

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

John F. and Rita M. Armstrong Wing of the Blake Library  
2351 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996

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(772) 221-1498

**Monday, August 31, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) Public Workshop of August 31, 2020 was called to order at 9:06 A.M. by Commissioner Merritt Matheson, Chair.

**2. The Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. ROLL CALL**

**Members in Attendance:**

Merritt Matheson, Chair, Elected Official

Phyl Weaver, Vice Chair, Representative for Persons over 60

Mary Jo Pirone, Citizen's Advocate/Rider Rep

Dalia Dillon, Department of Elder Affairs

Michelle Miller, Representative for the Economically Disadvantaged (FACA)

Milory Senate, Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Monique Coleman, Representative for Children At-Risk

Steven Wolfberg, Martin Health Solutions

**Excused Members:**

Kim Thorne, Representing Public Education Community

Raymond Rotruck, Citizen's Advocate

Reginald Waldon, Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs

**Members Not In Attendance:**

Danielle Jones, Florida Division of Vocational Rehab

Donna Mihok, Department of Children and Families

Gayle McArdle, Representative for Persons with Disabilities

Marie Dorismond, Florida Department of Transportation

Shelly Batton, CareerSource Research Coast

**Staff in Attendance:**

Joy Puerta, Planner

Ricardo Vazquez, Associate Planner

Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

**Others in Attendance:**

Karen Deigl, Senior Resource Association

Chris Stephenson, Senior Resource Association

Dana Elharintaragen, PIN  
Rachel Riccugene  
Bob Driscoll, St. Lucie Council of Aging  
Melody Hearn, Family Care Council Area 15

**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.

**Public Comments -**

Ms. Melody Hearn had a question regarding the position of providers to assist once the APD system reopens what are the safety guidelines and are they being followed strictly in providing safe rides? What is being done to ensure safety. Mr. Chris Stephenson explained that letters were sent out to riders to inform them about safety precautions being taken (foggers for vehicles, drivers wear masks and gloves, social distancing when scheduling pickups). Trips are not being denied the company is just following safety precautions.

Ms. Mary Jo Pirone wanted to know if the Senior Resource Association (SRA) had encountered any issues with riders and drivers catching COVID-19. Mr. Stephenson explained that there have been no known issues. Treasure Coast ridership is down but that is not an issue because of COVID-19. Chair Merritt Matheson mentioned that it is understandable that ridership is down due to the pandemic and that safety is a top priority. The Senior Resource Association must continue to market safety issues and precautions being taken and let passengers know that there is available ridership and that not be afraid to ride because of COVID.

**B. LCB-TD MEMBER TRAINING**

Mr. Vazquez provided the LCB-TD members with 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, CTC evaluation process, complaint and grievance procedures, Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP), CTD eligibility criteria guidelines, and LCB eligibility criteria was provided.

Ms. Phyl Weaver had a question about the eligibility criteria for the age requirement. She wanted to know if everyone over 65 qualified for the program. Mr. Ricardo Vazquez confirmed that according to the TDSP, if you are over the age of 65 you are eligible. Mr. Chris Stephenson clarified that you have to be over 65 plus meet all of the other criteria. He explained that the system is designed to treat the counties most vulnerable individuals with disabilities. SRA has an Eligibility Specialist on staff that reviews application to ensure that they meet the criteria.

Ms. Michelle Miller wanted to know where the application could be found. Mr. Chris Stephenson replied that it is available on the SRA website. Chair Merritt Matheson wanted to know the timeframe for application submission and approval and has there been an increase in applicants. Mr. Chris Stephenson explained that SRA has 21 days to complete the process, but it usually only takes 5-6 days for approval.

**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 9:43 AM. RONR (10<sup>th</sup> ed.), p.233, c.(9).**

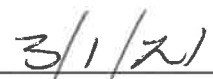
**Prepared by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Florence Allen, Administrative Specialist III

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Merritt Matheson, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date