

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

Minutes of a regular meeting held on May 12, 2016 at the East Port Environmental Campus,
Training Room A, 25550 Harbor View Road, Port Charlotte, Florida 33980

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Ken Doherty, *Charlotte County Commissioner, (LCB Chair)*
Alan Skavroneck, *Local Private for Profit Transportation Industry Representative (Vice Chair)*
Richard Shine, *FDOT, District One Modal Development Office*
M. Suzanne Roberts, *Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic, Medical Community
Representative*
Chris Polanco, *Area Agency on Aging-Florida Department of Elder Affairs*
David Wilson, *Disabled Representative*
Maria A. Perez, *Department of Children & Families*
Joseph Sabatino, *Citizen Advocate*
Joseph Martinez, *Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)*

ABSENT MEMBERS

Jill Mead, *Public Education-School Transportation-excused*
Dave Rockow, *Veterans Affairs-excused*
Cathy Colford, *Citizen Advocate-User*
Naomi Manning, *Elderly Representative*
Cindy Montgomery, *Regional Workforce Development*
Dianna Bello, *Economically Disadvantaged Representative*
Angela Hemstreet, *Children-at-Risk Representative*
Bruce Emmerton, *Division of Blind Services*

STAFF

Bob Herrington, *MPO Director*
Wendy Scott, *MPO Planner*
Gene Klara, *MPO Planner*

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rick Kolar, *Fleet and Transit Division Manager (CTC)*
Pam Barr, *Transit Division Financial Analyst*
Pamela Kirchner, *Fiscal Services Manager*

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Ken Doherty called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He asked that each person
state his/her name, and whom they represent.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

4. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2016 Public Hearing and Meeting**
- B. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5305 (d) Grant Application (FY 2016/2017)**

Alan Skavroneck made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda that included Minutes from the January 14, 2016 meeting and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5305 (d) Grant Application (FY 2016/2017). Joseph Sabatino seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund (TDTF) Trip and Equipment Grants

Pam Barr, Charlotte County Transit Financial Analyst, reviewed information regarding the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund (TDTF) amount allocated to Charlotte County Transit, noting that the local Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) is the Charlotte County Transit Division. She stated that the CTC is to receive \$368,642 in funding from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Trip and Equipment Grant. Ms. Barr also mentioned that the CTC received a total of \$44 from the voluntary dollar fund, which is donated when Charlotte County citizens renew their vehicle registrations. Commissioner Ken Doherty inquired regarding voluntary dollar amounts received by other Counties. Wendy Scott stated that the amount varies by County and she would provide this information to LCB members via e-mail post-meeting. Richard Shine described a proposal to increase voluntary dollar contributions by automatically adding the prior year donation to the tag renewal of citizens who have previously volunteered to donate and allowing them to opt out of the donation at each time of renewal. He noted that this would increase volunteer donations by those citizens who might not remember to donate on a regular basis.

6. FY 2012/2013-FY 2016/2017 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan/Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (TDSP/CPT-HSTP) Annual Update/Rate Model Calculations

Wendy Scott stated that this is the final annual update under the current five year designation of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) as the Community Transportation Coordinator for Charlotte County. She noted that on April 8, 2016, MPO staff presented the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board's recommendation that the BCC (through the Charlotte County Transit Division) continue to perform the CTC role for the next five year period commencing July 1, 2016. Ms. Scott stated that a new TDSP/CPT-HSTP is being developed and will be reviewed by the LCB at its next meeting on September 8, 2016.

Ms. Scott reviewed the changes identified in the Plan noting that it includes a revised organizational chart for Charlotte County Transit, the current year rate model calculations and revised TD population numbers. She also stated that Richard Shine will be included in the LCB membership certification list and elsewhere in the document as the FDOT Representative due to a recent FDOT vacancy.

Alan Skavroneck made a motion to revise the FY 2012-2013/FY 2016-2017 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) / Charlotte County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Annual Update (TDSP/CPT-HSTP), including the rate model calculations, and allow staff to make changes regarding the FDOT Representative to the LCB. Ken Doherty seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, LCB members unanimously approved the FY 2012-2013/FY 2016/2017 TDSP/CPT-HSTP Annual Update.

7. Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Quarterly Report

Rick Kolar reviewed the CTC 2nd Quarter activities covering the January through March 2016 time period. He noted that a lack of drivers has hampered efforts to improve transit services going forward. He stated that many former and prospective drivers are accepting driver positions in private industry where salaries and benefits are better. This issue led to a discussion on the current pay scale for new drivers, currently \$8.50-\$10 per hour versus a rate of approximately \$13.00 now being paid to drivers in the private sector. Ken Doherty noted that discussions with the County Administrator and Budget Director will be held next week, and this issue will be examined, including potential revisions to the current prevailing wage rate for Transit drivers. Bob Herrington stated that difficulty in driver retention and new hiring is being experienced throughout Florida. It was also noted that if driver wage rates are increased, future transit budget projections will be impacted. It was also observed that currently, drivers are not County employees, but are employees of Ameditrans. A general discussion among LCB members occurred regarding the difficulty of attracting transit drivers in the current economic environment.

Commissioner Doherty noted that unmet medical trips have shown a significant decrease from the previous quarter and congratulated Transit staff for their work on this issue.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments

9. Staff Comments

Wendy Scott reminded members to encourage their constituents regarding the TD voluntary dollar contribution when renewing their vehicle registrations in order to provide rides for transportation disadvantaged citizens. She also noted that performance measures will be required of Charlotte County transit staff as directed by recent Florida legislative language.

Ms. Scott noted statistics in FDOT's 2015 Florida Transportation Trends and Conditions booklet. In 1970, approximately 14.6% of Florida's population was 65 or older. The percentage grew to 18.6% in 2014 and is projected to increase to 25.5% by 2040. She stated that when coupling this percentage increase with the fact that elderly drivers typically outlive their ability to drive (6 years for men/10 years for women), it becomes apparent that public transit's role and impact will increase over the next 20+ years.

Wendy Scott stated that she had travelled to Vero Beach, Florida to convey the MPO Board's CTC recommendation at a Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Business Meeting on April 8, 2016. While there, she observed many similarities between Indian River County/Vero Beach/US 1 and Charlotte County/Punta Gorda/US 41 including demographics, geography and major transit corridors.

In closing Ms. Scott thanked everyone who participated in the "Try Transit" Day held on April 20, 2016. She noted that Rick Kolar and his staff together with Suzanne Roberts and her Access to Health Care subcommittee serving under the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) initiative deserve special thanks for a well-received program and related activities.

Gene Klara reviewed recent observations of researchers investigating the "Rethinking of Citizen Engagement". He noted that public participation is now at the intersection of tradition and technology, resulting in a blending of tech based and traditional methods. He stated that current research indicates that citizens using technology become less willing to accept a decision that does not reflect their choice made through technology. A discussion among members noted that personal contact either in person or through a phone call is highly effective.

10. Member Comments

David Wilson remarked that prospective new drivers hired for Charlotte County Transit should possess requisite "people skills" as a condition of employment.

Chris Polanco was welcomed as the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida's alternate to the LCB Board.

Joe Martinez reminded everyone of proper email transmittal procedures in light of Florida's Sunshine Law.

Suzanne Roberts thanked Charlotte County Transit and MPO staff for a successful "Try Transit" Day event and for supporting the Virginia B. Andes Community Clinic's mission.

Maria Perez reminded transit staff that any discussions to increase salaries for new transit drivers must include an increase for current drivers.

Alan Skavroneck noted that transit drivers are employed by a private entity, and discussions on pay scale rates must include their input.

Joe Sabatino described St. Vincent DePaul's "Bridges out of Poverty" support program. He noted that the program completed its first series of workshops, lectures and discussions to aid people who are attempting to break the cycle of poverty, build resources, improve individual and family outcomes and increase job retention rates. He noted that a new class will begin in July and asked attendees to contact him for more information and potential client referrals.

Richard Shine commended the MPO and Charlotte Transit staffs for their timely submittals for the 5310 Grant Program and their efforts expended during the April 20 "Try Transit" Day. He noted these efforts are well appreciated by FDOT. Mr. Shine also noted that FDOT has recently begun recruitment for a Transit Projects Coordinator who would serve as liaison to a number of transit and planning agencies in FDOT District One including Charlotte County.

Commissioner Ken Doherty thanked all LCB members, MPO staff and Transit staff for all their efforts and professionalism on behalf of the Transportation Disadvantaged in the County.

11. Adjournment

Chair Ken Doherty stated that the next meeting of the LCB is scheduled for September 8, 2016 and adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.