



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Thursday, November 14, 2024

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on November 14, 2024, at 1:30 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 Hernando/Citrus MPO website and Hernando County website. The agenda was available on the Hernando/Citrus MPO website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Allocco, Chair, Hernando County Board of County Commissioner
Chris Leffert, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Sam Kinard, Representative from the Public Educational Community
Kevin Bargerstock, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services
Gerry Whitted, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Gretchen Samter, Vice Chair, Person with a Disability
Melissa Arceneaux, Citizen Advocate
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Darlene Lollie, Public Transit System
Riley Larsen, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Jose Infante, Regional Workforce Development Board
Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities

MEMBERS ABSENT

Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Tony Graham, Veterans Service Representative
Casey Ladd, Florida Department of Elder Affairs

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant
Jeff Cottrell, You Thrive, Community Transportation Coordinator
Michelle Sikavitsas, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Jonathan Roberson, AICP, Research Associate for Center for Urban Transportation (CUTR)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Allocco called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board, staff, and attendees 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 Ms. Arceneaux to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larsen and the motion passed 10-0.
[It is noted for the record that TDLCB member, Gerry Whitted, excused himself temporarily from the meeting.]

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2024, TDLCB REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Samter to approve the August 8, 2024, Minutes of the TDLCB's Regular Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larsen and the motion passed 10-0.

PRESENTATION

Presentation by the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) on the Hernando County FY 2025-2034 Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Jonathan Roberson, AICP, Research Associate for CUTR, under contract with the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners to do the major TDP update, made a final presentation on the Hernando County Transit Development Plan (Hernando TDP) for FY 2025-FY 2034 outlining a number of priorities, short-term and longer-term needs, and overall recommendations. Ms. Arceneaux expressed her appreciation for the focus on the educational component in the short-term plan.

Chairman Allocco asked if Hernando County Transit is included in the planning process for large developments. Ms. Lollie confirmed that Transit is included in the review process for all new planning and development projects. Mr. Kinard questioned if one transfer facility would meet the needs of Hernando County considering the new routes that are being added: Ridge Manor, in particular. Mr. Roberson acknowledged there may be a need for smaller transfer facilities in the future given the width of Hernando County, but he emphasized the advantages of having a central facility. The Board discussed the difficulties of serving both the students who are riding on school buses and the people who are using public transportation in a geographically wide county. The Board acknowledged the challenges of having a shared, remote hub for Transit and school buses, but concurred it should be considered.

[It is noted for the record that TDLCB members, Gerry Whitted, returned to the meeting and Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Local Representative for Children at Risk, arrived at the meeting.]

REPORTS

Quarterly Report for July 1 through September 30, 2024, by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), You Thrive Florida (formerly Mid Florida Community Services)

Jeff Cottrell, Director of Transportation at You Thrive Florida, introduced himself as the new Paratransit Services Director for the CTC. He reported that most of the transportation services provided by the CTC are for medical and dialysis trips. Mr. Cottrell shared his plan to expand the CTC's community impact to provide more trips, especially in the more remote areas of Hernando County. The quarterly report of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) was included in the agenda packet.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and Approval of the Annual Operating Report (AOR) for the State Fiscal Year 2024 by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Agency

It was noted in the packet that the Annual Operating Report was provided to the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged by the September 15, 2024, deadline.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Arceneaux to approve the Annual Operating Report (AOR) for Fiscal Year 2024, authorize the Chair's signature thereon, and for submittal of the executed AOR to the Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Mr. Whitted and the motion passed 12-0.

2. Annual Review and Approval of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Bylaws

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sumter to approve the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Ms. Figueroa the motion passed 12-0.

3. Review and Recommendations of the Subcommittee's Final Report on Strategies to Educate the Public on Transportation Disadvantaged Services

The recommendations of the subcommittee were included in the agenda packet and Ms. Samter provided an overview of the top recommendations. Ms. Lollie reiterated the distinctions between the services provided by Hernando County Transit and those provided by You Thrive Florida.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Arceneaux to approve directing the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), You Thrive Florida, and Hernando County transit to review and address the feasibility and associated costs with implementing the top three subcommittee recommendations and report their findings back to the Board at the TDLCB February 13, 2025, regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whitted and the motion passed 12-0.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

TDLCB member representing a Person with a Disability, Gretchen Samter, read aloud *The Spoon Theory* written by Christine Miserandino (www.butyoudontlooksick.com). She provided the LCB with copies. Chairman Allocco thanked Ms. Samter for sharing this story which provides an easy-to-understand analogy of what it is like to live with sickness or a disability.

Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and Jose Infante, Regional Workforce Development Board, will provide the Feature Presentations for the February 13, 2025, meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Board members expressed their appreciation for having the opportunity to view two sides to transportation disadvantaged: the planning aspect as shown in the final review of the Transit Development Plan and the personal side with the review of The Spoon Theory.
- Ms. Samter advised the Board that cross-county trips funded by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) have been reimplemented in Pasco County, Pinellas County, and Hillsborough County. She asked if this could be implemented in Hernando County. Mr. Leffert stated he would reach out to Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) for more information on the program.
- Ms. Arceneaux commended TheBus for providing West Side (Shoal Line Boulevard) and East Side (Ridge Manor) Special Emergency Transportation Service during hurricanes Helene and Milton.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito provided the following updates:

- Similar to last year, Joy will be sending Outlook meeting notices for the 2025 meetings.
- The MPO team met with Curlene Thomas and Jean Parlow from FHWA for an on-site visit on August 28th. They were pleased with what the Hernando/Citrus MPO is doing, its regional participation with the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA), along with conducting quarterly meetings with bordering Lake-Sumter MPO and Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).
- Mr. Esposito and Citrus County Commissioner Bays met with Ananth Prasad, President of the Florida's Transportation Builders' Association, on September 30th and State Senator Ed Hooper on October 30th.
- Trying to set up meetings with Senate President, Ben Albritton, Senator Nick DiCeglie, and Senator Danny Burgess to discuss funding opportunities for rural arterial roads.
- Mr. Esposito was interviewed by WWJB radio on November 6th to discuss how roads are funded.
- Mary and Joy attended the 2024 Commission for the Transportation Disadvantage (CTD) Annual Conference and Expo in West Palm Beach on September 22-24, 2024. The annual training fulfills Task 10 of the CTD grants for Hernando and Citrus County: Planning agency staff shall attend at least one Commission sponsored training, including but not limited to, the Commission's regional meetings or annual training workshop.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The annual public workshop of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025, beginning at 1:30 p.m., followed by the TDLCB regular meeting which will begin no earlier than 2:00 p.m. at 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.

Chair Allocco adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.