



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

DATE: Thursday, August 14, 2014  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
LOCATION: MetroPlan Orlando Board Room  
315 E. Robinson Street, Suite 355  
Orlando, Florida 32801

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Commissioner John Horan, Presiding

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Members in attendance were:

Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County, Chairman  
Commissioner Michael Harford, Osceola County, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Win Adams, Elderly  
Ms. Marilyn Baldwin, Disabled  
Mr. Mike Barnett, Public Education  
Ms. Judy Binns, State Coordinating Council of Early Childhood  
Ms. Millagros Carrion, Medical Community  
Ms. Crystal Ford for Mr. Todd Stalbaum, Orange County EMS (*non-voting*)  
Mr. Randall Hunt, Senior Resource Alliance  
Ms. Sharon Jennings, Agency for Persons with Disabilities  
Ms. Charlotte Keller for Mr. Benjamin Akinola, AHCA/Medicaid  
Ms. Diane Ketts, Citizen Advocate  
Mr. Robert Melia, LYNX TAC designee (*non-voting*)  
Mr. Wayne Olson, Dept. of Education & Vocational Rehabilitation  
Ms. Jo Santiago, FDOT  
Mr. Dwight Sayer, Citizen Advocate (System User)  
Mr. Chris York, For-Profit Operator  
Mr. Tim May, LYNX (*non-voting*)  
Vacant, Orange County

**Members not in attendance were:**

Mr. Alex Alexander, Veterans  
Ms. Samme Ripley, Economically Disadvantaged

**Others in attendance were:**

Mr. Laurence Lewis, VHB  
Mr. Kyle Taniguchi, VHB  
Mr. Hector Del Valle, Central Florida Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
Ms. Cheryl Stone  
Mr. Eric Hill, MetroPlan Orlando  
Ms. Gabriella Arismendi, MetroPlan Orlando  
Ms. Cathy Goldfarb, MetroPlan Orlando

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman John Horan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and Ms. Cheryl Stone led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Horan opened the floor for members to introduce themselves.

**III. CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Ms. Cathy Goldfarb confirmed that a quorum was present.

**IV. AGENDA REVIEW**

Ms. Gabriella Arismendi welcomed guests Mr. Hector Del Valle, Central Florida Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, and Ms. Lisa Saunders and Mr. Lendy Castillo, representing ACHA broker, MTM. She called attention to a revised agenda which had been provided. Ms. Arismendi informed TDLCB members that Mr. Bill Hearndon was no longer with LYNX and Mr. Tim May was now serving as the Interim Manager of Paratransit Services. She told committee members that Commissioner Boyd was no longer able to serve on TDLCB due to scheduling conflict with his recent appointment to the Central Florida Expressway Authority.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the May 8, 2014 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board meeting were provided for approval.

**MOTION:** Mr. Win Adams moved approval of the consent agenda. Ms. Marilyn Baldwin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appointment to the Quality Assurance Task Force

Staff requested approval of recommendations to appoint on the Quality Assurance Task Force. Pursuant to the Bylaws that were approved at the May 8, 2014 meeting, state that the Quality Assurance Task Force (QATF) serves as *“a Committee represented by at least five (5) voting members from the TDLCB to discuss TD issues or any other problems related to service quality.”* Staff conducted a poll of TDLCB members to see who would be interested in serving on the QATF. Several of these members who responded were currently serving on the QATF and have confirmed their willingness to continue serving. Staff recommended the members listed below to serve on the QATF.

Marilyn Baldwin, Representative for Persons with Disabilities  
Milagros Carrion, Medical Community  
Crystal Ford, Orange County EMS  
Win Adams, Representative for the Elderly  
Randall Hunt, FL Department of Elder Affairs

In addition, the floor was opened to those in attendance for additional volunteers who would like to serve. Ms. Cheryl Stone and Ms. Marsha Shapiro indicated that they would like to serve on the QATF.

**MOTION:** Mr. Dwight Sayer moved approval of appointing the proposed candidates along with Ms. Cheryl Stone and Ms. Marsha Shapiro to the Quality Assurance Task Force. Mr. Wayne Olson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## B. Approval of the 2014-2015 Rate Calculation Worksheet

Each year, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) reviews and approves prices charged by transportation operators for rides purchased in the Coordinated Transportation System. The rate approval process begins with completion of the rate model spreadsheet. The information put into the spreadsheet considers past, current, and projected costs and revenues associated with the area's transportation services. The rate model spreadsheet was provided.

