



**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED (LCB-TD) MEETING**

Martin County Board of County Commission Chambers
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996
www.martinmpo.com
(772) 221-1498

Monday, August 26, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

AGENDA

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 A.M.	
2. ROLL CALL	
3. APPROVE AGENDA	APPROVE
4. APPROVE MINUTES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2024 (pg. 2)	APPROVE
5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES, COMPLETE CARD TO COMMENT)	
6. AGENDA ITEMS	
A. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS (pg. 8)	APPROVE
B. TD PROGRAM GRANTS - UPDATE (pg. 17)	INFORMATION
C. LCB-TD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS (pg. 18)	INFORMATION
7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
8. NOTES N/A	
9. NEXT MEETINGS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 2, 2024, 10:00 am (Commission Chambers, Administration Bldg.)	
10. ADJOURN	

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

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Monday, June 3, 2024, at 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) meeting of June 3, 2024, was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Susan Gibbs-Thomas, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance:

Susan Gibbs-Thomas, Chair, Indiantown Council Member
Robert McPartlan, Vice Chair, Department of Children & Families Services
Brindell Serrano, Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs
Joe Azevedo, Martin County Career Center
Zachary Hoge, Florida Division of Vocational Rehab
Gayle McArdle, Representative for Persons with Disabilities
Modeline Acreus, Florida Department of Transportation Representative
Dalia Dillon, Department of Elder Affairs
Phyl Weaver, Representative for Persons over 60
Ashman Beecher, Martin County Transit
Mary Jo Pirone, Citizen's Advocate/Rider Rep
Milory Senat, Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Excused Members:

Monique Robbins, Representative for Children At-Risk
Dr. Elizabeth Jekanowski, Rep. for Public Education Community District School Board
Michelle Miller, Representative for the Economically Disadvantaged (FACA)

Members Not in Attendance:

Brenda Matheny, Local Medical Community

Staff in Attendance:

Beth Beltran, MPO Administrator
Ricardo Vazquez, Principal Planner
Lucine Martens, Planner

Others in Attendance:

Chris Stephenson, Senior Resource Association
Dana Elharintaragen, Stand Up for Independence (SUFI)

Melody Hearn, Family Care Council Area15
Laverne Williams, rider of the MCC and Marty

A quorum was present for the meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Phyl Weaver to approve the Agenda as presented. A second was provided by Mary Jo Pirone. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2024

A motion was made by Gayle McArdle to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2024. A second was provided by Robert McPartlan, the motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Melody Hearn representing the Family Care Council Area15 explained that TD transportation in Martin County and throughout the Treasure Coast enables those with disabilities access to the community. This transportation gives those with disabilities access to trainings, employment, daily activities that engage them in an inclusive community. She appreciates all the funding that supports the TD transportation program and that this service makes a world of difference.

Laverne Williams, a rider of the MCC and Marty, explained she is a resident of Martin County, who utilizes the transportation service, this service allows her to get out and be sociable, helps her grow, expand, heal, communicate and meet great people like her fellow riders. She thanked the committee for all they do to coordinate for the continuation of this important transportation service. She thanked public works for repairing the sidewalks and roadways for the regular Marty transit system. She explained she transfers between both services.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

A. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Chris Stephenson of the Senior Resource Association (SRA) presented the Quarterly Performance Report. He presented to the members, the CTC Performance Report for the period covering July 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024. He reported that there have been more TD trips this fiscal year than ever before in Martin County with a projected 28,000 trips by the end of the fiscal year. Each month they have spent the one hundred percent of the available Trip and Equipment (T&E) Grant dollars and one hundred percent of the Innovative Service Development (ISD) Grant dollars. They have also used one hundred percent of the additional monies that the Village of Indiantown, the City of Stuart, and the Martin County overmatch provided. Applications for MCC have increased 36% compared to this time last year.

Mr. Stephenson explained that for the FY 24/25 SRA is no longer eligible to apply for the ISD grant for the current project structure; providing for dialysis trips in Martin County. SRA has written a new grant application for a ISD grant for a new service using an app where TD riders can book trips using a smart phone on the day of the trip. SRA has already developed the app and implemented a pilot program in Martin County, and it has been very successful, and he feels it will be successful next fiscal year. The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) will be deciding today during their business meeting at 1:00 pm how much funding will be put towards this ISD project for Martin County. He noted that for the last year there have been unlimited trips for TD riders. If the funding is less than last fiscal year, the TD trips will be respectfully reduced, and they will facilitate riders getting alternate transportation arrangements.

Mr. Stephenson explained that the Indiantown Shuttle ridership is up 25% from last year. This service for Indiantown residents runs from Indiantown to Stuart on Saturdays and now on Sundays as of May 2024. It is funded with a FDOT Service Development Grant and a FDOT 5310 Grant. The Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee County Advantage Ride Program has provided 38,000 trips this fiscal year. Since its inception in 2020, when this program started, they have done over 166,000 trips for individuals with development disabilities. At the CTD meeting today, they will also be deciding how much funding will be put towards the Advantage Ride Program. Mr. Stephenson noted that the current Martin County ISD Grant Program and the current Advantage Ride Program are by far the most successful in the whole state of Florida. Last fiscal year the state gave SRA 2 million dollars of the 4 million dollars of the allocated funding for the ISD Grant program. Mr. Stephenson was available to answer questions.

