



## **Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Workshop**

Marion County Growth Services Bldg. – Training  
Room 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470

June 17, 2021 - 3:00pm

### **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**
- 3. PROOF OF PUBLICATION**
- 4. PRESENTATION -Page 2**
  - A. Presentation on Transportation Disadvantaged 101, an Overview of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program and Marion Transit. Presentation provided by Marion Transit:**  
Tom Wilder, Transportation Director  
Herman Schulz, Fleet Safety Manager  
Karen Williams, Trip Management  
Manager Ken McKelvy, Transit Manager
- 5. COMMENTS BY TDLCB MEMBERS**
- 6. COMMENTS BY TPO STAFF**
- 7. COMMENTS BY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC)**
- 8. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 2 minutes)**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

All meetings are open to the public, the TPO does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or family status. Anyone requiring special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or requiring language assistance (free of charge) should contact Liz Mitchell, Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator at (352) 438-2634 or [liz.mitchell@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:liz.mitchell@marioncountyfl.org) forty-eight (48) hours in advance, so proper accommodations can be made.

If any person wishes to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the above meeting, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

*The next regular meeting of the Ocala/Marion TDLCB will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

# TD 101 – Overview of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program & *MARIONTRANSIT*



Presented to

Marion County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board

June 17, 2021

# *MARIONTRANSIT*

A DIVISION OF

## Marion Senior Services, Inc.

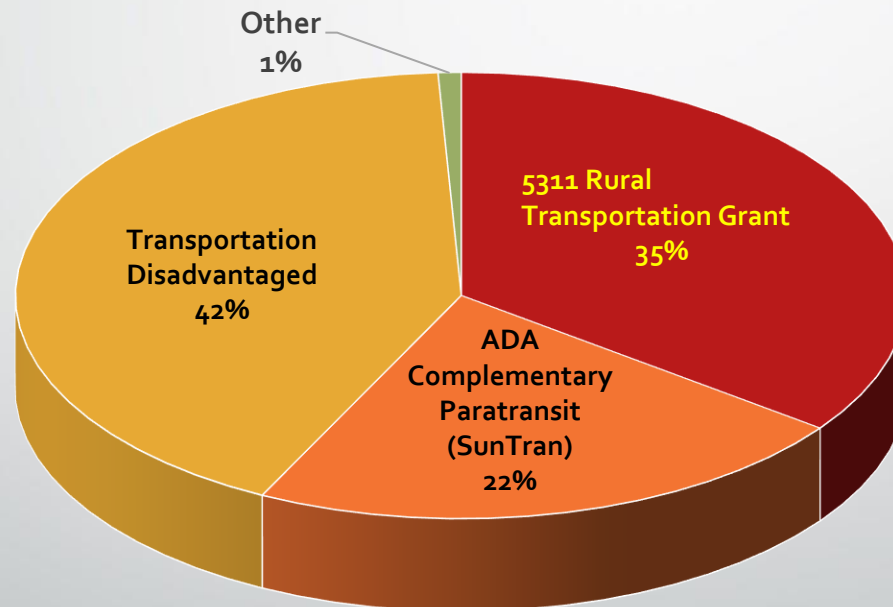
- Marion Transit - Serving Marion County, Florida since 1976
- Our paratransit service provides public transportation to all persons in our service area of Marion County, Florida, however, it is designated to maximize usage by “transportation disadvantaged” persons in general.
- Fast Facts:
  - 1982 Designated as the Marion County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) by Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. Marion Senior Services, Inc. d/b/a **Marion Transit has been the CTC since the program inception.** In June 2020 we were again designated by the Florida TD Commission to serve as Marion Counties CTC for another 5-year term.
  - Service Area - All of Marion County Florida, 1663 Square Miles. (Larger than the State of Rhode Island)
  - Average number of one-way trips per day: 350-450 (Pre-COVID19)
  - Number of paratransit buses working per day: 25-35

