

**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 8, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) meeting of December 8, 2025, was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Mayor Carmine Dipaolo, Chair.
- 2. ROLL CALL** – Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant, called roll.

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Carmine Dipaolo – Chair, Village of Indiantown
Ashman Beecher, Martin County Transit
Phyl Weaver, Representative for Persons over 60
Michelle Miller, Representative for the Florida Association for Community Action
(FACA) Economically Disadvantaged
Dalia Dillon, Department of Elder Affairs
Gayle McArdle, Representative for Persons with Disabilities
Tatiana Gillyard, FDOT Representative
Michael Drost, Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs
Emily Hough, Florida Division of Vocational Rehab
Milory Senat, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Jennifer Langlois, Representative for Public Education Community District
School

Excused Members:

Gregory McDonald, Career Source Research Coast
Tarlaymoon Hosein, Citizens Advocate (Rider Rep)

Members not in Attendance:

Robert McPartlan, Vice Chair, Department of Children and Family
Brenda Matheny, Local Medical Community
Monique Robbins, Representative for Children at Risk Board

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Lucine Martens, Planner
Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner
Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Chris Stephenson, Martin County Transit (MCT) a Division of Senior Resource Association (SRA)

Erica Wozny, Martin County School District

A quorum was present for the meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Phyl Weaver to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Dalia Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- Public Workshop Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2025
- Regular Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2025

A motion to approve both the Public Workshop Meeting Minutes and the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2025, was made by Michelle Miller and seconded by Dalia Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Erica Wozny with the Martin County School District introduced herself. Ms. Wozny explained that she is the Assistant Principal of Stuart Middle School, has been with the Martin County School District for about thirteen years and that she is very happy in her position to serve not only the families, parents, teachers but also the students which are her “children”. Ms. Wozny went on to explain to the LCB that there is a need that Stuart Middle School has regarding transportation. The student athletes, specifically soccer players are expected to commute to Guy Davis Field in Stuart during their season which begins January 2026. Ms. Wozny stated that she had already spoken to Mr. Ashman Beecher and was also in communication with Mr. Chris Stephenson. However, it seems that they have hit a little bump in the road in the request process. The request is having the student athletes safely be picked up from Stuart Middle or a Marty bus stop close to the school (SE Hospital Ave and SE Ocean Blvd., a tenth of mile away from the school). It would be a huge help if a Marty bus could safely transport the student athletes to Guy Davis Field where their soccer field is located. This would not only ensure the safety of the student athletes but also help the parents knowing that their kids are being safely transported to Guy Davis Field. The request is for only the said pick-up from Stuart Middle and drop off at Guy Davis Field, the school can then arrange for their parents to pick them up. Ms. Wozny asked again for the LCB and Marty to please consider their request and the opportunity to find an opening in the bus schedule to potentially to pick the student athletes up. Ms. Wozny explained that she has been in communication with the School District Liability Department, including Don Calderon, and other District staff. All involved at the Martin County School District stated it would be great to collaborate with the Marty bus. Ms. Wozny stated a long-held goal would be achieved that our public schools, our

families can work together on a plan and partner with Marty. Ms. Wozny reiterated the request and stated that there would be approximately twenty-five student athletes that would need to be picked up by Marty bus.

Mayor Dipaolo asked Beth Beltran if she could investigate the matter, Ms. Beltran stated that she would talk and follow-up with Mr. Beecher, the Martin County Transit Administrator.