Zachary Hoge inquired if Chris Stephenson could share with the committee how much SRA requested for the (4) County Advantage Ride program for fiscal year 24/25. Mr. Stephenson explained that they applied for the 1.5 million dollars. The best- case scenario they will get the 1.5 million, worst case scenario they will get 1.35 million.

A motion was made by Milory Senat to approve the Quarterly Performance Report. A second was provided by Mary Jo Pirone, the motion passed unanimously.

B. FY23/24 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) EVALUATION

Lucine Martens, Planner gave a brief overview of the FY23/24 Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation. Each year, pursuant to Chapter 427, Florida Statutes and Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code, the LCB-TD assists in the evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). Ms. Martens thanked all who volunteered to do ride-along surveys and phone call surveys. Throughout the evaluation process, riders emphasized how grateful and happy they were to have access to this important transportation service. It is their lifeline and they do not know what they would do if they lost their service. The CTC Evaluation Report package is complete, and it will be forwarded to the CTD. Gayle McArdle commented that transportation is a lifeline for people like herself, they cannot get to places without this transportation service. Access

to transportation is mentally, emotionally supportive, otherwise one becomes homebound, so it is critical to get the funding. She continued to state that Martin Community Coach does an incredible job, the service is absolutely excellent. She has used transportation in Martin County since 2006 as she has been wheelchair bound since then.

A motion was made by Phyl Weaver to approve the FY23/24 Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation. A second was provided by Robert McPartlan, the motion passed unanimously.

C. TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD) PROGRAM FY24/25 ALLOCATIONS FOR MARTIN COUNTY

Lucine Martens introduced the agenda item and informed the committee that this is an informational item. The Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) has provided the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staff with the funding allocations for the FY23/24 Trip & Equipment Grant (\$280,704) and the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Planning Grant (\$25,741) for Martin County all as of 4/5/2024. The Trip & Equipment Grant Agreement is between the CTD and the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). The TD Planning Grant Agreement is entered into annually between the MPO and the CTD. She was available to answer questions.

Susan Gibbs-Thomas asked how the FY 24/25 funding allocations compared to last year FY23/24. Mr. Stephenson explained that funding is slightly less than last year and that is because the TD Trust fund amount is less than last year. Also, he added that per the CTD project manager, had SRA not coordinated for so many trips last fiscal year, Martin County would have taken a bigger hit to the funding.

Laverne Williams asked since there is a reduction of funding, and the number of riders will be reduced, will that affect next year's funding. Mr. Stephenson stated that this is the nature of the funding where less money means less ridership and as consequence less funding for next year as the T&E Grant allocations are based on previous year performance that is plugged into a formula, and ridership is part of the formula. He reiterated that it is awesome that the Village of Indiantown, the City of Stuart, and the Martin County overmatch provided additional funding this year and that helped to bolster the ridership number. This increased ridership will go into next years formula for the following FY 25/26.

D. FY24/25 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) TRIP RATE MODEL

Lucine Martens gave a brief overview of the agenda item. Senior Resource Association (SRA), the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) must submit an updated Trip Rate Model to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) prior to the execution of the Trip and Equipment Grant Agreement. The Rate Model displays the FY

24/25 projected transportation rates (Ambulatory rate= \$39.49, Wheelchair rate= \$67.70). Ms. Martens explained that the ambulatory rate increased 38 cents and the wheelchair rate went up 65 cents. Also, that John Irvine, Project manager representing the CTD, has complemented SRA for being great stewards of taxpayers' money and keeping the rates in alignment with last year's rates.

Ms. McArdle inquired as to whether the trip rates are for a one-way trip or round trip. Mr. Stephenson clarified that the specified rates are for a one-way trip.

A motion was made by Phyl Weaver to approve the FY24/25 Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Trip Rate Model. A second was provided by Dalia Dillon, the motion passed unanimously.

E. TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED SERVICE PLAN (TDSP) MINOR UPDATE

Lucine Martens introduced the agenda item. The State of Florida requires that a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) be developed jointly between the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) and the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA), which is the Martin MPO, under the guidance and approval of the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD). The TDSP should be developed every 5 years. The DOPA must annually review and make any minor updates to the TDSP. The most significant change was the trip rates on page 47 of the TDSP document.

A motion was made by Phyl Weaver to approve the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) Minor Update. A second was provided by Mary Jo Pirone, the motion passed unanimously.

7. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robert McPartlan requested that the Teams meeting information for CTD business meeting at 1:00 pm, June 3, 2024, be forwarded to him. Also, he asked if under the worst case scenario where Martin County does not receive funding for the proposed ISD Grant project, would there be any discussion amongst the Martin MPO about these certain issues. Beth Beltran explained that on June 18, 2024, SRA will be giving a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and they will tell the story that this is what we are facing, how can you help us. At that point the BCC will make some decisions as to how they want to support this system in the future.

