

**MEETING MINUTES**

**LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD  
FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED of the  
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

**Board of County Commission Chambers  
Collier County Government Center  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor  
Naples, FL 34112**

**March 3, 2021**

**1:30 p.m.**

**\*\*Virtual participation via ZOOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Roll Call with Self Introductions**

**Commissioner Solis** called the public workshop to order at approximately 1:34 p.m.

**Ms. Otero** took roll call and confirmed a quorum was present.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**Commissioner Solis** led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present In-person**

Commissioner Andy Solis, Collier County BCC District 2, Chair  
Susan Corris, SWFL Regional Workforce Development Board  
Dale Hanson, FDOT  
Leah Watson, Agency for Persons with Disabilities

**Members Participating Remotely**

Signe Jacobson, FL Agency for Health Care Administration  
Sherry Brenner, Citizens Advocate  
Oscar Gomez, Veterans Service

**Members Absent**

Cheryl Burnham, Florida Assoc. for Community Action  
Robert Richards, Florida Dept. of Education, Div. of Voc. Rehab.  
Dylan Vogel, Citizens Advocate  
John Kasten, Collier County School Board

Norma Adorno, Area Agency on Aging SWFL-FL Dept. of Elder Affairs  
Belinda Amankwaa, Florida Department of Children and Family Services

**MPO Staff**

Brandy Otero, Principal Planner  
Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director  
Karen Intriago, Administrative Assistant

**Others Present**

Michelle Edwards-Arnold, Director, Collier County PTNE  
Elena Ortiz-Rosado, PTNE  
Omar DeLeon, PTNE  
Mari Maldonado, MV Transportation  
Michelle Malburg, Immokalee resident, paratransit user

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Ms. Corris moved for approval of the agenda. Ms. Watson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

**3. ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON LOCAL TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD) PROGRAM AND PROCESS**

**Brandy Otero** gave brief overview of the purpose of the public workshop and how it is advertised to the public.

**A. Public Comments on Local TD Program and Process**

**Ms. Malburg** read a letter regarding her concerns into the record. The letter is available upon request. **Ms. Malburg** commented on the difficulty and stress caused to persons like herself who have a disability due to excessive time waiting for paratransit to arrive, excessive time traveling to/from destination and lack of clarity regarding scheduling rules.

**Ms. Arnold** responded that outer communities have a 2-hour window to pick-up; this does not include travel time. Policies were established by the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) and can change if LCB decides to. Logistical problem to picking up passengers within rural areas and urban areas and maintaining a 1-hr window. Anticipate some improvement after Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approves contract for new dispatch and scheduling system in terms of more efficient service. Probably more appropriate to review policies after we see what new service can do. TIGER Grant will build new transfer station in Immokalee. Have parking lot now, new station will be covered and out of the elements. Construction to start in 2022.

**Commissioner Solis** How does 2-hour window work?

**Mr. DeLeon** Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that time required to complete the trip must be compatible to the time it would take to complete the trip on fixed route service. Takes

1.5 hours to travel from Immokalee to urban area; paratransit must provide comparable service.

**Ms. Malburg** What is return policy?

**Ms. Arnold** Pickup versus drop off. We schedule travel time plus the 2-hour window.

**Ms. Malburg** It took half a day to complete her trip, with 2-hour wait for pick-up plus 2-hour travel time.

**Ms. Arnold** We need to do discuss with drivers and phone service so they provide better information; it's all in the riders' guide; we have a recorded version of the riders guide on the website, but a presentation to passengers would be helpful.

**Ms. Otero** We will see the CTC evaluation at the next meeting; I am concerned with the windows; educating the public is key.

#### **B. Member Comments on Local TD Program and Process**

None.

#### **C. Annual TD LCB Training**

**Ms. Otero** gave a presentation for annual training via PowerPoint. The training provided an overview of the TD program and process. Specifically highlighted the purpose of the MPO and the LCB, the purpose of the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, requirements of the LCB and the TD program, and the purpose of the Community Transportation Coordinator. The presentation is available upon request.

#### **4. ADJOURN ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

*With no further comments Commissioner Solis adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:13 p.m.*