Phyl Weaver then asked if the School District could provide this transportation for the Stuart Middle School student athletes. Ms. Wozny explained that the School District transportation is responsible for 17,000 - 18,000 students including elementary, middle and high schools. The School District transportation ends at 4:15 pm, which is just around the time the student athletes need to get to the Guy Davis Field. Ms. Wozny also stated that looking to the future transportation partnerships would be needed for disadvantaged students that could use transportation for tutoring after school. Michael Drost stated that Ms. Wozny mentioned the District transportation day ends at 4:15 pm, and then he inquired as to what is the requirement of pick-up time for Stuart Middle School students. Ms. Wozny stated that the school buses are loaded up at 4:05 pm – 4:10 pm and then by 4:15 pm the school buses are leaving the campus to transport the students to their homes. Ms. Wozny continued and reiterated that there are no more School District buses available after 4:15 pm.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Chris Stephenson presented the Quarterly Performance Report and opened by noting that Martin County Transit is experiencing a strong fiscal year. Since the start of the State fiscal year on July 1, the Martin Community Coach Program has completed more than 8,900 door-to-door trips serving elderly, disabled, and low-income residents. This represents a 25% increase over the same period last year. The system has served 989 unduplicated passengers since July 1, with an average passenger age of 80. Mr. Stephenson also reviewed customer service metrics, noting that Martin Community Coach receives significantly more calls than the Advantage Ride Program. Average call wait times have improved following the addition of a new customer care agent, and staff will continue working to reduce wait times further. The system has received eight complaints year-to-date, the same number reported at this time last year, which Mr. Stephenson characterized as positive given the substantial increase in ridership. Mr. Stephenson concluded by noting ongoing uncertainty surrounding funding for certain programs after June 30, as these dollars are awarded competitively each year with no guarantee of renewal. Mr. Stephenson and his staff are monitoring the situation closely. He then invited questions from the Committee. There were no questions from Committee members.

A motion to approve the Quarterly Performance Report was made by Phyl Weaver and seconded by Dalia Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

B. ANNUAL OPERATING REPORT (AOR)

Mr. Stephenson presented the Quarterly Performance Report to the Committee.

Ms. Martens asked whether there is a benefit to agencies becoming coordinating contractors within the coordinated transportation system. Mr. Stephenson explained that one of the primary advantages is access to significantly discounted paratransit vehicles through an FDOT program. Nonprofits such as the Kane Center or Advocates for the Rights of the Challenged (ARC) often participate because the reduced vehicle cost allows them to transport their own clients rather than relying on the CTC. This autonomy is beneficial for both the agencies and the CTC, as it reduces the number of trips that would otherwise shift to the coordinated system. Two requirements accompany the discounted vehicle program. First, participating agencies must report their annual trip and service data to the CTC, which is why staff request these numbers each year. Second, in the event of a hurricane or other major emergency requiring mass evacuation, the agencies may be asked to temporarily provide their vehicles to the CTC for emergency operations. While this was not necessary during the current year, staff noted that coordinated contractors were called upon last year to support evacuation needs.

Mr. Stephenson invited questions from the Committee. There were no questions.

A motion to approve the Annual Operating Report (AOR) was made by Phyl Weaver and seconded by Jennifer Langlois. The motion passed unanimously.

C. COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) COORDINATION CONTRACTS

Mr. Stephenson presented the annual Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) coordination contracts. He explained that each year the CTC brings forward its coordination agreements and extensions for review, so the Local Coordinating Board is aware of the nonprofit partners participating in the coordinated system. For the current year, four organizations have elected to continue as coordination contractors: the Council on Aging of Martin County (Kane Center), Helping People Succeed, The ARC of the Treasure Coast, and the Council on Aging of St. Lucie County. Mr. Stephenson noted that all four agencies have signed agreements and remain active partners within Martin County's coordinated transportation system. This information was provided to ensure the LCB is aware of the nonprofits operating under coordination agreements in the County.

A motion to approve the CTC Coordination Contracts was made by Phyl Weaver and seconded by Michelle Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

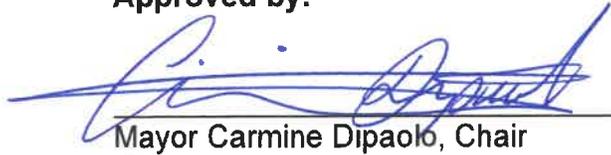
Gayle McArdle expressed her appreciation to Chris Stephenson and the Martin Community Coach team for the quality of the transportation program. She stated that the service has been excellent for riders like herself and noted a noticeable increase in the level of service provided. Ms. McArdle emphasized that the program plays an important role in keeping individuals connected to the community.

8. NOTES - None

9. NEXT MEETING- March 2, 2026, 10:00 am
Martin County Admin Center, Commission Chambers

10. ADJOURN 10:23 A.M.

Approved by:



Mayor Carmine Dipaolo, Chair

Date

Prepared by:

Susan Ortiz, Administrative Assistant

Date

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons with questions or concerns about nondiscrimination, or who require special accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act or language translation services (free of charge) should contact Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner (Title VI/Non-discrimination Contact) at (772) 223-7983 or rvazquez@martin.fl.us. Hearing impaired individuals are requested to telephone the Florida Relay System at #711.