Ms. Williams also asked if Martin County does not get any additional funding for the citizens of Martin County, will SRA still accept new applications for the TD transportation (Martin Community Coach). She also asked what options will be available, if SRA finds out they don't have the ISD funding.

Mr. Stephenson did not want to speculate as to the outcomes of the CTD business meeting on June 3, 2024 (today), but he was reassuring that SRA is planning and will

communicate with the LCB-TD, riders, and coordinate for options appropriate to the proposed funding. Trip limitations may have to be implemented as in the past. Ms. Weaver also reminded everyone that in the past only 50% of trips were allowed to be for dialysis.

8. NOTES

9. NEXT MEETING

- Public Workshop and Regular Meeting; August 26, 2024, at 9:30 am (Commission Chambers, Administration Bldg.)

10. ADJOURN 10:38 A.M.

Prepared by:

Lucine Martens, Planner

Date

Approved by:

Susan Gibbs-Thomas, Chair

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, Senior 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.



**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB-TD) MEETING
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE: August 26, 2024	DUE DATE: August 19, 2024	UPWP#: 6
WORDING: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS		
REQUESTED BY: Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD)	PREPARED BY: Lucine Martens / Beth Beltran	DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION: CTC Quarterly Performance Report

BACKGROUND

Senior Resource Association (SRA), the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), is required to provide the LCB-TD with a performance report.

ISSUES

SRA staff will provide the CTC Performance Report for FY23/24 and the CTC Performance Report for the first month of FY24/25 at the August 26, 2024, LCB-TD Meeting for review and approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

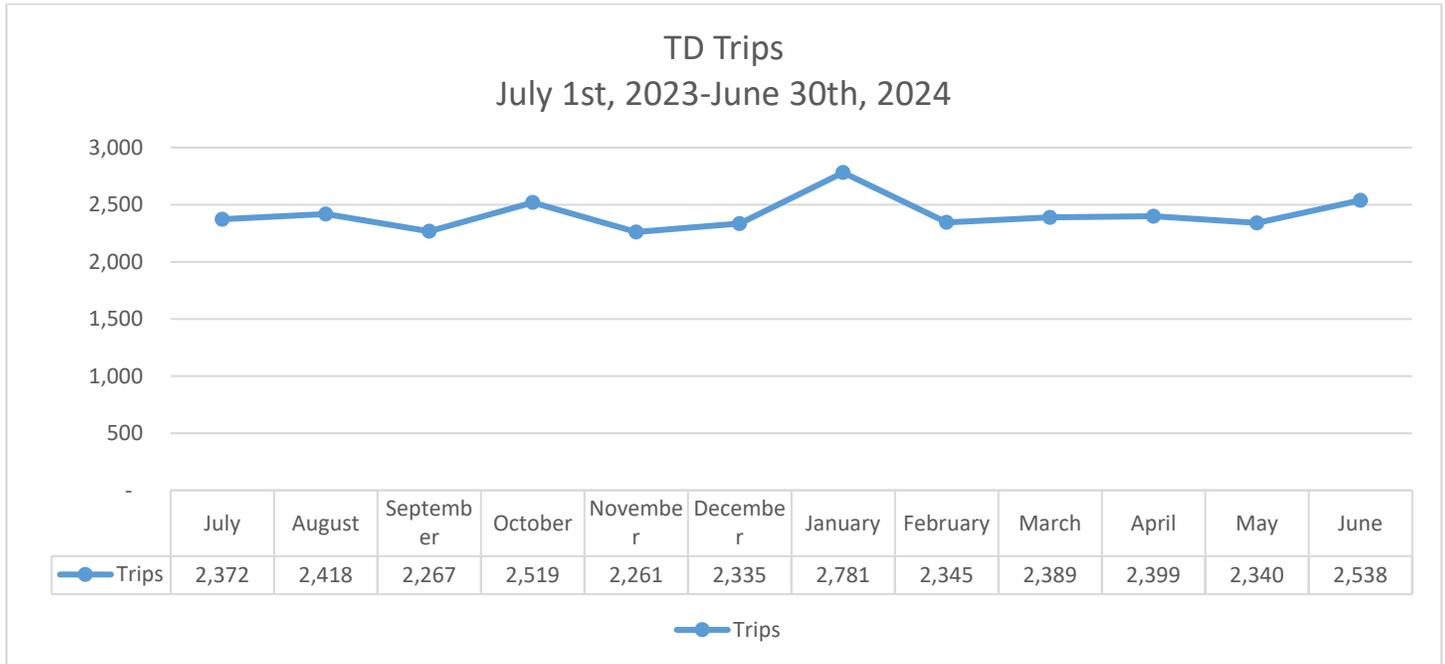
- a. Approve the CTC Performance Report for FY 23/24 and the month of July, FY 24/25.
- b. Provide direction.

ATTACHMENTS

- a. CTC Performance Report for the period covering FY23/24 and the month of July, FY 24/25.

