

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED (LCB-TD) PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

Martin County Administration Building
Commission Chambers, 1st Floor
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996
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(772) 221-1498

Monday, August 26, 2019 at 1:30 P.M.
MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) Public Workshop of August 26, 2019 was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Commissioner Eula Clarke, Chair.

2. **The Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Eula R. Clarke, Chair, Elected Official
Phyl Weaver, Vice Chair, Representative for Persons over 60
Dalia Dillon, Department of Elder Affairs
Kim Thorne, Representing Public Education Community
Anthony Reese, Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs
Marie Dorismond, Florida Department of Transportation
Gayle McArdle, Representative for Persons with Disabilities
Milory Senate, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Mary Jo Pirone, Citizen's Advocate/Rider Rep
Monique Coleman, Representative for Children At-Risk

Excused Members:

Michelle Miller, Representative for the Economically Disadvantaged (FACA)
Shelly Batton, CareerSource Research Coast

Members Not In Attendance:

Donna Mihok, Department of Children and Families
Steven Wolfberg, Martin Health Solutions

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Bolivar Gomez, Senior Planner
Joy Puerta, Planner
Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Others in Attendance:

Karen Deigl, Senior Resource Association
Chris Stephenson, Senior Resource Association

Merritt Matheson, Commissioner for the City of Stuart
Kim Martinez, Stand Up for Independence
Melody Hearn, Family Care Council
Suzie Hack, Stand Up for Independence
Jim Ryne, Stand Up for Independence
Dana Karintaragon
A quorum was present for the meeting.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Phyl Weaver to approve the Agenda as presented. A second was provided by Ms. Mary Jo Pirone. The motion passed unanimously.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

A. ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Mr. Ricardo Vazquez stated that the Annual Public Workshop is conducted in order to provide the public and the riders of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) system an opportunity to share their concerns and comments on the TD program.

Ms. Gayle McArdle wanted to address several points that she had prepared. The first item was the limitation of trips available through the TD program. As it stands, the TD program will provide you with 3 round trips per a two week period, which isn't very much. She also stated that acquiring private transportation was extremely costly, and most individuals who are TD cannot purchase those trips. Ms. McArdle also stated she did not see any advertisements for the meeting posted in the vehicles. She also stated that users never received any notification of the public workshop. Mr. Chris Stephenson stated that the Senior Resource Association did reach out to their providers to post an advertisement on their vehicles, and that they can prove that most of their providers did so, but he apologized to Ms. McArdle that she was not on a vehicle that had the advertisement. Ms. McArdle also had questions regarding the ADA trip boundary, to which Mr. Stephenson stated that the $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile rule is a Federal requirement. Ms. Karen Deigl stated that she wanted to address the issue of the limited amount of trips. Ms. Deigl said that funding has been reduced a significant amount for this fiscal year due to the change in the formula, and that the trip limits were implemented to fairly distribute trips to all TD riders. Ms. Deigl also stated that she and her staff have applied for a grant in the amount of approximately \$200,000 that would be allocated to trip individuals who go to the Dialysis center. This would free trips up for all other users and would hopefully increase the trip limit.

Ms. Kimberly Martinez who works for Stand Up for Independence (SUFI) came up to the podium to speak. She stated that she would like to work with the LCB-TD to come up with a way to get more funding for trips for TD riders. She also stated that some TD riders aren't comfortable with riding the MARTY bus, and that she would like to find a way to get TD riders additional options for transportation.

Ms. Melody Hearn introduced herself next. She stated that she is the coach for Family Care Council Area 15. Ms. Hearn mentioned that she has had questions coming from

providers asking her what is going on with transportation. She brought up Gulfstream Goodwill and that individuals who attend Gulfstream Goodwill were told they would no longer have transportation provided to them. Ms. Hearn also stated that one family was told by Goodwill that they would be charged \$100 for a one-way trip. Mr. Vazquez wanted to clarify that the issue Ms. Hearn has brought up is not related in any way to the LCB-TD, CTC and the TD program that they oversee. Ms. Marie Dorismond also clarified that they grant funds that Goodwill received from FDOT were not to provide trips, but to begin a Mobility Management Program. Ms. Dorismond also stated that Goodwill also received 5310 vehicles from FDOT, but they never received funds to provide transportation.

Chair Clarke asked staff how meetings were advertised to the public for the workshop. Mr. Vazquez stated that the meetings are advertised in the Florida Administrative Registrar, the TC Palm, the MPO website, and notices are put up in the Martin County Administrative Center. He also stated that there is always room for improvement, and that he will look at how MPO staff can advertise more effectively.

B. LCB-TD MEMBER TRAINING

Mr. Vazquez provided the LCB-TD member training, which covered the basics of the TD system, such as the roles and responsibilities of the LCB-TD, the Planning Staff, and the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). Also, an overview of the Sunshine Law was provided.

6. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

7. ADJOURN

Seeing no other business items remaining on the Agenda and no additional comments the public workshop, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:29 PM. RONR (10th ed.), p.233, c.(9).

Prepared by:

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Date

Approved by:

for 

Eula R. Clarke, Chair

12/2/19

Date