



CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

Thursday, February 12, 2026

MINUTES

The Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on February 12, 2026, 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, LCB Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
David Douglas, LCB Vice Chairman, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Chris Leffert, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Stephen Brown, Person with a Disability
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Glorybee Nunez, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Elizabeth Watson, Alternate Member, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Katie Lucas, Local Medical Community Representative
Joanne Granger, Transit Services Director, Mass Transit Coordinator, non-voting representative of the CTC

MEMBERS ABSENT

Deirdre Barrett LaBelle, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Casey Ladd, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Debbie Letterman, Regional Workforce Development Board

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant
Theresa Flick, Director, Key Training Center
Tiffany Kersey, Citrus County Transit

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chairman Barek called the meeting to order at 9:57 a.m., immediately following the Annual Public Workshop.
- 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. Nunez and the motion passed 8-0.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2026

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to elect Mr. Douglas as LCB Vice Chairman for 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lucas and the motion passed 8-0.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2026

After Board discussion the following LCB Board members were nominated as the Grievance Committee for 2026:

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

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the nominated LCB Grievance Committee members and positions for 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and the motion passed 8-0.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LCB GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the Citrus County LCB Grievance Procedures as written, originally approved on February 13, 2025, and reviewed on February 12, 2026, and authorize the Chairman's signature thereon. The motion was seconded by Ms. Alacci and the motion passed 8-0.

REPORTS

Quarterly Report for October 1 through December 31, 2025, by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)- Joanne Granger, Transit Director

Ms. Granger, representing the CTC, reported that November and December ridership numbers were lower than usual because the service operated three fewer days due to the holidays. Education and training trips also declined during this period, as schools were closed for nearly two weeks in December.

Employment-related trips remain high, which is a positive trend the agency aims to maintain, Ms. Granger noted. Medical and nutritional trips have stayed consistent. The majority of trips this quarter continue to serve transportation-disadvantaged (TD) riders, and there are currently 1,580 active TD applications on file. Veteran trips increased from October through December.

Chairman Barek asked whether the new shopping center has increased ridership. Ms. Granger noted a modest increase in trips to Walmart and Target on the deviated fixed route, while door-to-door service levels have remained steady.

Ms. Granger reported that Citrus Transit has been approved for five additional transit vans and five part-time drivers, which will help accommodate early-morning and later-evening trips. The busiest times for employment trips are between 6–9 a.m. and again around 3 p.m.

The Board also discussed the potential need to extend operating hours to support increasing employment and education demand, as well as the ability to leave phone messages for Citrus Transit personnel at any time. Phone lines are staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and reservations should be made two days in advance.

Key Training Center Quarterly Report for October 1 through December 31, 2025 – Theresa Flick, Key Training Center Programs and Services Director

Ms. Flick reported that, similar to what Ms. Granger noted earlier, the Key Training Center experienced a decrease in ridership from October through December due to the holidays. During this period, many family members take their loved ones home or out for activities, reducing the need for the Center's transportation services.

Despite the seasonal decline, the Center provided 14,117 total trips, including 1,566 trips for non-ambulatory clients. Most trips (7,199) were for transportation to and from the adult day training program, which is educational in nature. The second-highest trip purpose was medical transportation, accounting for 6,211 trips.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

Chris Leffert, Transit Programs Director for Florida Department of Transportation District 7, provided an overview of the FDOT Section 5310 Grant Program, which serves individuals who are 65 years or older or who have a disability.

Chairman Barek confirmed that Glorybee Nunez, with the Florida Department of Health Care Administration, will deliver the Feature Presentation at the May 14, 2026, Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - There were no Board member comments.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- The MPO is in the process of updating the List of Priority Projects and is proposing the following approach:
 - Maintain the current list without expanding it, while identifying cost-feasible, smaller-scale improvements that can be advanced (e.g., turn signals, adding turn lanes, intersection improvements).
 - Move some larger, locally focused projects to a secondary list to position them for potential advancement if local and state funding becomes available.
 - Reduce the number of projects on the Transportation Alternative (TA) list by removing items that will unlikely be able to receive TA funding.
- The Hernando County attorney is reviewing a draft Letter of Understanding (LOU) provided by FDOT for County Line Road. It will be presented to the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.
- Work has begun on the new two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which will outline MPO projects and activities for FY2027-FY2028.
- Traffic counts and level-of-service analysis for both Citrus and Hernando are in progress.
- Mr. Esposito attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) meeting on Wednesday, January 28, in Orlando.
- Mary Elwin and Mr. Esposito participated in the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) meeting on Thursday, January 29, in Orlando, which was well attended by Florida MPOs.
- FTE – The Centralia Road Interchange Study that is being conducted by the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) is expected to be completed and available at the end of April.
- The MPO is currently updating its Congestion Management Process and its Complete Streets Plan.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chairman Barek adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026, 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.