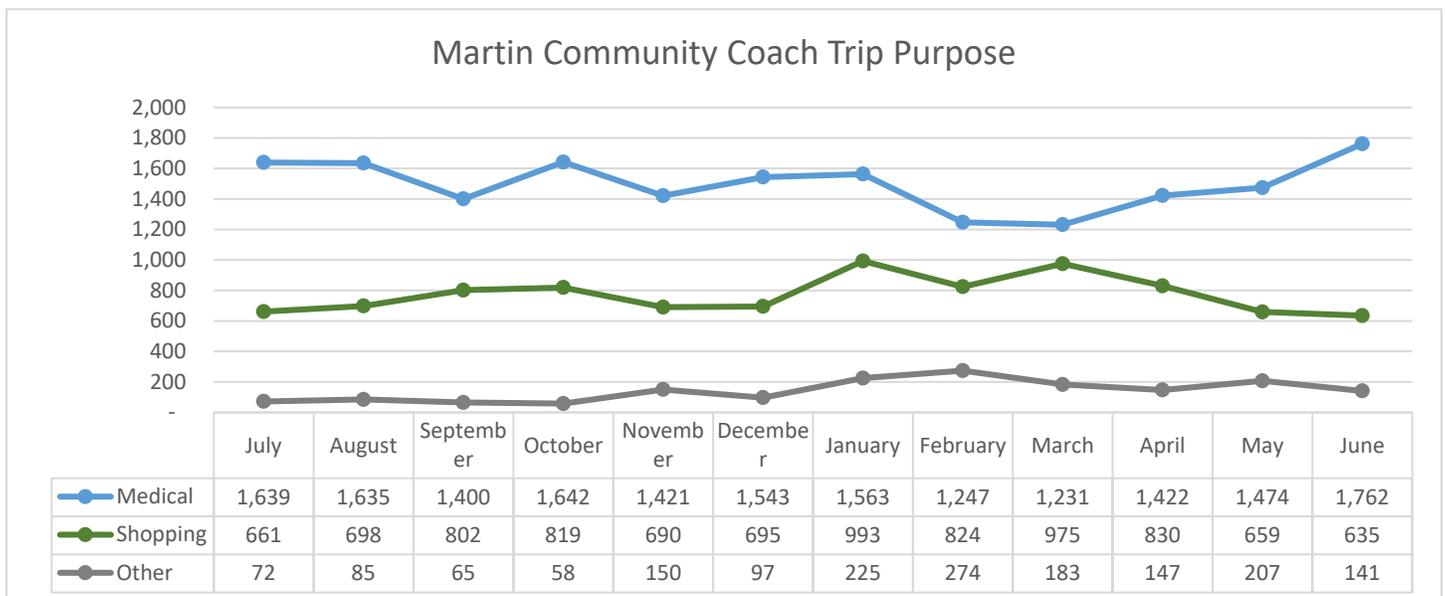
**Martin Community Coach
CTC Status Report-Final Report of 23/24 FY**

TD Trips



This includes all funding sources (Trip and Equipment Grant, ISD Grant, Local Trips Funded by Martin County, Indiantown and Stuart)

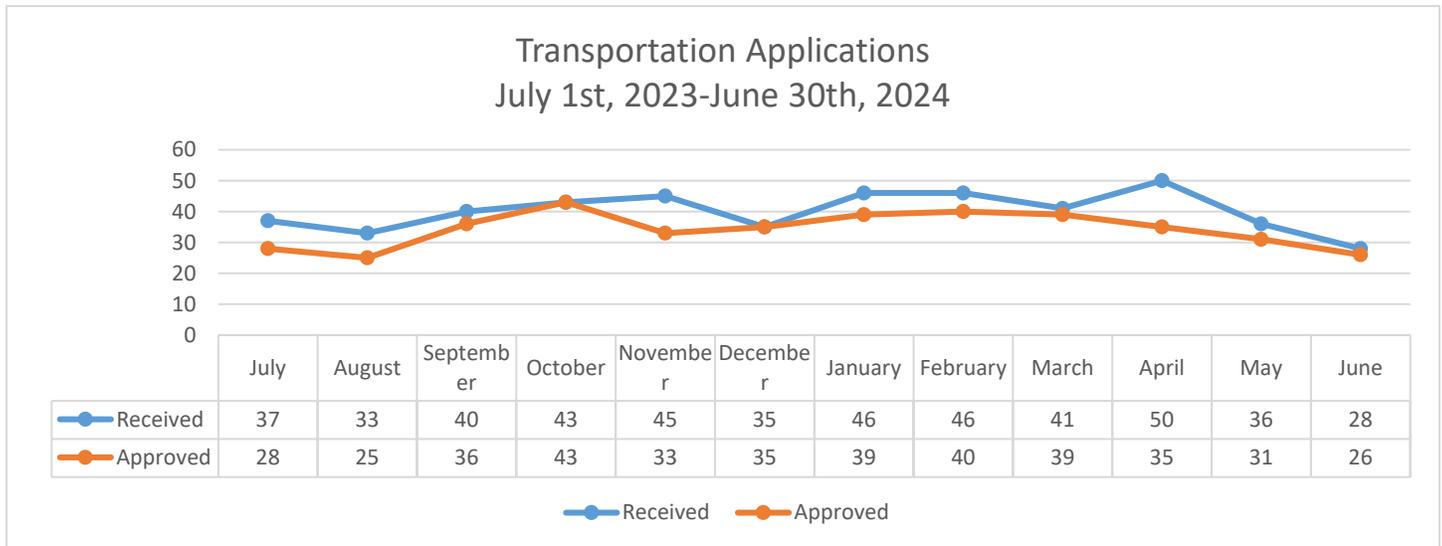
- 28,964 trips
 - This is a 30% increase compared to the 22/23 FY
 - 20,996 ambulatory trips
 - 7,976 wheelchair trips
- 100% of the available Trip and Equipment grant dollars was spent
- 100% of the available ISD grant dollars was spent
- 100% of the additional local TD money was spent



