



Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Meeting

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

June 25 2020

3:00 PM

WORKSHOP MINUTES

Members Present:

Michelle Stone (left at 3:35pm)

Jeffrey Askew

Andrea Melvin

Susan Hanley

Members Not Present:

Tracey Sapp

Charmaine Andersen

Carissa Hutchinson

Jeff Aboumrad

James Haynes

Tamika Young

Kathleen Woodring

Anissa Pieriboni

Tracey Alesiani

Carlos Colon

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO

Derrick Harris, TPO

Liz Mitchell, TPO

Anton Schauerte, TPO

Tom Wilder, Marion Transit

David Boston, City of Ocala

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairwoman Michelle Stone called the workshop to order at 3:06pm. Liz Mitchell called the roll of members.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman Michelle Stone led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3. Proof of Publication

Liz Mitchell announced the workshop was published online on the TPO website, the City of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites on June 18th, 2020. The workshop was also published to the June 18th, 2020 edition of the Star Banner.

Item 4. TPO Staff Presentation of MPO's Responsibility as the Designated Planning Agency for TD

Liz Mitchell presented information on the background of the TD program. In the 1970's the program was established to address concerns about duplication and fragmentation of transportation services. How MPO's work in conjunction with FDOT and other partner agencies to develop federal and state required transportation plans and programs for their regions. How all designated agencies are required to include a transportation disadvantaged element in their program. The definition of transportation disadvantaged and that not just disabled but income status, age, and children who are at risk or high risk were also provided service. The program concept is to offer a level of service comparable to that provided to persons without disabilities. The Commission's administration of the TD Trust Fund for use of operations and statewide local grants program was presented. Liz Mitchell explained that funding for the program comes from revenues collected from the vehicle registrations. Every registration has \$1.50 earmarked for the TD Trust Fund program. Also, citizens can donate additional dollars through the voluntary contributions for more rides to people that ride in their county. The funds collected in each county go toward additional trips in that county.

Item 5. SunTran Annual Report

Mr. David Boston, City of Ocala, provided an annual report presentation for SunTran. Mr. Boston's presentation covered an extensive summary of SunTran activities, including: staffing and management; federal compliance; finances including the recent CARES Act; safety measures and COVID mitigation and maintenance; partnership building; future potential route changes; and capital improvements.

Item 6. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Status Update

Mr. Harris presented an update on the progress of the 2045 LRTP. He stated that the TPO had been anticipating having a great deal of public outreach where staff would go out to various locations in the community and discuss any transportation needs the public had. However, with the sudden global pandemic, staff found that it would not be wise to have public meetings. Therefore, virtual meetings and an interactive map were set up. Those tools would replace what would have been in person public meetings. The TPO held a virtual public meeting on June 18 with the option of in-person attendance at the County Commission Auditorium. Approximately 30 participants were in attendance virtually and three in person at the auditorium. He presented an overall explanation on how to submit comments and transportation needs to staff. The interactive map is virtual and he demonstrated how to access the site and navigate to the pertinent areas and identify project improvements. From June 18 to July 30, a virtual public workshop webpage will be open to the public. Everyone was encouraged to share the webpage with family, friends and neighbors, and provide feedback.

Item 7. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Mr. Anton Schauerte, Transportation Planner, presented the draft TIP document, including an overview of the comments received during the 30-day public review process. The 30-day process began on May 19 and was extended to June 23. The TPO posted the draft TIP on its website on May 19, and sent notifications via social media, email blasts to public partners, including all key federal, state and local agencies. The TPO also conducted presentations at two TAC and CAC meetings, City of Dunnellon City Council meeting and Belleview City Commission meeting. The TIP was shared via social media by Marion County and advertised in the Ocala Star Banner. He reviewed the funding process, color coding, improvement on maps, and labeling process. He demonstrated how to access the TIP on the TPO website and how to identify projects. He mentioned the importance of the 30 day public comment period to make everyone aware for next year and be on the lookout for it.

Item 8. TPO Website and Social Media

Mr. Rob Balmes announced that Shakayla Irby is the Social Media Coordinator however, she was not present due to maternity leave. She recently gave birth to a healthy 8lbs, 5oz. baby boy named Karter. He informed everyone that they currently have a new website that the TPO worked hard to make certain that it was user friendly, simple and straight forward, but also ADA compliant. Mr. Balmes demonstrated many of the features of the website, how to access them and how they are still in the process of building some of the widgets. He also mentioned that they have a Facebook page, Twitter and LinkedIn and that the TPO would love to have everyone take a look, follow us and like us, provide comments and/or feedback. He also mentioned that they would share content with anyone wanting to exchange, and/or share information that would be pertinent, an informative relating to transportation.

Item 9. Comments by TDLCB Members

There were no comments by the TDLCB members.

Item 10. Comments by TPO Staff

There were no comments by the TPO staff.

Item 11. Comments by Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC)

Tom mentioned that the Triennial audit done recently by the FTA revealed a need to separate Marion Senior Services from Marion Transit (MT) since MT is a public transportation service not just for seniors. He stated that they have been attempting to grow the rural areas with 5311 funding because the TD funding is for non-sponsored trips. He stated that 2020 census will affect us as population increases the formula for funding gets more complex, 5311 funds cannot be used to transport someone that lives in a small urban area. In the future, funding from the CARES ACT will be utilized for funding to expand into the rural areas, such as Marion Oaks area, right now it's being used for capital expenses, and operations. It would be good to collaborate with SunTran in the Marion Oaks area to help riders get back and forth to work through potentially a coordinated system or corridor bus. The future will be to sustain, and build the trips back up since riders are starting to ride again.

Item 12. Public Comment (limited to 2 minutes)

There was no public comment.

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Item 13. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Mr. Askew read a statement from Chairwoman Michelle Stone stating that she left early but had another meeting to attend however, she wished everyone a healthy and safe holiday weekend.

Vice Chairman Mr. Askew adjourned the meeting 4:03pm.

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Respectfully Submitted By:

Liz Mitchell, Grants Coordinator/Fiscal Planner