

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED (LCB/TD) PUBLIC HEARING**

**Monday, September 28, 2015 - 1:30 P.M.
Martin County Administration Building
Commission Chambers, 1st Floor
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 221-1498**

1. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Eula Clarke called the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged Public Hearing of September 28, 2015 to order at 1:32 P.M.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Eula R. Clarke, Chair, Commissioner for the City of Stuart
Anthony Reese, Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs
Suzanne Desposati, Florida Department of Education
Donna Siddons, Citizen's Advocate (1) Rider Rep
Dalia Dillon, Department of Elder Affairs
Phyl Weaver, Representative for Persons over 60
Angela Van Etten, Vice Chair, Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.
Nancy Weizman, Florida Department of Transportation
Agnieszka Marshall, Children at Risk Representative

Excused Members

Krista Brewer, Representative-Persons with Disabilities
Harry Hernandez, Martin County Career Center
Steven Wolfberg, Martin Health Solutions.

Members Not In Attendance:

Kevin Yangoren, Director of Transportation Senior Solutions of the Treasure Coast

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Bonnie Landry, Senior Planner
Alice Bojanowski, Planner II
Bolívar Gomez, Senior Associate Planner
Margaret H. Brassard, MPO Administrative Specialist II

Others in Attendance

Lisa Sanders, Medical Transportation Management, (MTM)
Diane Moore, Martin County, Office of Management and Budget

A quorum was present for the Public Hearing.

Ms. Clarke stated that staff would like to introduce the new members of the Local Coordinating Board-Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) Board. Mr. Bolivar Gomez advised that as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) staff is responsible to appoint and staff the Local Coordinating Board-Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) Board. He introduced Ms. Donna Siddons, stating that she will be a Citizen's Advocate-Rider Representative. Mr. Gomez advised that Ms. Siddons uses both systems, Medical Transportation Management (MTM) as well as Martin County Public Transit (MCPT). He then introduced Ms. Agnieszka Marshall, the Director of Preventative Services for Tykes and Teens. He stated that they provide psychological treatment for at-risk children and Ms. Marshall will be assuming the position of Representative of Children at Risk.

Ms. Clarke requested that the new Board members introduce themselves and provide this Board with some background information. Ms. Donna Siddons introduced herself as disabled, being sight impaired, over 65 years of age, and a long time rider of MTM as well as MCPT. She stated that she previously worked with the Government in Port St. Lucie and Martin County. She said that she looks forward to learning and providing input to this Board. Ms. Agnieszka Marshall, introduced herself as a licensed phycologist for nine years, and has worked with Tykes and Teens for the majority of her career. She said that she now is in the position of working on prevention, so she works with teens in an effort to manage the struggles before they become real issues. Ms. Marshall said that a huge barrier in the treatment and therapy of the kids is transportation. She hopes that by being here and supporting the community that she will be able to assist in the accessing of services. Ms. Marshall advised that she has completed her "Leadership-class of 25" program in Martin and she is happy to be here.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

Ms. Phyl Weaver made a motion to approve the Agenda as published, which was seconded by Ms. Dalia Dillon. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Clarke stated that this is an Annual Public Hearing, though it doesn't appear to have anyone from the public in attendance. She said that there are three main groups who are transportation disadvantaged; youth, the disabled, and the elderly. Ms. Clarke noted that troubled teens, especially those considering running away, may need to seek refuge in quiet areas such as parks to calm their minds, and transportation does play a role in their life. She requested of Mr. Bolivar Gomez that when the next public hearing is nearing that specific flyers be made showing that the public hearing is regarding transportation needs for youth, the elderly or those who are disabled. Ms. Clarke said that targeted areas should consist of churches, the Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and other youth services to ensure that notice has been duly provided in an effort to let everyone be aware that the public hearing is taking place and they may come to seek or share their transportation information. She also requested that Ms. Lisa Sanders advise her as to the efforts expended to connect with the public