**Martin Community Coach
CTC Status Report-Final Report of 23/24 FY**

Passenger Applications

Applications received in Martin County increased 28% compared to last year



Passenger Information

Unduplicated Head Count: 830

Average Age of TD Passenger: 79

Transportation Vendors

Vendor Name	Days Available to Work
ARC of Martin County	Monday-Friday (2 drivers)
A Martin Transportation	Saturdays
St. Lucie County Council on Aging	Monday-Saturday
An Answer To Care Transportation	Monday-Saturday
Ultimate Comfort Transportation	Monday-Saturday

Complaints

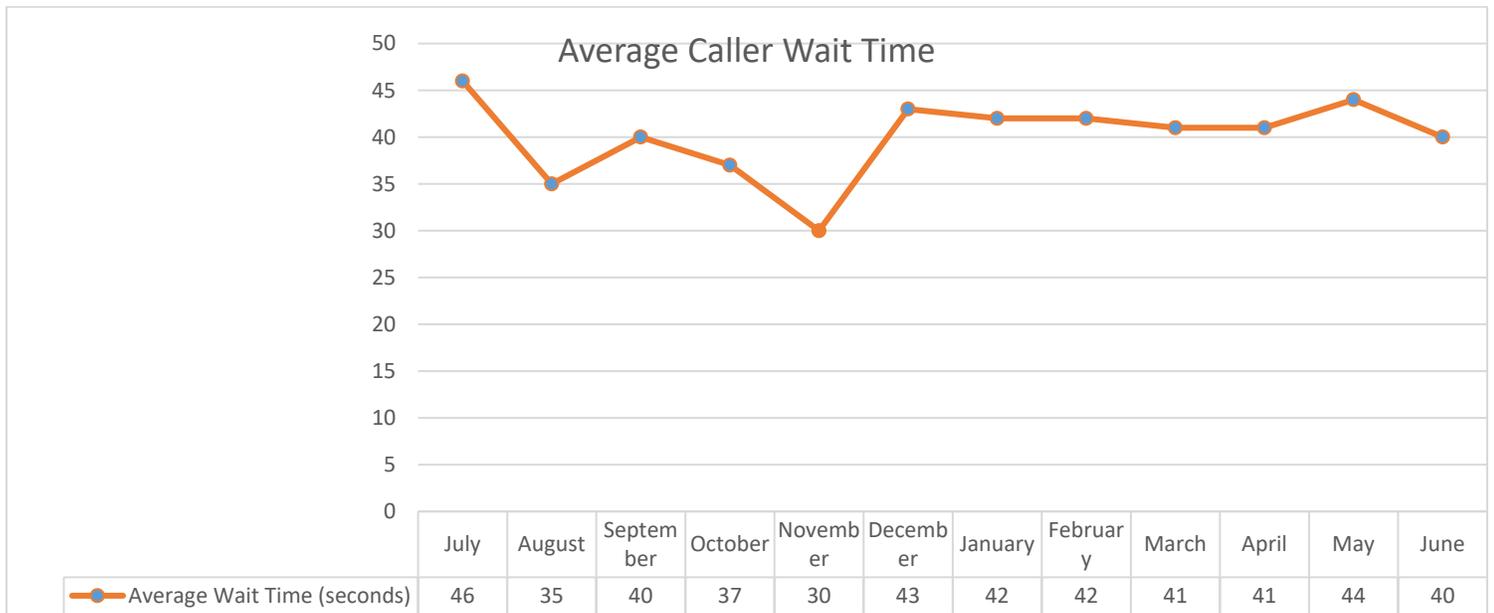
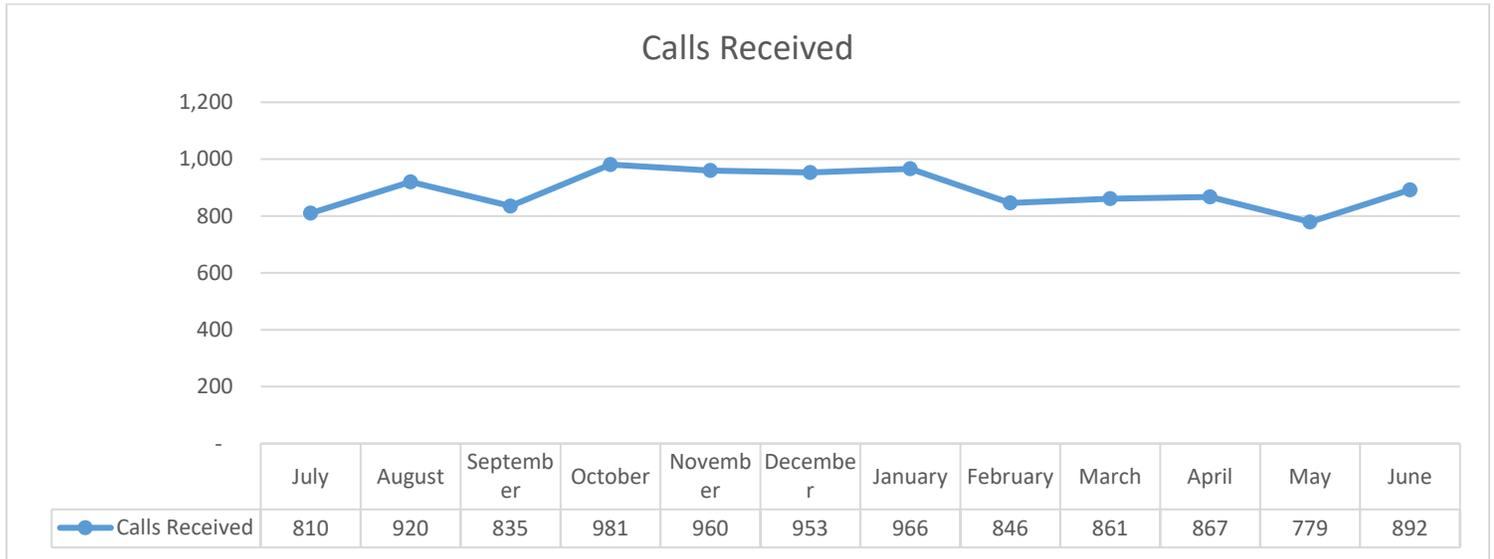
Complaints Received Year-To-Date: 22

