

**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED**

Martin County Board of County Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996

www.martinmpo.com

(772) 221-1498

Monday, December 4, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) meeting of December 4, 2023, was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Chair Susan Gibbs Thomas, Mayor of Indiantown.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Anthony O’Neill-Butler, MPO Administrative Assistant, called roll.

Members in Attendance:

Susan Gibbs Thomas, Chair, Indiantown Council Member
Robert McPartlan, Vice Chair, Department of Children & Families Services
Daniel McHenry, Florida Department of Veteran’s Affairs
Becky Keith, Florida Division of Vocational Rehab
Dalia Dillon, Department of Elder Affairs
Michelle Miller, Representative for the Economically Disadvantaged (FACA)
Joe Azevedo, Martin County Career Center
Ashman Beecher, Martin County Transit
Monique Robbins, Representative for Children At-Risk
Mary Jo Pirone, Citizen’s Advocate/Rider Rep
Dr. Elizabeth Jekanowski, Rep. for Public Education Community District School Board
Milory Senat, Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Excused Members:

Phyl Weaver, Representative for Persons over 60

Members Not in Attendance:

Gayle McArdle, Representative for Persons with Disabilities
Ismir Ripley, Florida Department of Transportation
Brenda Matheny, Local Medical Community

Staff in Attendance:

Ricardo Vazquez, Senior Planner
Lucine Martens, Planner
Anthony O’Neill-Butler, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Chris Stephenson, Senior Resource Association
Karen Deigl, Senior Resource Association

Maggie St Louis, Tykes & Teens
Laverne Williams

A quorum was present for the meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Robert McPartlan to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Dalia Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023

A motion was made by Robert McPartlan to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023, seconded by Becky Keith. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Lucine Martens, MPO Planner, introduced Chris Stephenson of the Senior Resource Association (SRA) who presented the Quarterly Performance Report. Mr. Stephenson noted an error in the presentation which incorrectly displayed 7,297 trips provided for the County's Transportation Disadvantaged population. He estimated the correct amount to be approximately 16,000 trips.

Chair Susan Gibbs Thomas spoke high praises for the low wait time for the transit phone service, emphasizing how pleased she was that it was seconds and not minutes. She also noted that one of her constituents had contacted her and informed her that she had been provided with outdated information. Mr. Stephenson informed her that the phone number had not changed but he would provide his card to address the issue.

Karen Deigl, SRA CEO, wanted to take a moment to address the Board regarding funding. She spoke about the grant programs coming in the Spring, particularly the \$750,000 Innovative Service Development (ISD) grant for the dialysis program, which may not continue. It is a competitive grant process with other counties competing. Her talks with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) have indicated that we may not receive the funding in the next year and that the SRA and MPO are working on additional funding sources. One option in Martin County that she raised was the Impact 100 group, a local charity group, and the possibility of receiving a donation from them. She advised that more information would be available at the next LCB meeting.

Ms. Martens asked her to clarify the amount of the ISD Grant. Ms. Deigl repeated that it was \$750,000. Ms. Deigl went on to breakdown the numbers explaining that if Martin

County's contributions of \$166,000 stayed the same, and with the understanding that the formula for the Trip and Equipment (T&E) grant will increase somewhat due to the higher ridership by 5-10%, the ridership numbers would be about 17,000 versus 30,000, a roughly 40-50% decrease.

Chair Gibbs Thomas raised that the \$166,000 from Martin County was an increase in from the prior year to which Ms. Deigl applauded. Chair Gibbs Thomas then inquired if this included the \$12,500 donated from the Village of Indiantown and the City of Stuart to which Mr. Stephenson informed her that it did not.

Mr. Stephenson complimented the City of Stuart and the Village of Indiantown for each of their individual match funding to the FY 23-24 TD grants of \$12,500, totaling \$25,000.

Vice Chair Robert McPartlan stated that his concern is always sustainability and voiced his concerns regarding the 45% decrease in funding. Vice Chair McPartland was curious as to "whose tree we need to shake" to ensure that we continue to have sufficient funding. Ms. Deigl advised that the State is working on securing funding, but the ISD program operates on a year-to-year basis, even for the State. She advised that more work would need to be done to secure local funding as she and Mr. Stephenson have already worked closely with the State, and they are aware of the need for the ISD program. Ms. Deigl plans to come in front of the County Commission in February 2024 as a next step. Vice Chair McPartlan offered his full assistance to ensure we secure the necessary funding. He also asked about the other ISD grant to which Mr. Stephenson advised that it may also lose funding; over \$2 million. Mr. Stephenson further stated that the SRA is diligently working with local stakeholders to which Ms. Deigl emphasized that they are very pleased with the work that the Treasure Coast has done.

Vice Chair McPartlan inquired as to the maximum number of people that can be served on the Indiantown shuttle. Mr. Stephenson stated that it makes five (5) loops and holds up to sixteen (16) people sitting, with five (5) standing, and that there are times that it is at full capacity. He also mentioned that they have received funding to replace the current vehicle, which will be slightly larger. Ms. Deigl commented that the Sunday service may bring additional riders but also may lead to a slight decrease for the Saturday service due to its addition.

Chair Gibbs Thomas asked about funding on the federal level. Ms. Deigl advised that there is some potential available funding and that there is a new grant coming from FTA. Chair Gibbs Thomas recalled that Representative Mast had contacted Indiantown with agricultural grant opportunities since Indiantown has such an agricultural presence and the possibility of through those means.

A motion was made by Robert McPartlan to approve the Quarterly Performance Report, seconded by Dalia Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

B. ANNUAL OPERATING REPORT (AOR)

Chris Stephenson presented the Annual Operating Report (AOR) which showed the estimated number of trips (Operating Subsidy or Capital) for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Monique Robbins to approve the Annual Operating Report (AOR), seconded by Becky Keith. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) COORDINATION CONTRACTS

Chris Stephenson presented the current contracts for all four (4) agencies that the SRA is in a coordinated contract agreement with. This included Helping People Succeed, the Kane Center, the ARC of Martin County, and the Council on Aging of St Lucie County.

A motion was made by Dalia Dillon to approve the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Coordination Contracts, seconded by Monique Robbins. The motion passed unanimously.

D. COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) EVALUATION

Lucine Martens informed the Board that the Martin MPO would be conducting the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation and asked for volunteers.

Ashman Beecher, Transit Administrator, volunteered to assist in the evaluation.

Chair Susan Gibbs Thomas asked how many people the evaluation would target to reach and when the evaluation would take place. Ms. Martens stated that she would like as many as possible and that it would be in March.

Vice Chair Robert McPartlan asked about the process of reaching out via telephone calls and wondered if anyone would perhaps give testimonials which may prove useful when looking for additional grant funding. Ms. Martens advised that the questions can be customized but that it can be difficult to ask people what they would do without these transportation programs.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None

8. NOTES

Transit Development Plan and Survey

Join us at one of the two TDP Listening Sessions:

- a. District 2 - Cassidy Center/Lamar Park – Golden Gate, December 6, 2023, at 3 pm
- b. District 1 - Jammin' Jensen, December 7, 2023, at 5 pm

9. NEXT MEETING

- March 4, 2024 (Commission Chamber. Administrative Bldg.)

10. ADJOURN 10:37 A.M.

Prepared by:


for 

Anthony O'Neill-Butler, Administrative Assistant

3/5/24

Date

Approved by:



Susan Gibbs Thomas, Chair

3/5/24

Date