



metroplan orlando

A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP

ORANGE/ OSCEOLA/ SEMINOLE COUNTIES JOINT TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD MEETING

DATE: Thursday, August 08, 2024
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: MetroPlan Orlando Board Room
250 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 200
Orlando, Florida 32801

Commissioner Mayra Uribe, Presiding

Members in attendance were:

Ms. Marilyn Baldwin, representing the Disabled
Mayor Pat Bates, Seminole County
Ms. Neika Berry, Citizen Advocate (Non-system User)
Ms. Charlotte Campbell, At-Large Alternate
Ms. Betsy Delano, representing the Medical Community
Ms. Sharon Jennings for Ms. Jeannette Estes, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Ms. Kori Blowers for Ms. Wendy Ford, Osceola Council on Aging
Ms. Jamie Ledgerwood, FDOT
Mr. Bob Melia, Citizen Advocate (System User)
Ms. Angela Hunter for Janeé Olds, Career Source CF
Mr. Cartier Murrill for Mr. Calvin Smith, AHCA
Ms. Yvette Reyes, Economically Disadvantaged
Ms. Cheryl Stone, representing the Elderly
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, Orange County, Chairperson
Ms. Alnita Whitt, Veterans
Mr. Adam Zubritsky, OCPS

Members not in attendance:

Commissioner Olga Castano, Osceola County
Mr. Luis Nieves-Ruiz, SunRail CAC
Vacant, State Coordinating Council of Early Childhood
Mr. Wayne Olson, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Vacant, EMS
Vacant, For-Profit Operator

Staff in Attendance

Ms. Virginia Whittington, MetroPlan Orlando
Ms. Taylor Laurent, MetroPlan Orlando
Ms. Leilani Vaiaoga, MetroPlan Orlando
Ms. Mary Ann Horne, MetroPlan Orlando
Ms. Lisa Smith, MetroPlan Orlando
Ms. Rachel Frederick, MetroPlan Orlando

Others in Attendance

Ms. Gail Holley, FDOT (virtual)
Mr. Norman Hickling, ACCESS LYNX
Mr. Benjamin Gonzalez, ACCESS LYNX
Mr. Joey Hogan, TRANSDEV

A complete list of other attendees may be obtained upon request.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Pat Bates called the meeting to order at 10.02 a.m. welcomed members.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Ms. Kori Blowers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Bates reminded members of the importance of attending in person and how members of the public can participate in person or virtually.

Mayor Bates turned the meeting over to Chair Uribe who presided over the remainder of the meeting. Ms. Neika Berry gave an update on the recent Quality Assurance Task Force meeting which took place on July 23rd.

Ms. Berry shared that they held the meeting off-site, were given a CTC update by Mr. Norm Hickling and concluded by taking a tour of the ACCESS LYNX Paratransit Operations Center. Ms. Berry thanked Mr. Norm Hickling and Mr. Joey Hogan for hosting the QATF. Members who were present at the tour all expressed their appreciation for the tour and the education it presented. In conclusion, Ms. Berry noted the date for the next QATF meeting as October 29, 2024.

Chair Uribe asked if it was possible for members of the TDLCB to also visit the ACCESS LYNX Paratransit Operations Center and have the tour. Ms. Whittington stated that she would poll members and coordinate the best date with Mr. Hogan.

IV. AGENDA REVIEW & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Virginia Whittington welcomed new member, Ms. Yvette Reyes representing the Economically Disadvantaged to the TDLCB. She recognized Ms. Nicola Norton, Ms. Reyes' alternate. Also recognized in the room were alternates: Ms. Kori Blowers for Ms. Wendy Ford, Mr. Cartier Murrill for Mr. Calvin Smith, Ms. Sharon Jennings for Ms. Jeannette Estes, and Ms. Angela Hunter for Ms. Janee Olds.