so that everyone has the opportunity to attend this public hearing. Ms. Clarke commented that possibly people are satisfied with their services which is why no one from the public is in attendance, noting that frequently people come to public hearings when they have complaints. She stressed that she wanted those in the community who need the services be contacted. Ms. Beth Beltran stated that the MPO has a list of agencies from Ms. Angela Van Etten that is used in addition to the regular agency distribution list to advise of the public hearing. She said that any "special" items to be discussed at the LCB-TD meetings are also noted. Ms. Beltran advised that at the June meeting it was suggested that the Gas Mileage Reimbursement Program be discussed and we will speak on the outreach activities regarding this, but this really follows the normal outreach activities advertising public hearings and meetings, by getting information on the websites, bulletin boards as well as newspaper ads to name a few methods. She said that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has informed the Martin MPO that their efforts exceed those the expended by many other Planning agencies as far as advertising meetings and events. Ms. Beltran said that staff has worked with FDOT as to how to measure their outreach and FDOT agrees that if people are not happy they will come to voice their opinion or complain. She complemented Ms. Sanders, with MTM, as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for the wonderful job she has done with the TD program this year, adding that since no one is at the public hearing it exemplifies the fact that people must be content with their efforts. Ms. Beltran said if there is some extra time at this public hearing, she would like to have a tribute to an LCB-TD member who passed away since the June meeting. She asked Ms. Sanders if she would like to speak on any of her outreach efforts. Ms. Sanders stated that they have an annual transit fair, this year they held a "Dump the Pump" event in a manner of reaching out to the agencies to ensure that they understand the TD program as well as the public transit services. She said that MTM works hand in hand with Martin County Public Transit (MCPT). They advertise on their buses and vehicles for events like this public hearing she remarked. Ms. Sanders said that they, too, go above and beyond in their advertising to ensure that members are aware of events, have MTM's telephone numbers to file a complaint, request a ride or for whatever reason. Ms. Sanders reflected that in the past, this public hearing has been a room full of people expressing complaints, but she has worked extremely hard listening to the desires of the Board or members to ensure those needs are met or have the services to which they deserve. She said they have a way to go but that their efforts to educate the public are continual. Ms. Clarke asked the Board if anyone had any questions regarding the TD services. Ms. Van Etten advised that she should have invited some of the school district program specialists to this meeting. She apologized for that oversight as they had expressed grave concerns for the people in the 18-22 age bracket who are or will be seeking job opportunities. Ms. Van Etten said these people are in the Career Experience Program and having transportation to employment will be vital. Vocational Rehabilitation is also aware of these people and their needs. She requested that this be addressed in the Board meeting which follows this public hearing, noting that possibly the Board should readdress the percentages in the Plan and increase the employment trips. Ms. Clarke inquired if this group is the same as the Career Resource Group that is in Palm City? Ms. Van Etten said that CareerSource is for all people, though they are obligated to include services to those with disabilities but it is

not their expertise, wherein Vocational Rehabilitation has the expertise for those with disabilities but the school district also has responsibilities to help youth with disabilities plan for their future. She said while those students are in school many are in the Career Experience Program. Ms. Van Etten advised that she had been invited to one of the staff meetings to explain transportation to them, which she did, though they had hoped for better news. She said they expressed concerns with the five trip limit, the special arrangements that have to be made to move passed that, and there are a lot of things that need to be discussed for transportation to work. Ms. Van Etten said that she wanted this Board to know that she is here expressing the real concerns of these people she's not just talking. She said she would be happy to speak to Mr. Gomez to determine how they will obtain this information to get it to the Board so that it could possibly be on the December agenda. Mr. Gomez advised that as the meetings are public it doesn't have to be on the agenda they may just come to the meeting to voice their opinion. Ms. Suzanne Desposati reminded the Board that she represents Vocational Rehabilitation. She said as a result of the Work Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) they are mandated to use a good portion of their funding on transition students and those still in high school. Ms. Desposati advised that they are developing programs for the students, which must be outside of the school day. She said that they must be in the early evenings, weekends or vacations, often at times when public transportation is not running which creates a problem. Ms. Desposati said that they have these programs that the students can go to and obtain the work experience but they have to find their own transportation, or through MTM, in order to access the program. Ms. Sanders commented that there's also public transit and MTM can work with MCPT to ensure that the students may obtain bus passes, so if they qualify for TD they may receive a bus pass through MTM. She said if they qualify for TD and the parents can take them to the program, they could receive Gas Mileage Reimbursement (GMR) Program funds, which we'll discuss at that meeting. Ms. Sanders reiterated that MCPT is an available resource which may be utilized. Ms. Van Etten presented both programs to the Program Specialist and reminded the Board that MCPT is wonderful in the hours/routes that it runs but there are extreme limits. She stated that public transit doesn't work for those living or working in Palm City, Hobe Sound or most of Jensen Beach, on weekends or evenings. Ms. Clarke asked if there were any additional comments for the public hearing. Seeing none, she expressed thanks for a wonderful year, for the efforts of staff and the CTC for excellent performance of MTM. Ms. Clarke praised the working relations between staff, the Board, FDOT and the other agencies with which we work.