ACCESS LYNX's rates per trip for the fiscal year 2014-2015 are as follows:

Type of Trip	FY13-14 Rates	FY14-15 Rates
Ambulatory	\$36.94	\$41.78
Wheelchair	\$63.32	\$71.63
Stretcher (Medicaid only)	\$131.92	\$149.23

Ms. Arismendi told TDLCB members that she participated in a series of discussions with LYNX staff regarding the rate model worksheet. She noted that the document is usually approved as part of the TDSP however the CTD implemented a new form over the summer and approval is needed for the new worksheet. The original worksheet that was sent out to committee members had indicated a 134% increase in rates, but after review and revisions she reported that the revised worksheet drastically reduced that large increase. Ms. Arismendi informed committee members that she still had concerns regarding the supply expense figure of approximately \$2 million. She compared supply expense numbers for other areas and found them to be much smaller. Mr. Tim May, LYNX, informed TDLCB members that the supply expense line item also included fuel costs and that was the reason for the high figure for that line item. TDLCB members requested a breakdown of the figures reported on the entire worksheet. Mr. May responded that he did not have the breakdown information at that time, however he would get the information to forward to committee members. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) changes on the figures, budget planning constraints and the possibility of conversion from Medicaid to ADA trips by consumers if dissatisfied. TDLCB members suggested tabling action on this agenda item until they received additional information. Ms. Arismendi informed committee members that the CTD will continue to reimburse ACCESS LYNX at 2014 rates until the new rate worksheet is approved.

**MOTION:** Mr. Win Adams moved for approval of tabling action on approval of the 2014-2015 Rate Calculation Worksheet until committee members received additional information. Commissioner Michael Harford seconded the motion, 14:1 (Hunt opposed).

## VIII. PRESENTATIONS & STATUS REPORTS

### A. Value Pricing Pilot Study

Mr. Eric Hill, MetroPlan Orlando staff, gave a presentation on a Value Pricing Pilot Study that is being conducted for the MetroPlan Orlando region. Copies of the technical report executive summary and Value Pricing Pilot Program Fact Sheet were provided. The study, he noted, was funded by a federal grant received by MetroPlan Orlando in order to look at alternatives for funding in light of diminishing gas tax revenue and funding issues with the Transportation Trust Fund. Mr. Hill told committee members that the study included a consultant team of ECONorthwest, Global 5, and Kittleson & Associates along with staff and MetroPlan Orlando committee representatives. He reviewed the reasons for studying value pricing alternatives and value pricing benefits and types. The study group looked at a number of strategies and narrowed them down to mileage based user fees (MBUF) as the preferred alternative. Currently, the study is entering into the public involvement phase where they will be looking for input, including the use of focus groups. Although the variable-rate MBUF was the one that was deemed to have the most return/revenue and preferred for a demo by the study group, the MetroPlan Orlando board recommended discussing the options with FDOT. In discussions with FDOT, Mr. Hill reported, they learned that Florida Transportation Commission was looking at a flat-rate MBUF and a decision was made to look at the flat-rate demo to coincide with their work. Discussion ensued regarding consideration of type of vehicle and weight, if the new user fee would replace the current gas tax, what the demo would look like, what effect the change to a user fee would have on the TD community, how accurate the projections were considered, conducting outreach to the business community and how cost per person would be computed. Mr. Hill told committee members that the user fee would replace state gas tax revenue and the new system would improve transit and transportation, in addition to increasing revenue.

### B. U.S. 441 Corridor Study

Mr. Laurence Lewis, VHB senior project manager, and Mr. Kyle Taniguchi, VHB transportation engineer presented information on the U.S. 441 Corridor Study. The purpose of this study is to identify a recommended alternative to provide transit service that achieves connectivity within the U.S. 441 corridor from City of Eustis and terminates in Downtown Orlando. Mr. Lewis reviewed the study area, the meeting schedule for the project advisory group, project goals and the project study schedule. He noted that the goal of the study is to develop a recommendation for a single alternative. Mr. Kyle Taniguchi reviewed the four viable alternatives that the advisory group has narrowed down to which were a no build option, commuter rail, rail/bus combination and express bus service. Discussion ensued in regards to the reason for the project limits and focus and the type of riders currently using the corridor. Mr. Lewis called attention to a survey

related to the project currently available on the US 441 Study website (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/US441CorridorStudy>) and requested that committee members share the survey information with the transportation disadvantaged community so they are able to get more input from that targeted group.

#### **C. Gas Pump Assistance State Law**

Mr. Hector Del Valle, president of the Central Florida Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, and Ms. Cheryl Stone gave a presentation on the new state statute that requires gas stations to provide assistance to drivers with disabilities. Ms. Stone reviewed ADA requirements for gas pumping assistance, possible solutions to issues that arise, and provided a sample pump decal. She explained FL statute 526.141 requirements and consequences for violations along with detailed changes to the statute that became effective July 1, 2014. Ms. Stone provided a visual of what the new decal looked like and explained the benefits and alternate methods of providing assistance. In addition, she thanked supporters of the new legislation.