No Shows by Vendors Year-To-Date: 19

No Shows by Passengers Year-To-Date: 187 (less than 1 a day)

**Martin Community Coach
CTC Status Report-Final Report of 23/24 FY**

Phone Information

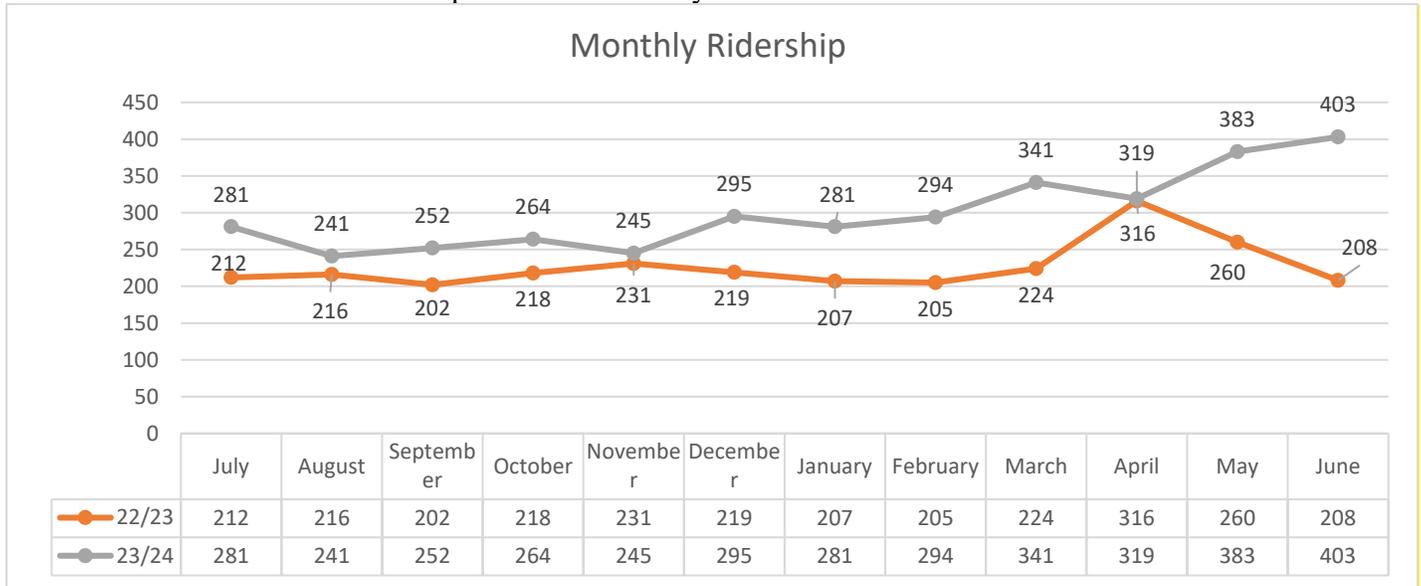


For the FY we received 10,670 calls and the wait time averaged 40 seconds.