Ms. Clarke stated that she was of the opinion that Ms. Lois Krom had been on the Board a couple of years; Ms. Beltran affirmed that she had been on the Board since June, 2013. Ms. Clarke said one could see Ms. Krom all over town in her brightly decorated wheelchair with windmills, adding that she wasn't ill for a long time. Ms. Clarke said she provided very good input for this Board and will be missed. She asked the Board if anyone had anything that they would like to express about Ms. Krom. Ms. Sanders said that Ms. Krom was a member who was a great educator. She said that Ms. Krom was a huge advocate of the TD program and also a demander of transportation, having transportation delivered the proper way. Ms. Sanders said that she really

admired Ms. Krom as she was known to drop by her office to speak up for those members who couldn't speak for themselves, or drop off applications from her friends. Ms. Sanders said that Ms. Krom would teach these new members how to use the service. She advised that Ms. Krom was a brave woman and had showed her photos of herself surfing. Ms. Sanders said that Ms. Krom will truly be missed, that she was an asset to this LCB Board as well as to MTM, and we need more people like her. Ms. Sanders said that it takes everyone to educate the population of Martin County on how to use the TD program. She said it's her duty to provide that information, but there are always those who get missed, those who may be shut in, or that she doesn't know. Ms. Sanders said that we need to rely on each member to help others learn to use the program and Ms. Krom did just that, help others learn the program, she will be missed. Ms. Van Etten said that though Ms. Krom had only been on the Board a couple of years, she had been quietly advocating in the community for years. Ms. Van Etten said that when Ms. Krom was asked if she would like to be a Board member she welcomed the opportunity immediately though the Sunshine Laws placed limitations on their personal conversations, sitting on the Board was more important. She mirrored Ms. Sanders in that Ms. Krom was a wonderful and fearless advocate. Ms. Van Etten said the bright flags and windmills on Ms. Krom's wheelchair was for better visibility because crossing roadways in Martin County is dangerous. She noted that people are not paying attention while they are driving, or giving the way to pedestrians and those crossing the roads are taking their lives in their hands. Ms. Van Etten said that being in a wheelchair Ms. Krom needed to draw as much attention to her chair as possible to be safe. She mentioned that Ms. Krom was all over town, using both TD and public transit services. Ms. Van Etten said that she understood the difference between the two services, understood the limitations of each and when she had to use which service. She said that Ms. Krom shared that knowledge with everyone she met encouraging people to promote public transit. Ms. Van Etten invited Ms. Krom to public hearings and when possible she would attend to inform the Commissioners or Board members exactly who is utilizing the services and the funding importance. Ms. Van Etten said though this is a TD meeting, the two services are interconnected because there is a responsibility to have a percentage of rides go to public transit and the Plan provides that those capable of using public transit should not be spending TD dollars. She said that Ms. Krom was a strong advocate for public transit adding that most people, once accustomed to the door to door trips, didn't want to have to make their way to a bus stop and wait despite the weather. Ms. Van Etten said she should be remembered for not being spoiled, understanding the systems and taking public transit whenever possible. She concluded expressing how much she will be missed. Ms. Beltran said that she met Ms. Krom while riding the bus about five years ago. She shared information about Ms. Krom like her joy of reading a good novel, which inspired her sense of adventure as well as that she was a retired nurse. Ms. Beltran said that helping people was important in Ms. Krom's life noting that she would sometimes selflessly call to ask questions for others who could not call for themselves. She stated that Ms. Krom absolutely loved the beach. Ms. Beltran said that Ms. Krom told her that she had sometimes charged her wheelchair battery at Walgreens Drug Store to ensure that she would be fully charged to cross the bridges to get to the beach. She recalled one weekend when she saw Ms. Krom at the House of Refuge with a friend. Ms. Krom told

Ms. Beltran that sometimes she can't go an entire weekend without going to the beach. Ms. Beltran stated that Ms. Krom will certainly be missed. Ms. Beltran said that though she will miss her calls and having her on this Board, she's comforted in the thought that she's finally somewhere that she can walk on the beach. She said that Ms. Krom did take part in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) advertisement video and as a tribute to her, said she will show the video at this time. After the video, the LCB members applauded and Ms. Clarke expressed her appreciation to the new and old members, encouraging them to share the video with others to get input, as it is on the MPO's website.

6. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

7. ADJOURN

Ms. Clarke stated that since there were no more comments that she will close this Public Hearing, requested a motion to adjourn adding that the LCB-TD meeting will begin on the 4th Floor in the Workshop Conference Room at 2:30 PM.

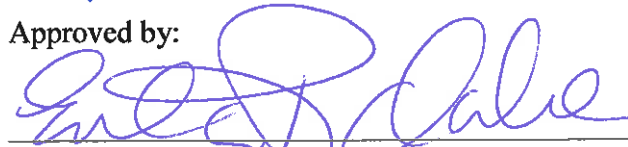
A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Phyl Weaver, which was seconded by Ms. Nancy Weizman. There were no objections. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Recorded and Prepared by:


Margaret H. Brassard, Administrative Specialist II


Date

Approved by:


Eula R. Clarke, Chair


Date