Ms. Whittington provided an update on Senate Bill 1380 (Transportation Services for Persons with Disabilities & Transportation Disadvantaged), which was signed into law and became effective in May. She noted that the bill expanded the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Board from 7 members to 11, and also stated that the bill allows members to hold meetings virtually and those attending virtually do count towards quorum. Ms. Whittington stated that MetroPlan Orlando would like to consider this for all Committee meetings in the future. Also in the bill, Ms. Whittington noted it addressed provisions in paratransit service contracts including driving training, reasonable time periods for requests and transparency on quality of service. She also highlighted reports that were due to the legislature, one from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) on model policies and procedures, and one from I-STREET (UF) on technology. Both reports are due to the Governor and legislature in January 2025.

Ms. Whittington noted that Ms. Gail Holley from FDOT would be making a presentation today remotely, on the Safe Mobility for Life Program and a further presentation will take place at the November TDLCB Public Meeting.

Ms. Whittington shared that a tentative location for the Public Meeting in November had been identified, that costs were being finalized and will confirm once a determination is made if the meeting will be off-site or located at MetroPlan Orlando offices. She introduced Mr. Mighk Wilson who presented the Safety Moment.

Mr. Wilson gave a status update on the Regional Vision Zero Action Plan, reminding members of the existing safety challenges within Central Florida with 41% of all deaths occurring on only 2% of Central Florida Roads and 44% of fatal traffic crashes in the region involved distraction, intoxication, speeding or aggressive driving. He continued to share how we begin to address the safety challenges including focused public outreach to motivate behavior change and identifying quick-build projects to address local safety problems.

He stated that the draft plan has just gone out for review and the final version will be presented to the committees and MetroPlan Orlando Board in September.

Comments from the committee included, if each type of distraction was recorded that led to a crash and it was also confirmed that the number of fatalities included pedestrians, and all modes of transportation used. Commissioner Uribe also noted how she was able to secure a light fixture on a road with heavy pedestrian use, with the help of Ms. Loreen Bobo, FDOT Safety Administrator, because it was part of the Vision Zero plan in Orange County. Mr. Wilson also confirmed how the Vision Zero plan will feed into the MTP 2050 plan and all future plans. A member referred Mr. Wilson to state trauma organizations who can support the impact of life changing crashes on individuals and the costs and lost income involved.

V. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Ms. Lisa Smith confirmed a quorum was present.

VI. Public Comments on Action Items

None

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of May 16, 2024, TDLCB Meeting Minutes

Approval of the May 16, 2024, meeting minutes was requested.

MOTION: Mayor Pat Bates moved to approve the May 16, 2024, meeting minutes. Ms. Marilyn Baldwin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS & STATUS REPORTS

A. Lynx/Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Update

Mr. Norm Hickling presented an update, highlighting an increase in trip demand of 9.3% compared to the same time last year, and as is typical there was a slight dip in trips performed during June due to the schools being out. He highlighted that 'on time performance' reached 93% in June with the average for the year being 89%, and shared that the majority of trips are for medical purposes.

Mr. Hickling noted the average speed of answering a call increased to 3:18 minutes with an average of 55 calls being answered by each agent, and 87.37% of all calls being answered - the highest percentage in the last six months.

Mr. Hickling detailed the two sources of funding for the Transportation for the Disadvantaged.

- The State of Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged
 - Trip & Equipment Grant
- Local Funding Partners - Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties

Mr. Hickling shared the amount of actual costs vs. the amount that could be invoiced due to the grant allocation, noting that in May 2024 Lynx invoiced for only 36% of the total TD cost incurred (\$282,672 out of \$776,757), which left the deficit to be picked up by the local funding partners in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.

He confirmed that new vehicles should be delivered this month or next, with a total of 57 expected into the fleet by the end of the year and the hope that further vehicles will be ordered

over the next 18 months. Mr. Hickling announced that they will be introducing the seven-day advance reservation period, once they have completed their internal obligations necessary to facilitate this. He concluded by sharing his concerns about the TD Program changes with the additional reports needed.

Chair Mayra Uribe commented on the shortfall of funding that is picked up by the counties and questioned if this could be looked at legislatively. Chair Uribe also raised the question of training received by drivers to sensitively assist riders with autism and other invisible disabilities. Discussions ensued about the importance of identifying riders with special needs, to ensure appropriate assistance and accommodations, however a delicate balance is needed to ensure there are no violations of HIPPA.

