



CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)

Thursday, November 13, 2025

MINUTES

The Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on November 13, 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, LCB Chair, Citrus County Commissioner
David Douglas, LCB Vice Chair, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Michelle Sikavitsas, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Stephen Brown, Person with a Disability
Deirdre Barrett LaBelle, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Casey Ladd, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Glorybee Nunez, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Debbie Letterman, Regional Workforce Development Board
Katie Lucas, Local Medical Community Representative
Joanne Granger, Transit Services Director, Mass Transit Coordinator, non-voting representative of the CTC

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Knazar, Florida Department of Children and Family Services

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 9:30 a.m. and thanked Ms. Letterman for refreshments in honor of Ms. Barek's birthday today.
- 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

Mr. Esposito noted that the Feature Presentation, originally omitted from the original agenda, has now been added as Item F. Today's presentation will be delivered by Casey Ladd from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the modified agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 9-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Douglas to approve the September 11, 2025, Minutes of the LCB's Regular Public meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Letterman and the motion passed 9-0.

[It is noted for the record that LCB member, Jeannette Estes, representing the State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities, arrived at the meeting.]

ACTION ITEM

Annual Review and Approval of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Bylaws

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the Annual Update of the Citrus County LCB Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 10-0.

REPORTS

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

Ms. Granger, Transit Services Director representing the CTC, reported that July and August were relatively average months. In September, however, there was an uptick in activity recorded across both the deviated fixed-route and demand response services, with 3,269 demand response trips recorded. Wheelchair trips remained steady at approximately 250 trips in September.

Employment and nutrition related trips showed a significant increase, while education and training trips rose sharply from 78 in July to 742 in September, reflecting the seasonal nature of transit demand for education. Medical trips remained stable, averaging between 650 and 700.

Most trips in September were Transportation Disadvantaged (TD), totaling 2,809. Public transportation overall also increased compared to the same period last year, rising from 4,445 trips in September 2024 to 6,375 in September 2025, a marked year-over-year growth.

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

Theresa Flick, Director of Program Operations for The Key Training Center, reported a total of 16,840 trips during the quarter. Of these, 14,906 were ambulatory and 1,934 were wheelchair trips. The majority of trips were for educational purposes (8,588) and medical appointments (7,410). There were 168 shopping trips, reflecting the trend of online shopping, while recreational and leisure trips totaled 674.

It was a busy quarter, as the Center received all of its 2022 Section 5310 grant awards enabling the purchase of two modified mini-vans and one passenger van. Orders from the 2023 and 2024 grants are still pending and include three additional passenger vans along with a 20-passenger cutaway bus.

Ms. Flick also noted that the Center is undergoing its triennial review, with findings scheduled to be presented on November 20, 2025. The review will be conducted both virtually and on-site.

Ms. Estes and Chair Berek expressed appreciation to The Key Training Center for being a strong partner in serving individuals within the community.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

Casey Ladd, the Contract Management Administrator for Elder Options, provided an overview of the programs and resources available in North Central Florida through Elder Options. Elder Options serves seniors aged 60 and older, adults with disabilities aged 18 and older, and their caregivers.

Some of the resources offered by Elder Options include home care and support programs, caregiver training and support, healthy aging classes, wellness coaching, emergency home energy assistance, and services to prevent and address elder abuse.

The Chair asked whether the presentation is shared with different community organizations. Ms. Ladd confirmed that it is distributed within various Citrus County community organizations, noting that Elder Options works closely with Citrus County support services to deliver presentations.

Ms. Lucas shared that she had volunteered for a couple of years teaching *Matter of Balance* classes and

emphasized the ongoing need for trained volunteers to lead these sessions. Chair Barek inquired whether volunteers are recruited from Teen Court or local high schools for community service. Ms. Ladd responded that she was not certain but would follow up, adding that there may be a stipulation requiring volunteers to be at least 18 years old. Chair Barek remarked that such opportunities would be valuable for encouraging teens to engage in community service.

Michelle Sikavitsas, the Florida Department of Transportation representative will provide the Feature Presentation for the February 12, 2026, meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ms. Estes requested that the Board consider moving the LCB meetings in 2027 to either the first or third Thursday of the month, rather than the second Thursday. Due to calendar conflicts, the change may not be feasible but will be taken into consideration for 2027.
- Glorybee Nunez, representative of the Florida Department of Health Care Administration, noted that she had previously served on the Board and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to return.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- MPO staff attended the regional meeting of the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) on October 22, 2025, and Mr. Esposito attended the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPOAC) meeting on October 23, 2025.
- The traffic counts for Hernando County began the last week of October and will run through the week of December 11th. Counts will be avoided on November 11th and the week of November 24-28.
- All construction activities associated with the SR 50 widening project from Cobb Road to west of Buck Hope Road have been completed (\$15.8 million project).
- At the October 23rd Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, Ron Lawson shared a concern raised by store operators at Mountain Park Plaza, located on SR 50 west of Cobb Road, regarding a "No U-Turn" sign at the intersection of Mobley Road and SR 50. Mr. Esposito thanked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for responding promptly and removing the sign. FDOT's swift action is greatly appreciated by the local business community.
- In accordance with the adopted UPWP, the MPO Staff completed the annual review of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). This is a safety sensitive document staff utilizes as reference during weather events, health events, and other emergency situations.
- Mr. Esposito will attend the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) regional meeting on Friday, December 12, 2025. He noted that the SCTPA members include MPOs from Hernando, Citrus, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Pasco, Sarasota, and Manatee counties.
- Mr. Esposito continues discussions with Pasco County, Hernando County, and FDOT on County Line Road. The next Teams call is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2025.
- The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meetings originally scheduled for November have been cancelled. MPO staff and the MPO General Planning Consultants, Benesch & Associates, will host a Congestion Management & Complete Streets workshop on November 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility. This working session will include participation from Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members and various department representatives from Hernando and Citrus counties. The workshop is open to the public, and a meeting notice will be posted on the MPO website.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The annual public workshop of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, beginning at 9:30 a.m., followed by the LCB regular meeting which will begin no earlier than 10:00 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 Barek adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.