3. Annual Operating Report (AOR) of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. La Belle to approve the Annual Operating Report (AOR), authorize the Chair’s signature thereon, and submittal of the executed AOR to the Commission of the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Mr. Douglas and the motion passed 8-0.

REPORTS

Quarterly Report for April 1 through June 30, 2025, by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)- Joanne Granger, Transit Director

Ms. Granger, Transit Services Director, representing the CTC, reported that the quarterly report has been updated to include both quarterly figures and cumulative year-to-date totals. Between April 1 and June 30, 2025, deviated fixed-route trips remained relatively stable, averaging 2,459 trips per month. Door-to-door trip volumes were recorded as follows: 2,935 in April, 2,859 in May, and 2,591 in June. The decline in June was attributed to the conclusion of GED-related transportation to Withlacoochee Technical College (WTC), which paused for summer break in early June and is scheduled to resume in early August.

The majority of trips continue to serve medical, nutritional, and employment needs. Year to date, a total of 31,257 door-to-door trips have been provided, with 23,876 of those trips serving transportation disadvantaged individuals.

Key Training Center Quarterly Report for April 1 through June 30, 2025 – Theresa Flick, Programs and Services Director

Theresa Flick, Director of Program Operations for The Key Training Center, reported that the majority of transportation services are utilized for travel to and from the day program, followed by trips for medical appointments, recreational activities, and community engagement. She expressed sincere appreciation to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for awarding three years’ worth of 5310 grant funding during the past quarter. As a result, The Key Training Center was able to place orders for four transit vans, two modified minibuses, and one cut-away bus. Ms. Flick emphasized that the Center’s ability to provide these essential services is made possible through its partnership with FDOT, Citrus County Transit, and the Hernando-Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

In response to a question from Ms. Estes regarding whether any clients served by The Key Training Center

through the State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities are gainfully employed and why the quarterly report reflects zero under Employment, Ms. Flick clarified that clients with part-time employment utilize Citrus County Transit for their transportation needs. She noted that the Center's mission is to promote community involvement and strives to align employment opportunities with the resources available within the community to best support each client.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizens comments.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- Mr. Esposito reported that Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator, attended the Transportation Disadvantaged Training Session on September 3 in St. Petersburg. The session was held as part of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) Annual Conference and is a mandatory training required by the Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) to support continued education and regulatory compliance.
- The MPO will issue a purchase order for traffic counts at 71 locations in both Hernando and Citrus Counties, along with a level-of-service analysis.
- The Notices to Proceed have been issued for Complete Streets and Congestion Management and the kick-off meetings were conducted August 28th.
- Mr. Esposito thanked FDOT for their partnership.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Estes enthusiastically announced the appointment of Robert "Bob" Asztalos as Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), as designated by the Governor. Asztalos has served as Deputy Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) since 2021, overseeing Florida's eight state veteran nursing homes and one state veterans domiciliary. He previously served as interim Chief Operating Officer for a veteran-owned medical equipment company and spent decades in health care policy and advocacy at both the state and federal level. In Tallahassee, Asztalos served as Chief Lobbyist for the Florida Health Care Association and Government Relations Consultant for Easter Seals Florida. In Washington, D.C., he worked for the American Health Care Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, and the law firm Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering.

A Navy and Navy Reserve veteran with 29 years of service, Asztalos also served 17 years in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from George Washington University and serves on several boards, including the Florida Veterans Foundation, Fleet Reserve Association Branch 34, Ladies Learning to Lead, and the Pines of Sarasota Rehabilitation & Senior Care Community. (2025, August 5) Governor Ron DeSantis Appoints Robert "Bob" Asztalos as Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. <https://flgov.com/eog/news/press>

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 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.

Chair Berek adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.