# Major Grants that Support ***MARIONTRANSIT***

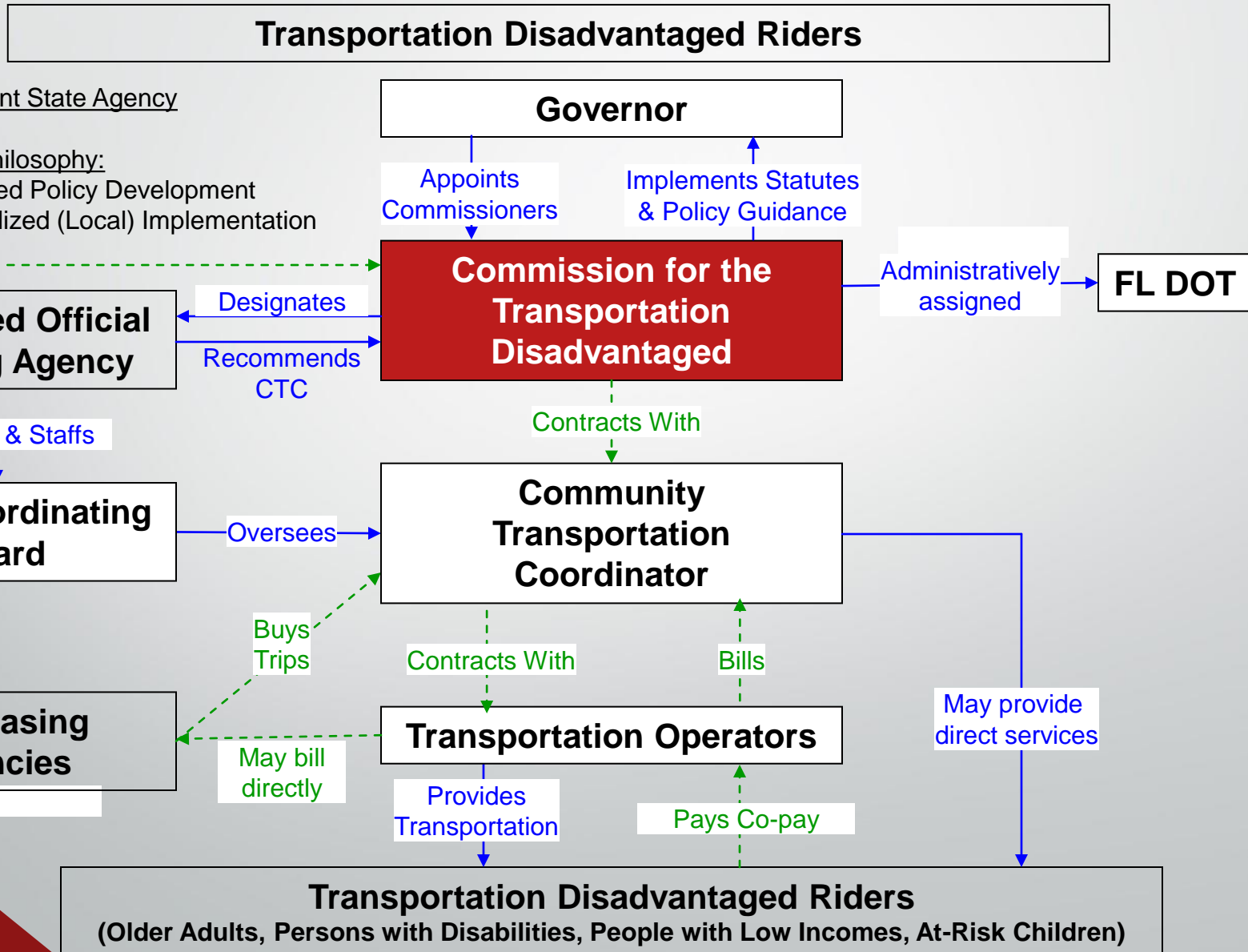
- 5311 – Rural Transportation (Operating Funds Grant – 50% Local Match)
  - Grant is awarded by FDOT
- 5310 – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities (Capital Funds to purchase buses) – 10% Local Match
  - Grant is awarded by FDOT
- **Transportation Disadvantaged Trip & Equipment Grant Program**
  - *TDLCB approves equipment purchases. TRIP Rates are reviewed by board. Funds are "formula" based throughout the 67 Counties.*
- *"Other" Grants are applied for as needed. i.e. Shirley Conroy Rural Assistance Grant, 5339 for Buses & Bus Facilities, etc.*
- Local match funds required for these grants comes as a budget request to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, fare revenue & donations.

# TRIPS

(By Funding Source)



# Florida's Coordinated Transportation System Organizational Structure



Independent State Agency

Guiding Philosophy:

- Centralized Policy Development
- Decentralized (Local) Implementation

Appoints  
Commissioners

Implements Statutes  
& Policy Guidance

Administratively  
assigned

Designates  
Recommends  
CTC

Appoints & Staffs

Oversees

Contracts With

Contracts With

Provides  
Transportation

May bill  
directly

May contract  
with

May provide  
direct services

Pays Co-pay

Bills

Buys  
Trips

Operational  
Fiscal

**Transportation Disadvantaged Riders**  
(Older Adults, Persons with Disabilities, People with Low Incomes, At-Risk Children)

# Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged



## Duties

- Develops policies and procedures for the coordination of transportation services for the **Transportation Disadvantaged**.
- Designates the planning agency in areas outside the purview of an MPO.
- Approves the appointment of CTCs.
- Contract with CTCs.



# Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

- Commission is an independent agency responsible for the coordination of transportation services for older adults, persons with disabilities, persons of low income and children at-risk.
- Designates the planning agency
- Approves appointment of CTCs
- Contracts with CTCs







# Florida's Coordinated Transportation System Organizational Structure

Transportation Disadvantaged Riders

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- Centralized Policy Development
- Decentralized (Local) Implementation

**Governor**

Appoints Commissioners

Implements Statutes & Policy Guidance

**Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged**

Administratively assigned

**FL DOT**

**Designated Official Planning Agency**

Designates

Recommends CTC

Appoints & Staffs

**Local Coordinating Board**

Oversees

**Community Transportation Coordinator**

Contracts With

Buys Trips

Contracts With

Bills

**Purchasing Agencies**

May bill directly

**Transportation Operators**

Provides Transportation

Pays Co-pay

May provide direct services

**Transportation Disadvantaged Riders**  
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— Operational  
- - - Fiscal

# Designated Official Planning Agency



The Planning Agency assists the Commission at the local level in accomplishing the coordination of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged.

# Designated Official Planning Agency

## The Commission:

- Appoints a Planning Agency for each service area
- Enters into an annual agreement with the Planning Agency to assist in meeting its responsibilities.

# Designated Official Planning Agency



## Duties

- Appoints members to the Local Coordinating Board
- Provides staff to the Local Coordinating Board
  - Quarterly Meetings (Meeting Schedule, Agendas, Minutes, By-Laws, Grievance Procedures, Training)
  - Annual Public Workshop

# Designated Official Planning Agency



## Duties (Continued)

- Recommends to the Commission a Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)
  - Competitive Procurement Process  
(Local Procurement Process or Chapter 287, F.S.)
  - Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission and CTC
  - CTC designation is for five years
- Evaluates the CTC (Planner & LCB) annually

# Designated Official Planning Agency



## Duties (Continued)

- Reviews annually the Annual Operating Report prepared by the CTC and submits it to the Local Coordinating Board for approval.
- In coordination with the CTC and the Local Coordinating Board, develops a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP)

# Designated Official Planning Agency

## Summary

- Appoints and staffs Local Coordinating Board
- Procures and recommends a Community Transportation Coordinator to the Commission
- Coordinates and conducts transportation planning at the local level for transportation disadvantaged.

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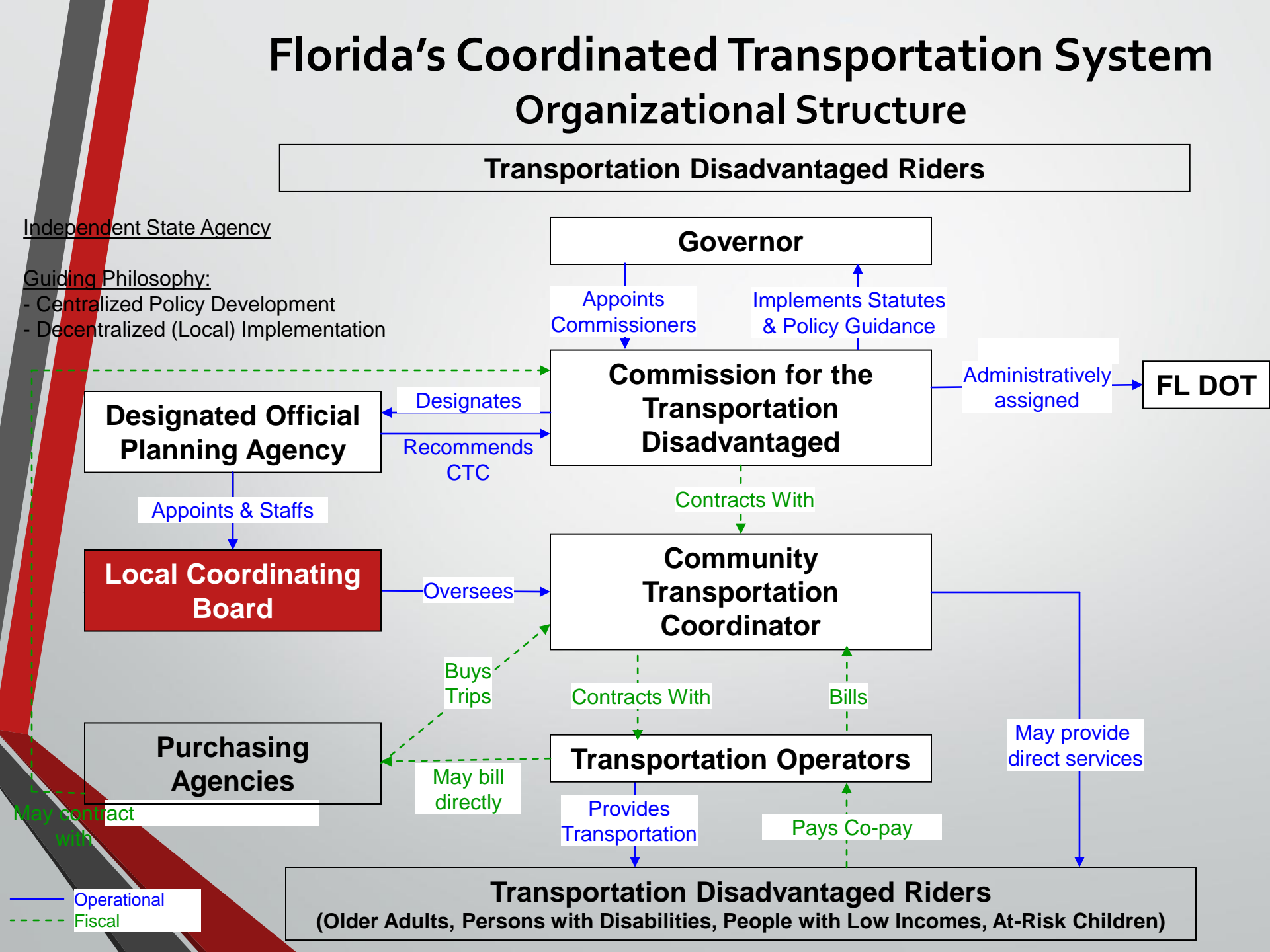
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# Local Coordinating Board