**Martin Community Coach
CTC Status Report-Final Report of 23/24 FY**

Indiantown Shuttle

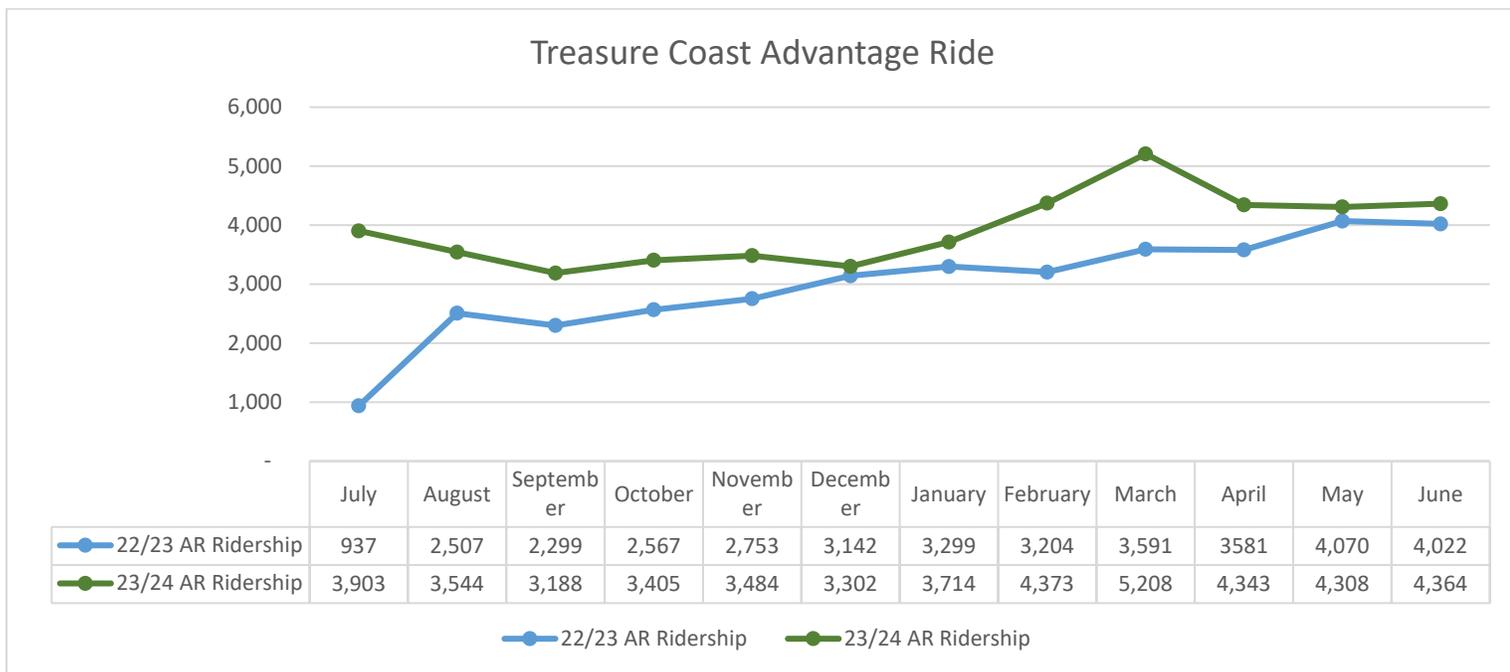
- For the FY, Shuttle ridership was 3,599 trips.
- This is a 32% increase compared to last fiscal year.



As of May 5th, the shuttle now operates on Saturdays AND Sundays

Treasure Coast Developmental Disability Advantage Ride

- For the FY, Advantage Ride ridership was 47,136 trips. This is a 31% increase compared to last fiscal year.



Martin Community Coach
CTC Status Report-Final Report of 23/24 FY

TD Program Update

- SRA applied for a new \$750,000 ISD Grant in April of 2024
 - We received an award of \$386,375 in June, 2024
 - SRA was the only “new applicant” funded by the CTD
- SRA is always looking for new funding opportunities for the TD Program
- SRA to have discussions with Stuart and Indiantown about matching the TD program again this year
- Martin County has it in their budget to overmatch the TD Program at least \$146,146 in the 24/25 FY
 - Possibly \$150,000 this fall and \$190,970 in the spring
 - No trip limitations are currently happening
- Our Advantage Ride ISD Grant award was 9.2% less in FY24/25 than FY23/24.

