

**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, June 1, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) meeting of June 1, 2026, was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Mayor Carmine Dipaolo, Chair.
- 2. ROLL CALL** – Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator, called roll.

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Carmine Dipaolo – Chair, Village of Indiantown

Ashman Beecher, Martin County Public Transit

Dalia Dillon, Department of Elder Affairs

Phyl Weaver, Representative for Persons over 60

Tatiana Gillyard, FDOT Representative

Milory Senat, Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Michael Drost, Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs

Michelle Miller, Representative for the Florida Association for Community Action (FACA) Economically Disadvantaged

Jennifer Langlois, Representative for Public Education Community District School

Emily Hoge, Florida Division of Vocational Rehab

Gayle McArdle, Representative for Persons with Disabilities

Excused Members:

Robert McPartlan, Vice Chair, Department of Children and Family

Members not in Attendance:

Gegory McDonald, Career Source Research Coast

Monique Robbins, Representative for Children at Risk Board

Brenda Matheny, Local Medical Community

Tarlaymoon Hosein, Citizens Advocate (Rider Rep)

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator Bolivar
Gomez, Senior Planner

Others in Attendance:

Karen Deigl, Martin County Transit Chris
Stephenson, Martin County Transit

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

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026, was made by Jennifer Langlois and seconded by Phyl Weaver. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bessie Mariner commented on her work as a case manager with persons with disabilities in St. Lucie County and Martin County. She praised Answer to Care for their help and the consequences of not renewing the grant.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Quarterly Performance Report

Chris Stephenson presented the CTC Quarterly Report for the period of July 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026. The Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program provided more than 24,000 trips during the reporting period, a 26% increase over the previous year, largely due to increased ISD Grant funding. Staff also reported that the program now serves more than 3,000 registered passengers, while customer service metrics, including call wait times, continued to exceed performance standards.

Transit ridership remained strong, with MARTY fixed-route service increasing 21% over the previous year and 36% since becoming fare-free in November 2025. The Indiantown Shuttle continued to perform well, with funding secured through June of next year. Staff also reported record ridership for the Advantage Ride Program but reminded the committee that the program will end on June 30, 2026 due to state funding limitations.

Committee members discussed the upcoming conclusion of the Advantage Ride Program. Staff explained that the program is funded through a \$1.5 million annual grant from the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged and serves individuals with developmental disabilities across Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, and Okeechobee counties, providing approximately 40,000 trips annually. Staff noted that the program has been highly successful, receiving statewide recognition, but is ending because it is no longer eligible for grant funding.

Staff reported that participants have been notified of the program's closure and provided information on alternative transportation options through their local Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) programs. The call center has experienced an increase in inquiries from affected riders seeking assistance with transitioning to other services. Committee members discussed advocating for continued funding and encouraged outreach to the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged and state legislators to highlight the program's impact before upcoming grant decisions.

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

B. FY 25/26 Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation

Bolivar Gomez presented the annual Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. As the designated planning agency, the Martin MPO completed the evaluation of Martin County Transit in their role as the county's CTC. The evaluation included more than 60 rider surveys, ride-alongs conducted by committee members, and inspections of transportation equipment. Staff reported that survey feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many riders describing the service as essential for accessing medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other daily needs. Staff requested the committee's approval of the FY 2025–2026 CTC Evaluation.

A motion to approve the FY 25/26 Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation was made by Phyl Weaver and seconded by Jennifer Langlois. The motion passed unanimously.

C. FY 26/27 Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Trip Rate Model

Staff presented the annual Community Transportation Trip Rate Model for approval for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. Staff explained that while the state budget includes a slight increase in Trip and Equipment Grant funding, final funding amounts remain subject to the Governor's approval. They also discussed ongoing concerns with the state's trip rate model, noting that many Community Transportation Coordinators have experienced funding decreases under the current formula since 2021. FDOT is expected to review the funding model to address these issues.

Staff further advised that approval of the Innovative Service Development (ISD) Grant remains pending. If the grant is not awarded, the Transportation Disadvantaged program

may face reduced service levels and the committee may need to establish trip priorities based on available funding. Staff plans to return at the August meeting with updated funding information and any necessary service recommendations.

A motion to approve the FY 26/27 Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Trip Rate Model was made by Dalia Dillon and seconded by Gayle McArdle. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program FY 26/27 Allocations for Martin County

Staff reported that the MPO Board approved Martin County's annual Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) planning grant allocation of approximately \$26,900 to support program planning and administration. Staff also reviewed the TD Trip and Equipment Grant allocations, noting that this year's funding increased by approximately \$13,000 due to additional spending authority provided by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. A record number of trips is expected to be reported in the Annual Operating Report, which may help increase future funding allocations, with the current projection for the trip and equipment grant at approximately \$294,000. In response to questions from the committee, staff explained that the increased funding will not fully offset the anticipated loss of the Advantage Ride Program, which ends June 30. As former Advantage Ride Program clients transition to the regular TD program, they will be subject to more limited-service hours and trip prioritization requirements. Staff noted that health care trips receive the highest priority under the TD program, meaning some riders who previously used the Advantage Ride Program for work or school trips may experience reduced access to transportation. The committee discussed the funding and operational challenges associated with the transition and the need to prioritize services within available resources.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None

8. NOTES - None

9. NEXT MEETING- August 31, 2026, 10:00 am (Workshop)
August 31, 2026, 10:30 am (Regular Meeting)
Martin County Admin Center, Commission Chambers

10. ADJOURN - 10:30 A.M.

Approved by:



Mayor Carmine Dipaolo, Chair

7/27/26

Date

Prepared by:



Tobias Faucher, Planner

7/27/26

Date

Minutes Approved on July 27, 2026

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