## “TDLCB”

### Purpose

- Identify local service needs
- Provide information, advice and direction to the CTC on the coordination of services to be provided through the Coordinated Transportation System
- Serve as an advisory body to the Commission regarding a particular service area

# Local Coordinating Board

## Duties

- Assists CTC in establishing eligibility guidelines and trip priorities
- Evaluates CTC annually
- Reviews and approve Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- Appoints Grievance Committee to process and investigate complaints

# Local Coordinating Board

## Duties (Continued)

- Meets at least quarterly
- Reviews and recommends other funding applications
- Reviews strategies of service provision to the area
- Evaluates multicounty or regional transportation opportunities

# Local Coordinating Board

## Summary

- Provides guidance for the local coordination of services
- Oversees Community Transportation Coordinator



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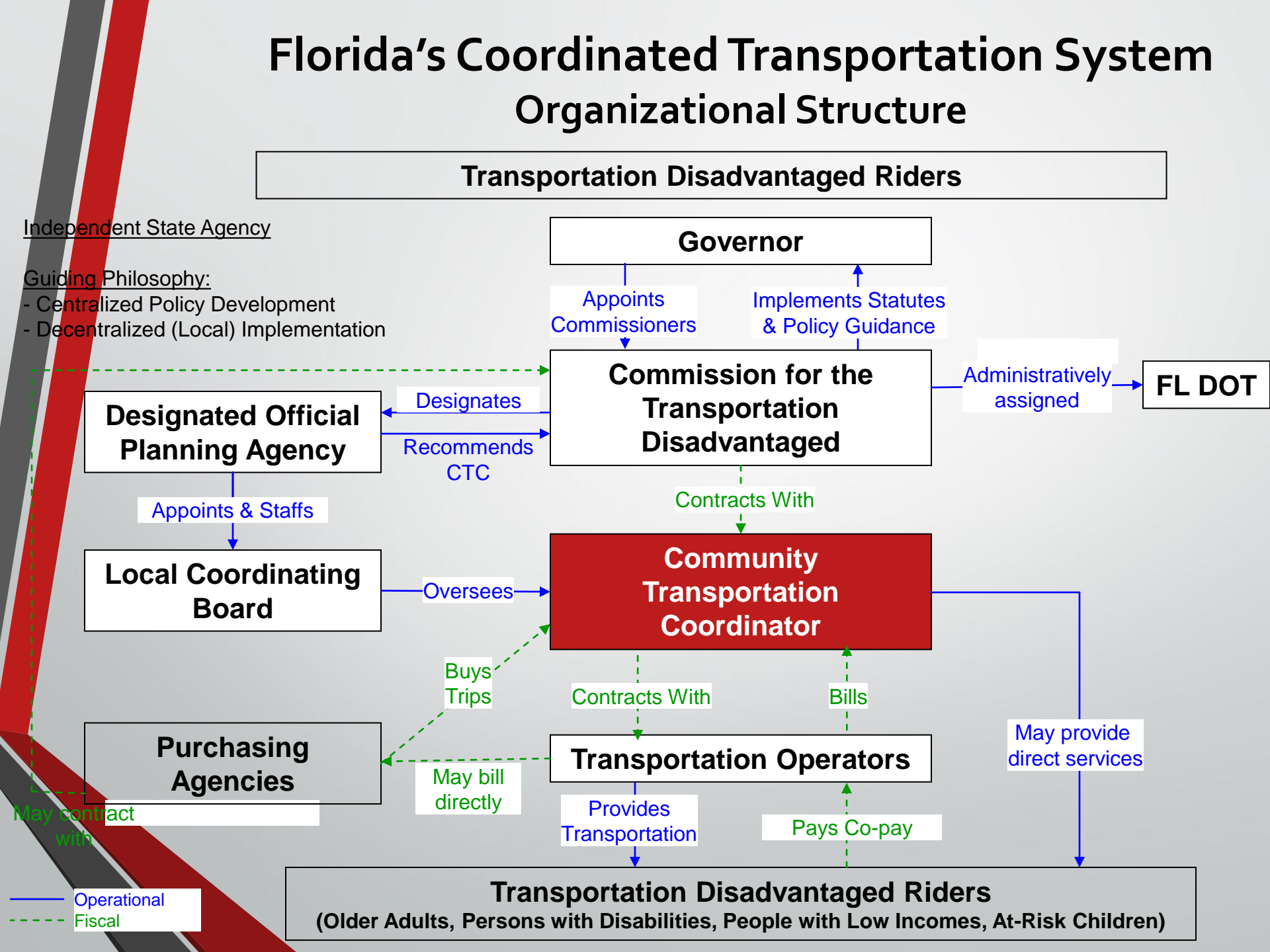
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# Community Transportation Coordinator



## Duties

- Plans, administers, monitors, coordinates, arranges and delivers coordinated Transportation Disadvantaged services originating in their designated service area
  - Operates centralized call center (aka Reservations)
  - Determines transportation eligibility (for TD riders)
  - Schedules trips (scheduler)
  - Performs gatekeeping duties (with regards to TD)

# Community Transportation Coordinator

## Duties (Continued)

- Develops a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan with Local Coordinating Board & TPO.
- Prepares and submits Annual Operating Report (AOR)
- Recommends eligibility guidelines and trip prioritization to the Local Coordinating Board for *non-sponsored trips.*

# Community Transportation Coordinator

## CTC Agreements with Commission

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- Trip & Equipment Grant
- Shirley Conroy Grant (Rural Capital Equipment)
- Innovation & Service Development Grant



# Community Transportation Coordinator

## Service Network Types

- **Sole Source— (Marion Transit) provides all services**
- Partially Brokered—contracts some services and provides some services
- Fully Brokered—contracts all services

# Community Transportation Coordinator

## Summary

- Coordinates transportation services within a designated area
- Provides, *and / or contracts for*, transportation services
  - *Note: Marion Transit does not contract for transportation services for TD. We provide it.*





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May contract  
with



# TD Trips

- These Trips are defined as “NON-SPONSORED” Trips



Florida Commission for the



**Transportation  
Disadvantaged**



# Each Of Us Knows Someone Who Is Transportation Disadvantaged

- Older Adults
- Persons with Disabilities
- Persons with Low Income
- At-Risk Children



# They Could Need A Ride To...

- Medical Services
- Work
- School
- Grocery Store



# The TD Rider

## Transportation Disadvantaged Rider Eligibility

Those persons who cannot obtain their own transportation due to their age, disability or income.



# The TD Rider

## Eligibility for Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund

- Commission establishes guidelines for Transportation Disadvantaged eligibility
- Local Coordinating Board develops local eligibility policy, based on Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, and Commission Guidelines.



# CTD Eligibility Criteria

Adopted May 22, 1997, by TD Commission

At a minimum:

- No other funding available
- No other means of transportation is available
- Cannot utilize public transit
- Physical or mental disability
- Age (60+ 16 under)
- Income status is a specified percent of the poverty level (150% below)
- No self-declarations allowed (must show proof or provide affidavit)
- Ability to pay (we offer a fare waiver for fares)

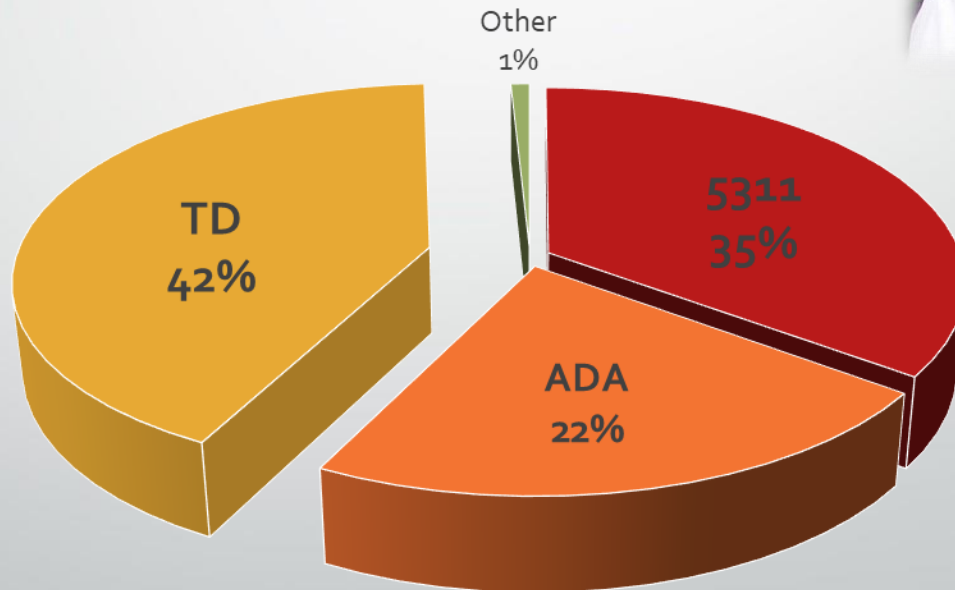
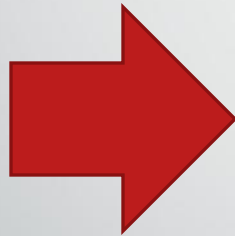
# TD Service Area



