**CITRUS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED**
**LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB)**

**Thursday, May 14, 2026**

# MINUTES

The Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on May 14, 2026, 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 Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
David Douglas, LCB Vice Chairman, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Chris Leffert, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Deirdre Barrett LaBelle, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Justina Howarth, 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
Joanne Granger, Transit Services Director, Mass Transit Coordinator, non-voting representative of the CTC

## MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephen Brown, Person with a Disability
Katie Lucas, Local Medical Community Representative

## 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

- Chairman Barek called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board, staff, and attendees followed the Moment of Silence.
- A quorum was declared, and the affidavit of publication was read into the record.

## APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

***Motion***: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Douglas to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Letterman and the motion passed 9-0.

## REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2026, ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

***Motion***: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Douglas to approve the February 12, 2026, Minutes of the LCB's Annual Public Workshop. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 9-0.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2026, REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

***Motion***: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Douglas to approve the February 12, 2026, Minutes of the LCB's Regular Public meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 9-0.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Review and Approval of the Annual Evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)
   Ms. Elwin reviewed key elements of the Annual Evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). She highlighted the Measurable Standards/Goals on page 34 of the evaluation, noting that the CTC met or exceeded all established standards and goals. Ms. Elwin also provided an excerpt from the Citrus County Transit Development Plan (TDP) for FY 2026–FY 2035, emphasizing the significant effort undertaken to gather public input during the development of the TDP. Chair Barek commented that the Central Ridge Library is the most heavily used library in the county and serves as an excellent location for engaging with the public. Ms. Elwin further noted that the CTC operates 32 ADA-accessible vehicles.

   As a final note, Ms. Elwin pointed out that the TDP excerpt includes a photo of LCB Board member Debbie Letterman participating as a member of the public and as an engaged, concerned Board member. Mr. Esposito commended Ms. Granger and the CTC for the good work they are doing.

   ***Motion***: A motion was made by Ms. Letterman to approve the submittal of the CTC Annual Evaluation to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Ms. Nunez and the motion passed 9-0.

2. Review and Approval of the FY 2027 Rate Calculation for Citrus County
   Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation. Ms. Granger clarified that the Rate Calculation for Services applies only to the door-to-door service and does not affect the fixed-route service.

   ***Motion***: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Douglas to approve the FY 2027 Rate Calculation as approved by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). Ms. Estes, LCB Board member representing the State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities, abstained from the vote, as the agency has taken the position of not voting on agenda items concerning rates due to the agency's providers being involved in transit. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nunez and the motion passed with a vote of 8-0 with Ms. Estes abstaining.

**REPORTS**

Quarterly Report for January 1 through March 31, 2026, by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)- Joanne Granger, Transit Director

Ms. Granger reported that from January through March, fixed-route trips remained relatively consistent; however, demand-response trips increased from 3,417 in February to 3,746 in March. She noted that demand-response numbers have not been this high since October 2025. Trips are evenly distributed among service categories, with employment trips being the highest, followed by nutrition and medical trips, and a continued strong volume of education and training trips. A significant portion of these trips serve the transportation disadvantaged.

Ms. Granger further noted that the CTC is fully utilizing Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funds this year and is performing well, processing 105 new TD applications in April and sending out 54

renewals. The CTC is seeing a substantial increase in TD-eligible passengers applying for reduced transit fares.

Ms. Granger also reported that the CTC completed the Annual Monitoring of Key Training Center as a coordinated contractor and had no findings. The report is on file with the Citrus County Clerk of Courts.

Key Training Center Quarterly Report for January 1 through March 31, 2026 – Theresa Flick, Key Training Center Programs and Services Director

Ms. Flick reported that, similar to Ms. Granger's earlier comments, the number of trips for the quarter has remained relatively consistent. She noted that the Training Center received three new transit vans funded through the State Block Grant 5310 program. There was sufficient funding in the grant to include the extended-roof option, which has been especially helpful as many of their clients are aging and benefit from easier entry and exit. She stated that both the clients and the Key Training Center are very appreciative of the Florida Department of Transportation support. Ms. Flick added that an additional new cut-away van is expected to arrive within the next 90 days.

**FEATURE PRESENTATION**

Ms. Nunez, Senior Human Services Program Specialist, provided an overview of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), the state agency responsible for administering Florida's Medicaid program and for licensing and regulating healthcare facilities, including hospitals, nursing homes, adult family care homes, and assisted living facilities. She explained that AHCA manages Medicaid services for millions of eligible low-income individuals, children, and people with disabilities. AHCA also conducts onsite inspections of licensed healthcare facilities to ensure they are legitimate, operational and compliant, and that Medicaid funds are used appropriately to prevent fraud.

Ms. Estes noted that AHCA serves as the fiscal agent for Florida agencies and that any provider receiving Medicaid funds must first register with AHCA. At Ms. Estes' request, Ms. Nunez shared the link to AHCA's complaint hub: https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/florida-medicaid-complaints.html. Ms. Alacci added that the "Find a Facility" feature on the AHCA website is a valuable resource for confirming licensed facilities or researching facilities in a specific area.

Discussion followed regarding how to apply for Medicaid. It was explained that the first step is to apply through MyACCESS at https://myaccess.myflfamilies.com/.

In response to a question from Ms. Granger, Ms. Nunez clarified that an individual's healthcare facility is responsible for contacting the transportation providers available through the recipient's managed care plan. If this does not occur, a complaint should be filed against the facility.

Chairman Barek confirmed that Elizabeth Alacci, with the Florida Department of Children and Family Services, will deliver the Feature Presentation at the September 10, 2026, Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) meeting.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS -** There were no citizen comments.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Letterman announced that she will be retiring on September 4, 2026. Board members congratulated her and wished her well.

## MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- As part of a resurfacing project on US 19 in Crystal River, a pedestrian hybrid beacon will be installed by the Florida Department of Transportation at the Crosstown Trail crossing.
- An audible pedestrian signal (APS) has been warranted at SR 50/Cortez Boulevard and US 41/Broad Street. FDOT will coordinate with Hernando County regarding concurrence and implementation. Currently, there are no APS installations in Hernando County, so this would be the first; both countywide and within the City of Brooksville.
- MPO staff attended the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) meeting on Wednesday, April 29, in Orlando. Bob attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) meeting on Thursday, April 30, in Orlando.

## ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Citrus County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026, beginning at 9:30 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 approximately one week before the meeting at: www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo.

***Motion***: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Douglas to approve adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. LaBelle and the motion passed 9-0.

Chairman Barek adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.