Mr. Joey Hogan discussed TRANSDEV's practices and explained the training offered to their drivers. Discussion ensued regarding the need for additional dialogue about the best way to ensure the organization is aware of people with hidden disabilities and that proper training is in place.

Ms. Whittington offered to facilitate and host a future meeting at MetroPlan Orlando on the topic and also acknowledged the legislation Chair Uribe referred to, where individuals can put a sticker on their vehicle and/or a designation on their license plate to alert the police that someone in the vehicle has autism. The Chair also recommended contacting Orange County Sheriff Mina's office and/or Orange County Corrections Department as they are very proactive in this subject.

B. Safe Mobility for Life Program Introduction.

Ms. Gail Holley, Safe Mobility for Life Program & Research Manager, FDOT, presented virtually, on, 'Working Together to Improve the Safety, Access, and Mobility of Florida's Aging Population.'

Ms. Holley began by highlighting the various measures implemented by FDOT, to assist road users in compensating for the natural aging process noting that older drivers are in fact safer drivers overall and have the lowest number of crashes involving vulnerable users, yet those aged 65 years+ do suffer the highest number of fatalities from those crashes. She highlighted their Strategic Action Plan and shared how they are working to reach their goal of zero fatalities.

Ms. Gail Holley highlighted 'Florida's Guide to Safe Mobility for Life', which is available in English, Spanish, as a hard copy, e-book and PDF.

Ms. Holley concluded by highlighting Mobility Week which runs from October 27 through November 2, 2024, and challenged members to travel by a different mode than usual and practice using before perhaps you may need to.

Chair Uribe commented on the communication methods and formats used to reach the different age groups. Also asked was how to find travel options for places in your local community and who provides them, and it was recommended to start with the travel plan worksheet and Find A Ride Florida. It was also noted that Ms. Holley will return to present at the Public Meeting on November 14th.

IX. GENERAL INFORMATION

Madam Chair Uribe called attention to the following general information items found in the agenda packet.

- A. Draft MetroPlan Orlando Board Resolution Supporting Blind Americans Equality Day and White Cane Awareness Day
- B. Draft MetroPlan Orlando Board Resolution Supporting Blind Americans Equality Day and White Cane Awareness Day
- C. Report of Operator Payments
- D. New Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged Members
- E. 2050 MTP Status Update
- F. Draft Vision Zero Central Florida Safety Action Plan https://metroplanorlando.gov/wp-content/uploads/Draft_VZCF_ActionPlan_July_2024.pdf

X. UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- A. **MetroPlan Orlando Board Meeting** – Wednesday, September 11, 2024; 9:00 a.m.
- B. **FPTA/CTD Annual Conference & Expo** - September 22-24, 2024, West Palm Beach, FL
- C. **Save the Date: 2024 Mobility Week** – October 27-November 2, 2024
- D. **Quality Assurance Task Force Meeting** – Tuesday, October 29, 2024; 10:00 a.m.
- E. **Annual Transportation Disadvantaged Public Workshop** – Thursday, November 14, 2024; 10:00 a.m. **OFF SITE LOCATION: Heart of West Lakes Wellness Center. 710 S Tampa Ave, Orlando, FL 32805**
- F. **Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board** – Thursday, November 14, 2024; 10:30 a.m.* **OFF SITE LOCATION: Heart of West Lakes Wellness Center. 710 S Tampa Ave, Orlando, FL 32805** (This meeting will immediately follow the TD Public Workshop at 10:30 or upon receipt of the final public comment, whichever occurs first.)

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Uribe suggested partnering with Orange TV for audio/visual assistance for the TDLCB Public Workshop.

Chair Uribe also thanked members for their continued support and engagement in representing the community to make transportation better.

Member Mr. Cartier Murrill inquired if there is a consideration to require young people when they first get their license, to undertake formal driver education which happens in other states but not in Florida.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (GENERAL)

None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully transcribed and submitted by Ms. Rachel Frederick.

Approved this 14th day of November 2024.



Commissioner Mayra Uribe, Chairperson



Rachel Frederick
Board Services Coordinator

As required by Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, MetroPlan Orlando hereby notifies all interested parties that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by MetroPlan Orlando with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made to include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.