# The TD Rider

## Summary

- Riders are older adults, persons with disabilities, people of low income and at-risk children
- Rider eligibility is determined locally based upon Chapter 427, F.S. and Commission Guidelines



2020 Rider Breakdown

# ADA Complementary Paratransit Service for SunTran (Fixed Route System)

- These Trips are defined as “SPONSORED” Trips

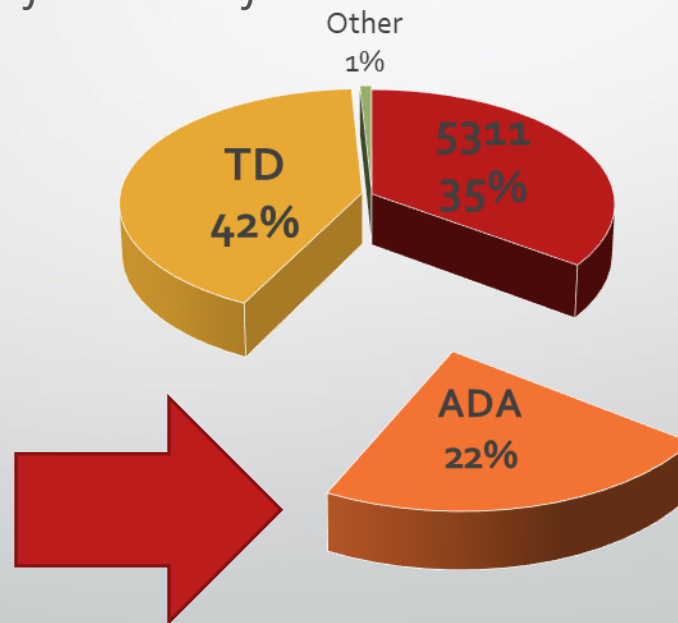


# MT Services – ADA (AKA Sponsored Trips)

The City of Ocala is the administrative agency for SunTran and has contracted with RATP Dev to perform day-to-day operations and management of the fixed route system. **Fixed route systems are required to provide ADA complementary paratransit service to riders who live within 3/4 of a mile of the fixed route system and cannot walk to a bus stop.** Marion Transit has the agreement with RATP to provide that service for them. Note: *Center for Independent Living is the designated agency who qualifies riders for MT.*



Agreement with  
RATP d/b/a SunTran



2020 Rider Breakdown

## 5311 Program – Rural Public Transportation

- These Trips are defined as “SPONSORED” Trips

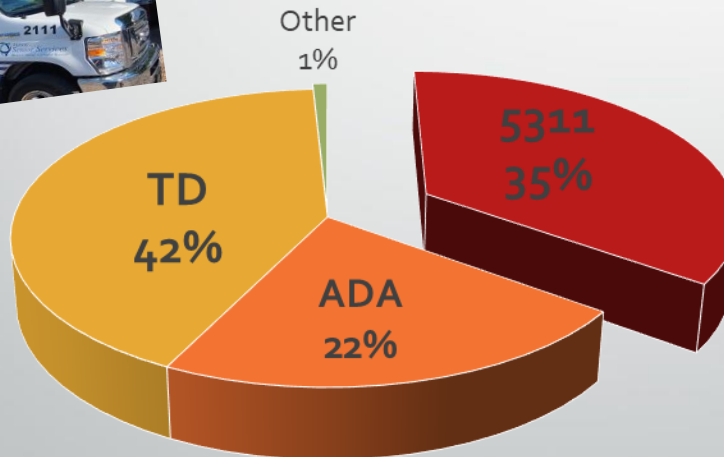


# MT Services – 5311

## AKA Sponsored Trips

The 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas. Residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations.

These TRIPs by appointment are considered “Public Transportation” for rural areas. The criteria to ride is different than TD. We also offer 2 “deviated” services serving Dunnellon “Blue Line” & Marion Oaks “Gold Line”. These services follow a schedule but can deviate to provide door to door service.



Rural Public Transportation Service

# The 5311 Rider

## (AKA Sponsored Trips)

*According to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5311 Program, 49U.S.C.5311, services may not be designated exclusively to serve the transportation requirements of social service agencies without regard for the mobility needs of the community as a whole.*

**This means as a Section 5311 sub-recipient, Marion Transit is committed to providing “public transportation” services to all persons in our rural service area.**

**The service is designed to maximize usage by transportation disadvantaged persons in general but is open to the public during all operating hours.**

**Since we are not a fixed route system, rural riders need to call for an appointment following our RSVP guidelines.**

**Exception – Blue & Gold Lines**



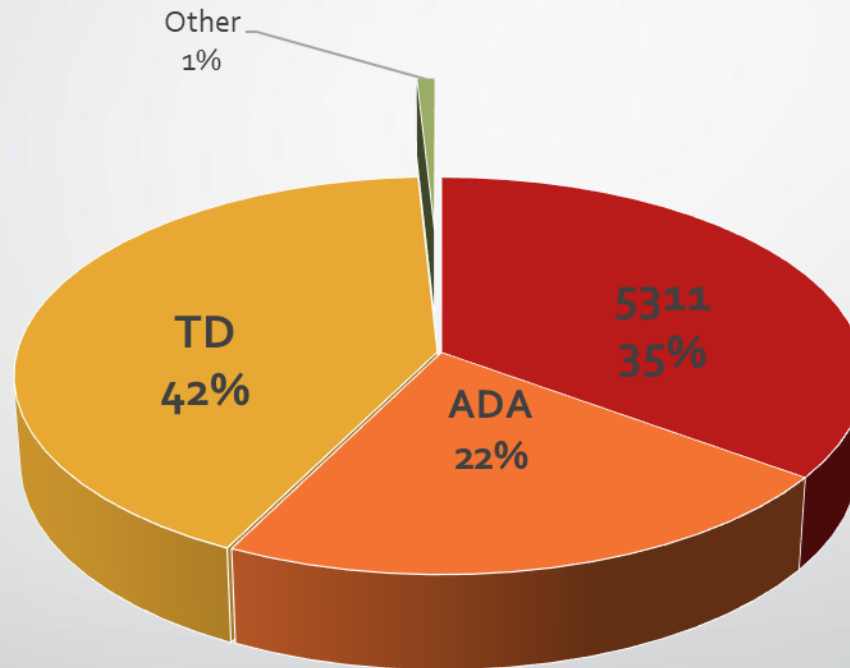
# Rural Service Area



# MT Services – Other

## AKA – Sponsored Trips

- These are agreements with MT to provide transportation for eligible riders. In 2020 we signed an agreement with the Marion County School Board to provide homeless children rides to school until they could be scheduled on a normal bus route. Prior agreements were with Medicaid brokers (i.e., MTM, Access2Care, etc.) providing trips such as pediatric babies to their daycares.

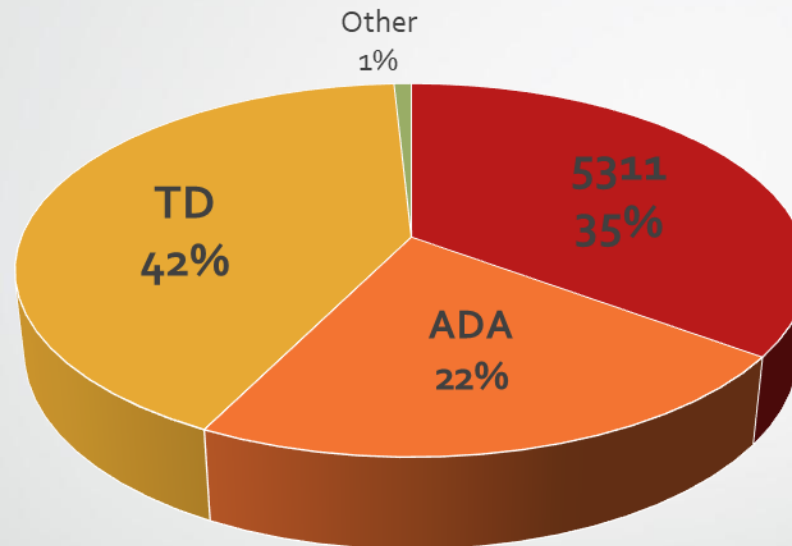


2020 Rider Breakdown

# Service (TRIP) Summary January – December 2020

TD = 25,139  
5311 = 21,125

ADA = 13,364  
Other = 503



We are beginning to see our trips increase to pre-COVID 19 averages of 350 – 450 trips per day.

