



## HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Thursday, February 12, 2026

### ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held its Annual Public Workshop on February 12, 2026, 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, on the Hernando-Citrus MPO website, and on the Hernando County website. The agenda was available on the Hernando-Citrus MPO website.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

John Allocco, TDLCB Chairman, Hernando County Board of County Commissioner  
Gretchen Samter, TDLCB Vice Chairman, Person with a Disability  
Chris Leffert, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7  
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services  
Lindsay Braun, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services  
Gerry Whitted, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means  
Melissa Arceneaux, Citizen Advocate  
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Local Representative for Children at Risk  
Darlene Lollie, Public Transit System (TheBus)  
Maia Watson, Florida Department of Health Care Administration  
Jose Infante, Regional Workforce Development Board  
Elizabeth Watson, Alternate, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Sam Kinard, Representative from the Public Educational Community (Hernando County School District)  
Robert Werts, Veteran Services Representative  
David Knazar, Florida Department of Children and Family Services  
Casey Ladd, Florida Department of Elder Affairs

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator  
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant  
Lisa Becker, Chief Administrative Officer, You Thrive Florida, Community Transportation Coordinator  
Steve Homan, Chief Operating Officer, You Thrive Florida, Community Transportation Coordinator  
David Knazar, Florida Department of Children and Family Services  
Paul Passarelli, Hernando County Delegation on Government Efficiency (DOGE) Committee Member

#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chairman 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 advance Citizen Comments on the agenda and approve the modified agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 12-0.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Brooksville resident Laura Beyer, who is visually impaired, shared her experience navigating her neighborhood with her newly trained guide dog, Ruth. She described a recent incident in which she and Ruth were nearly struck by a vehicle while crossing a street near her home. Motivated by this close call, Ms. Beyer is seeking to raise public awareness in Hernando County about the importance of drivers yielding to pedestrians.

Chairman Allocco expressed support for Ms. Beyer's efforts and suggested that, as part of advancing the Florida Department of Transportation's "Vision Zero" safety performance initiative, FDOT and the MPO could help launch a public education and/or signage campaign in Hernando County and potentially in Citrus County as well. Several Board members noted that they have witnessed similar dangerous interactions between vehicles and pedestrians in the Spring Hill area, particularly along US 19/Commercial Way, the Mariner Boulevard and Spring Hill Drive intersection, and within multiple school zones. Chairman Allocco indicated that he and Commissioner Steve Champion will have the opportunity to review the issue when Ms. Beyer appears before the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners and bring it before the MPO Board to discuss appropriate actions.

Lisa Becker of You Thrive asked who installed the pedestrian trail signs on State Road 50 near Coney Island, suggested that similar signage may be needed in higher traffic pedestrian areas. MPO staff will research and provide an update during a future Board meeting. Ms. Samter recommended partnering with local law enforcement for targeting enforcement, and Mr. Whitted voiced his support for such collaboration.

Chairman Allocco emphasized the importance of educating the public and improving safety for all pedestrians, those with disabilities and those without, because ultimately, no person on foot can withstand the force of a moving vehicle.

Ms. Elwin shared that Ms. Beyer had brought to the Board's attention the need for audible signals at US41/Broad Street and SR 50/Cortez Boulevard which has prompted FDOT to take a bigger approach and look at audible signals system wide and commended Ms. Beyer on her efforts.

## **PRESENTATION**

Ms. Elwin gave a presentation on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), its relationship with the communities it serves, and provided an overview of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program and the role of the Local Coordinating Board.

Chairman Allocco noted that while the Vision Zero concept aims for zero fatalities and injuries, the MPO Board adopted more achievable safety targets to ensure effective use of public funds. He discussed the prioritization of sidewalk projects over bicycle trails in Hernando County, highlighting the need to address safety concerns for schoolchildren walking on grass due to a 2-mile bus route requirement. He explained that significant progress has been made in installing sidewalks over the past eight years, despite high costs comparable to road projects.

Ms. Braun expressed concerns about safety on North Boulevard, particularly the lack of sidewalks for students walking to Hernando High School. Chairman Allocco acknowledged the issue and noted existing right-of-way challenges in the area. Ms. Elwin added that Brooksville City Councilman Hallal is also working to prioritize the project.

## **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Allocco adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Hernando County Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) immediately followed the Annual Public Workshop. The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online at: [www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo](http://www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo).