HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Thursday, May 14, 2026

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on May 14, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun newspaper, on the Hernando-Citrus MPO website, and on the Hernando County website. The agenda was available on the Hernando-Citrus MPO website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gretchen Samter, TDLCB Vice Chairman, Person with a Disability
Chris Leffert, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Elizabeth Alacci, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Sam Kinard, Representative from the Public Educational Community (Hernando County School District)
Robert Werts, Veteran Services Representative
Gerry Whitted, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means *(arriving later)*
Melissa Arceneaux, Citizen Advocate
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Darlene Lollie, Public Transit System (TheBus)
Justina Howarth, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Miranda Burke, Alternate, Regional Workforce Development Board
Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Allocco, TDLCB Chairman, Hernando County Board of County Commissioner
Lindsay Braun, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant
Jeff Cottrell, You Thrive Florida, Community Transportation Coordinator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Vice Chairman Samter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.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 Mr. Werts to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Arceneaux and the motion passed 11-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 12, 2026, TDLCB Annual Public Workshop
2. February 12, 2026, TDLCB Regular Public Meeting

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lollie to approve the February 12, 2026, Minutes of the TDLCB's Annual Public Workshop and Regular Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez and the motion passed 11-0.

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). MPO staff reported no findings from the sampling of random applications reviewed onsite. However, during the MPO's onsite review, staff received a report from FDOT's consultant, Thomas Howell Ferguson, P.A. The consultant's July 2025 review indicated that the CTC must ensure all applicants meet eligibility requirements, including the provision of required supporting documentation at the time of approval; that invoices submitted to the CTD reflect the current, correct rate per trip; and that monitoring of the contractual relationship with ARC Nature Coast, a coordinated contractor, is conducted. The CTC has agreed to address these performance issues. MPO staff recommended that the CTC obtain a quarterly report from ARC Nature Coast to be provided to the TDLCB along with the CTC's quarterly report.

   Ms. Elwin highlighted the Measurable Standards/Goals on page 34 of the evaluation, noting that the CTC met or exceeded all established standards and goals. She also commended the CTC for its driver-trainer efforts and the standards reflected in the chart following page 24 of the evaluation, as well as the CTC's compliance with a drug-free workplace policy.

   She further noted that the CTC operates on a fiscal year from October 1 through September 30, while the CTD's rate calculation is based on a period from July 1 through June 30. This alignment may create challenges in confirming that the correct rate is applied during overlapping periods. It was recommended that the CTC work with the CTD to implement processes ensuring the correct rate per trip is used.

   It was noted for the record that Mr. Whitted arrived to the meeting at this time thus the vote count will be 12.

   Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lollie to approve the submittal of the CTC Annual Evaluation to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD). The motion was seconded by Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez and the motion passed 12-0.

2. Review and Approval of the FY 2027 Rate Calculation for Services by the CTC

   Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation.

   Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Lollie to approve the FY 2027 Rate Calculation as approved by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) contingent upon You Thrive FL confirming with the CTD that the FY2027 Rate Calculation fiscal year dates are correct. *[Subsequent to the meeting, an email confirmation was received from You Thrive FL that the FY2027 Rate Calculation fiscal period reflected in the Rate Calculation Sheet was correct.]* Ms. Estes, TDLCB 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. Arceneaux and the motion passed with a vote of 11-0 with 1 abstention by Ms. Estes.

3. Review and Approval of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Shirley Conroy Grant Application for Replacement Vehicles

   Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and staff recommendation. The Hernando County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), You Thrive, has applied for the Shirley Conroy Grant in the amount of $293,171.40. Additionally, they will provide the required local funding match of $32,574.60 (10%) for the purchase of two 8-passenger vehicles with space for 2 wheelchairs (total estimated cost is $325,746). The new vehicles are necessary due to two older vehicles being taken out of service this year.

   Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Werts to approve the CTC Shirley Conroy Grant application and to authorize the Chair's signature thereon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kinard and the motion passed 12-0.

4. Review and Approval of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Innovative Service Development (ISD) Grant for Expanded Service

   Ms. Elwin noted that the Innovative Service Development (ISD) grant application made by the CTC, You Thrive Florida, was received a few hours earlier today by Staff. Staff quickly reviewed the application and had some recommendations. The Innovative Service Development (ISD) Grant application is for $200,000 which includes a local funding match of $20,000 (10%) from farebox, private donations, and cash reserves from You Thrive Florida.