In 2020 our total one-way trips were 60,131. Our vehicle miles were 1,623,115. Vs. 2019: One-way trips 82,248 / 2,168,263 miles.

**2019 vs. 2020 Trips were down by -27%**

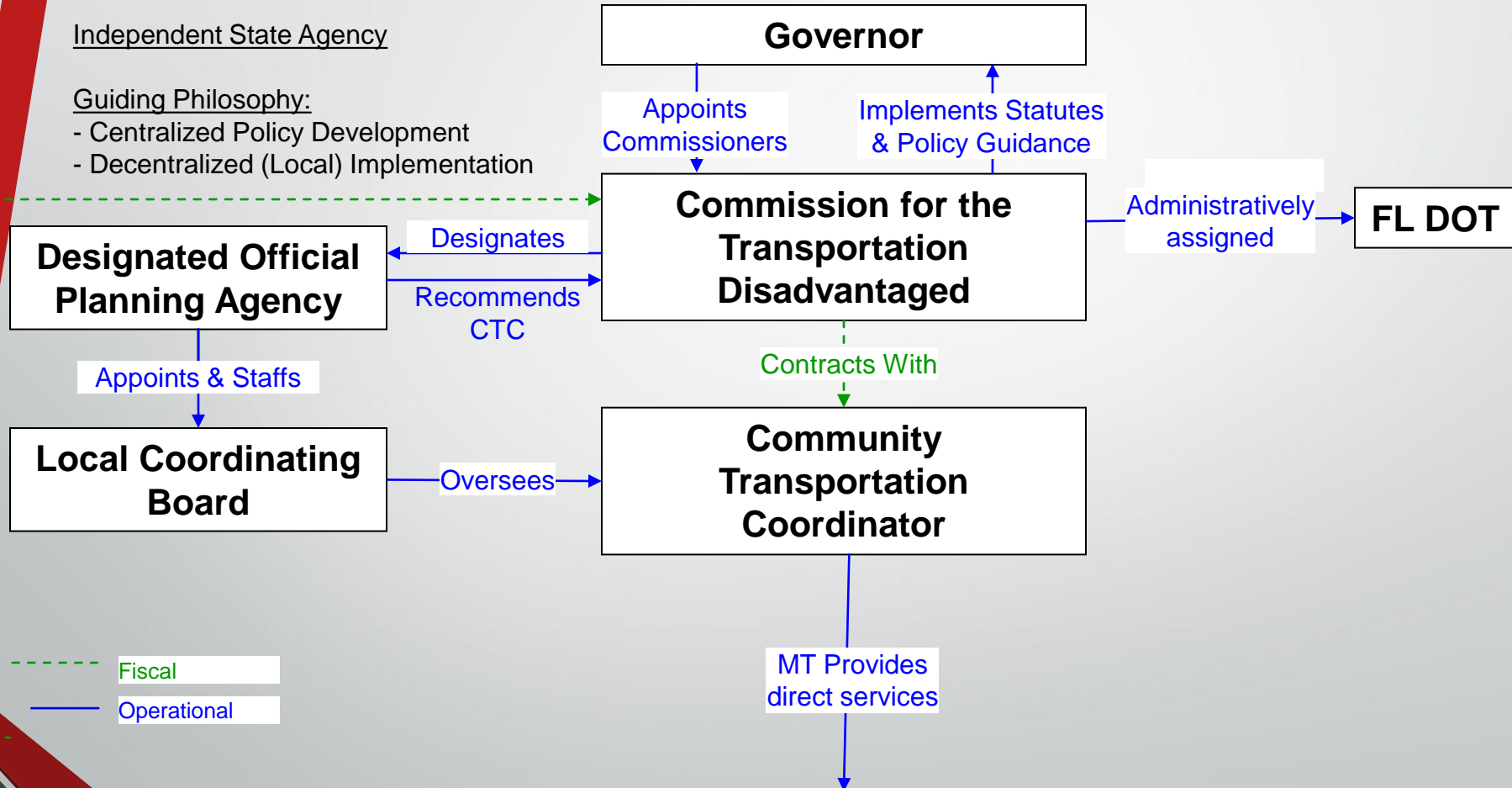
# Florida's Coordinated Transportation System Organizational Structure for *MARION TRANSIT*

**Transportation Disadvantaged Riders**

Independent State Agency

Guiding Philosophy:

- Centralized Policy Development
- Decentralized (Local) Implementation



Fiscal

Operational

**Transportation Disadvantaged Riders**

(Older Adults, Persons with Disabilities, People with Low Incomes, At-Risk Children)



# Questions ?

## MARIONTRANSIT Mission:

*"Is to provide public transportation that offers riders a high-quality safe, reliable, and efficient paratransit experience."*

352-620-3071