#### **D. Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) Program Update**

Ms. Gabriella Arismendi, MetroPlan Orlando staff, provided an update to the AHCA MMA roll out and action steps developed by staff. She explained that Medicaid users, as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, need to call a broker to schedule their medically covered rides. Previously these trips had been provided by ACCESS LYNX through the coordinated paratransit system. Non-medically covered trips are still scheduled with ACCESS LYNX. Ms. Arismendi introduced Ms. Lisa Saunders and Mr. Lendy Castillo representing MTM which is one of three brokers in the Central Florida area. Ms. Saunders and Mr. Castillo spoke briefly about MTM's background providing paratransit services and customer policies. Discussion ensued regarding contact information for concerns, performance evaluation criteria and driver training procedures. Ms. Arismendi told committee members that she discovered Central Florida was the last metro area to handle Medicaid trips and most other metro areas had stopped providing those trips quite a while ago. She reported that through her research there would be no support for legislative change from other areas that were experiencing the current changes to the system. Ms. Arismendi has made a number of outreach efforts in the local community to get the word out about the changes. There is a 90-day window of opportunity from the startup date, she noted, to change providers if customers are unhappy with the one they chose or was chosen for them. A 90-day continuation of care contingency will provide trips for Medicaid users that have already been scheduled through ACCESS LYNX. She reported that Medicaid focus groups are being formed to look at issues that arise and asked committee members to contact her if they had any suggestions for participants for the focus groups. Ms. Baldwin asked if the focus groups would work with QATF. Ms. Arismendi responded that the focus groups would be separate and TDLCB no longer has any control in regards to the Medicaid segment of paratransit.

## IX. OTHER BUSINESS

### A. TDLCB Membership

Pursuant to TDLCB Bylaws *“non-agency members of the Board shall be appointed for three-year staggered terms.”* In December 2014 three LCB non-agency positions will be expiring: (1) Citizen Advocate; (2) For-Profit Operator; and (3) Regional Workforce Development. A LCB membership outreach schedule to fill those positions was provided. Attendees were asked to submit a letter of interest along with their qualifications for the position, if not currently on the board. Current board members were only asked to submit a letter of interest for the open position they are interested in. Ms. Arismendi noted that she will need all applications by September 30<sup>th</sup> so they can be reviewed by QATF for recommendations prior to submission to TDLCB in November and the MetroPlan Orlando board in December.

## X. GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. Ombudsman Report:

A summary of the communication made directly to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged office from riders, providers, or others that require direct interaction with the customer or other entities was provided. Additional items or issues that are handled via contract manager or on a technical assistance basis can be provided upon request.

### B. Planning Grant Update Report

Quarterly progress reports of transportation disadvantaged planning accomplishments and planning contract deliverables, as outlined in the planning grant agreement, were provided.

### C. LYNX/Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Update

A report on current and ongoing CTC operations was provided.

### D. Report of Operator Payments

The Operators Payments Report is a requirement of the Local Coordinating Board and Planning Agency Operating Guidelines to ensure that operator payments are addressed as a standard agenda item. A copy of the report was provided.

## XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Dwight Sayer requested a SunRail update at the next TDLCB meeting. He noted that he encountered quite a few issues for visually impaired SunRail riders when he participated on a group trip in June. Ms. Arismendi asked that Mr. Sayer email her the issues the group encountered.

Ms. Arismendi introduced Ms. Crystal Ford the new alternate on TDLCB for Orange County EMS.

Mr. Wayne Olson, Department of Education & Vocational Rehabilitation, expressed his gratitude for the bus platform that was constructed in front of the agency's new office at Howell Branch Road and SR 436.

## XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (GENERAL)

Mr. Chuck Graham, Winter Garden resident, emphasized the need for dedicated funding for transportation and more buses. He suggested that a percentage of toll and handicapped parking ticket revenue should be allocated to public transportation. In addition, he felt that rental car fees could be another potential source of dedicated transportation funding.

## XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Next meeting: November 13, 2014**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. Respectfully transcribed and submitted by Ms. Cathy Goldfarb.



Approved this 13h day of November, 2014.

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Chairperson, Orange, Osceola, Seminole  
Counties Joint Transportation Disadvantaged  
Local Coordinating Board

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Cathy Goldfarb, Board Services Coordinator  
and Recording Secretary

*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.*