   Jeff Cottrell, Director of Transportation at You Thrive Florida, explained that the ISD grant would be used to expand Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) services outside of Hernando County. Proposed services include routes to the VA in Tampa, the VA in Port Richey, and several medical facilities in Pasco County.

   Ms. Samter expressed her appreciation to the CTC for its efforts to expand TD services to additional locations outside Hernando County. She noted that including service to the Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) West Campus in New Port Richey to support education and employment opportunities is greatly appreciated.

   Ms. Elwin noted that TDLCB approval of the application is not required; however, demonstrating TDLCB support, whether by motion or consensus, strengthens the application. She also pointed out that the proposed budget includes indirect costs. Typically, indirect costs require approval from the cognizant funding agency, either the CTD or the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and must be supported by an approved cost allocation plan before they can be billed.

   Additionally, Ms. Elwin referenced the Evaluation & Data Capacity section on page 5 of the application, noting that intercounty trips listed Citrus, Pasco, and Hillsborough counties. She emphasized that Citrus County is mentioned only in this section and advised that, if Citrus is included in the service area, it should be consistently referenced throughout the application.

   Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Figueroa Rodriguez to support the CTC Innovative Service Development (ISD) grant application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lollie and the motion passed 12-0.

REPORT

Quarterly Report for January 1 through March 31, 2026, by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), You Thrive Florida

Mr. Esposito reviewed the agenda item and noted that the quarterly report was being provided as an informational item and required no action from the Board. Jeff Cottrell, CTC Coordinator for You Thrive Florida, reported that the period reflected business as usual and stated he was available to answer any questions. There were no questions from the Board.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

Chris Leffert, Transit Programs Director for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7, provided an overview of the FDOT Grant Planning and Development process and explained how the Five-Year Work Program, which is updated annually with a focus on the "new fifth year," fits into that process. He also reviewed matching fund requirements and provided examples to illustrate how they apply.

Vice Chair Samter, TDLCB member representing the Person with a Disability and Robert Werts, Veteran Services Representative, will deliver the featured presentations at the September 10, 2026, TDLCB meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - There were no citizen comments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Arceneaux commended Ms. Lollie on the new bus route along Anderson Snow Road. Ms. Lollie provided an overview of the two new routes, Route 10 and Route 11, and the Board was provided with a handout showing the new service areas. She advised that if additional bus stops are desired, requests may be submitted by contacting TheBus at (352) 754-4444 or by emailing TheBus@hernandocounty.us for evaluation. The new routes also provide complementary ADA service to anyone located within ¾ mile of a designated route.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- We received the Hernando County Attorney's response to the question raised at the February 12, 2026, TDLCB meeting.

  Question: Can the grievance procedures for the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) be revised to allow TDLCB members to serve in a representative capacity? If so, would doing so be a conflict of interest?

  Answer: The concerns noted are correct, and doing so would constitute a conflict of interest.

  The TDLCB and the Grievance Committee, which is comprised of members from the TDLCB, are essentially separate entities. Although they work in conjunction—the Grievance Committee conducts a hearing and provides recommendations, which are then submitted to the TDLCB—for a TDLCB member to serve in a representative capacity, whether to appear before the Grievance Committee or in any other representative capacity before its own TDLCB members who are presently serving in the Grievance Committee and who later provide recommendations to the TDLCB, would appear improper to the public and is therefore strongly not advised.

- The draft Letter of Understanding (LOU) provided by FDOT for County Line Road has been reviewed by Pasco County and is currently being reviewed by Hernando County and should be reviewed during the Board of County Commissioner meeting on June 9.
- County Line Road (Hernando and Pasco counties) has been added to the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) Regional Priorities List as the #2 and #3 priority projects for FDOT District 7. Barclay Avenue in Hernando County is ranked as the #1 regional priority. The Regional Priorities List is scheduled for adoption in June 2026. Note: FDOT District 7 receives approximately $7 million annually in TRIP funding. The Three Sisters trail in Citrus County is the SCTPA Multi-Use Trails #1 priority project for FDOT District 7
- 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 Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026, beginning at 1:30 p.m., at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online approximately one week before the meeting at: www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo.

Vice Chair Samter adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.