CTC Status Report –July, 2024

Prepared: August 6th, 2024

By Chris Stephenson, Transportation Director

TD Trips

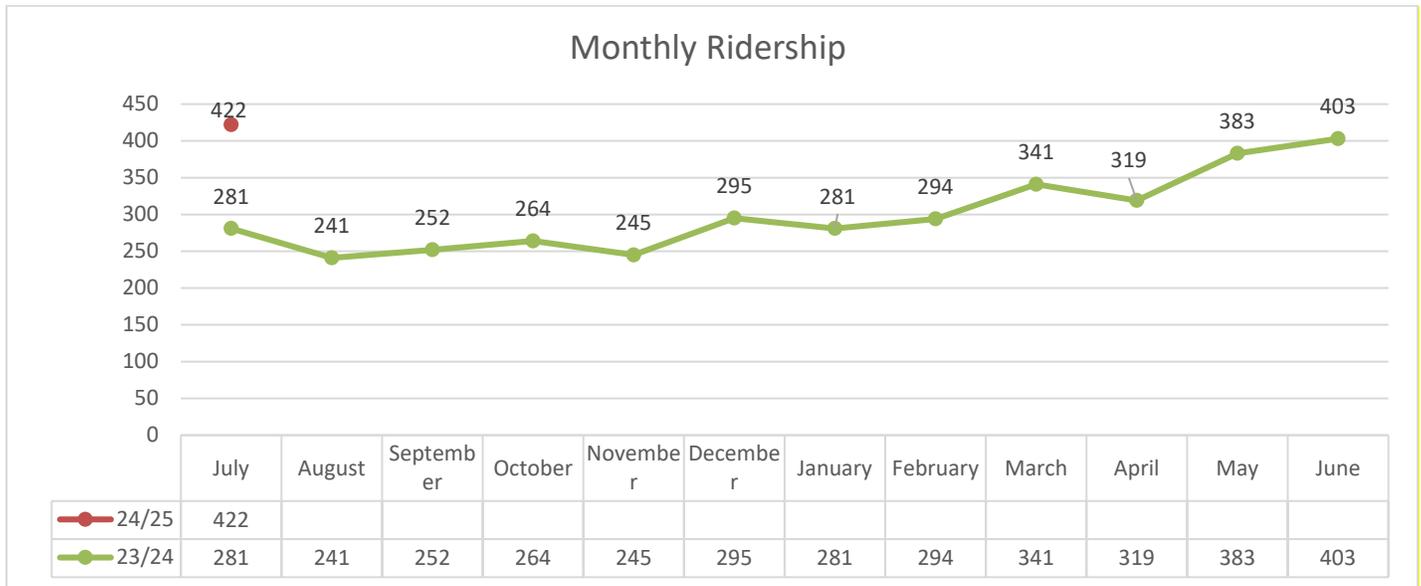
- 1,769 TD trips provided in July, 2024
 - 693 from the T& E Grant
 - 748 from the ISD Grant
 - 328 From the Local County



- 75% of trips in Martin County were for Medical in July, 2024

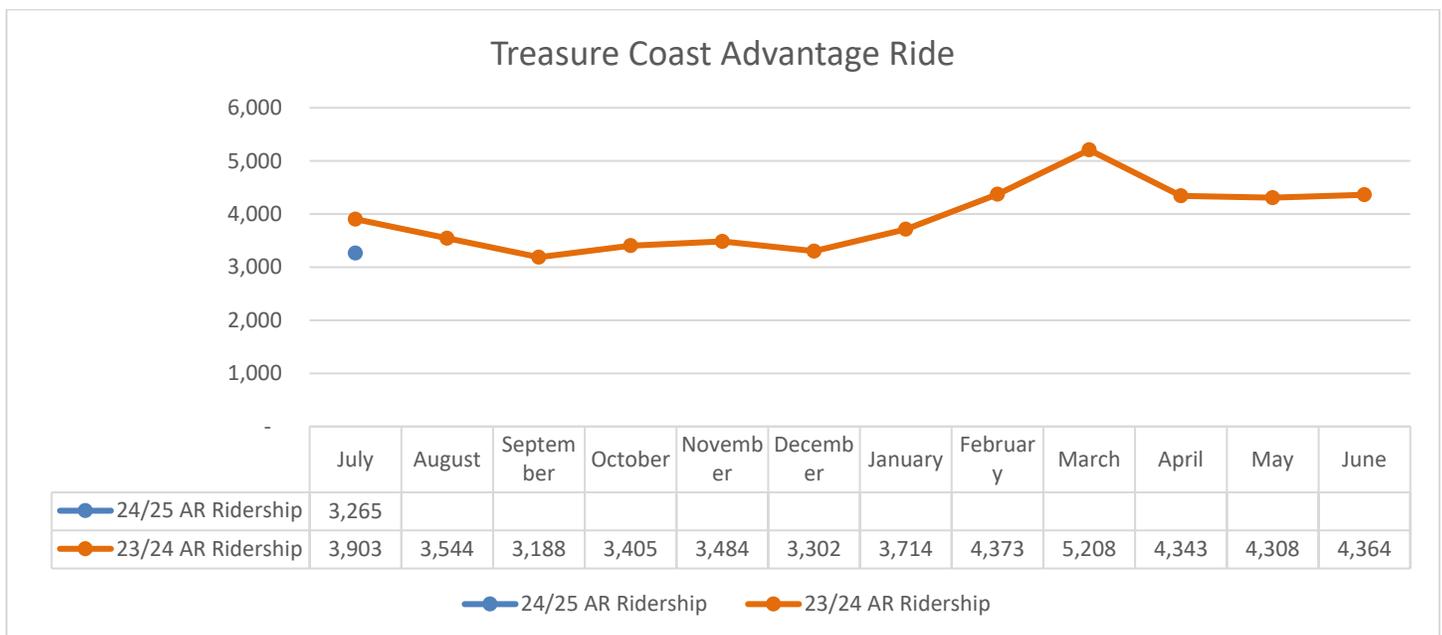
Martin County Indiantown Shuttle

- Ridership in July was 422 passengers.
- This is a 50% increase compared to last year.
 - As of May 5th, the shuttle now operates on Saturdays AND Sundays

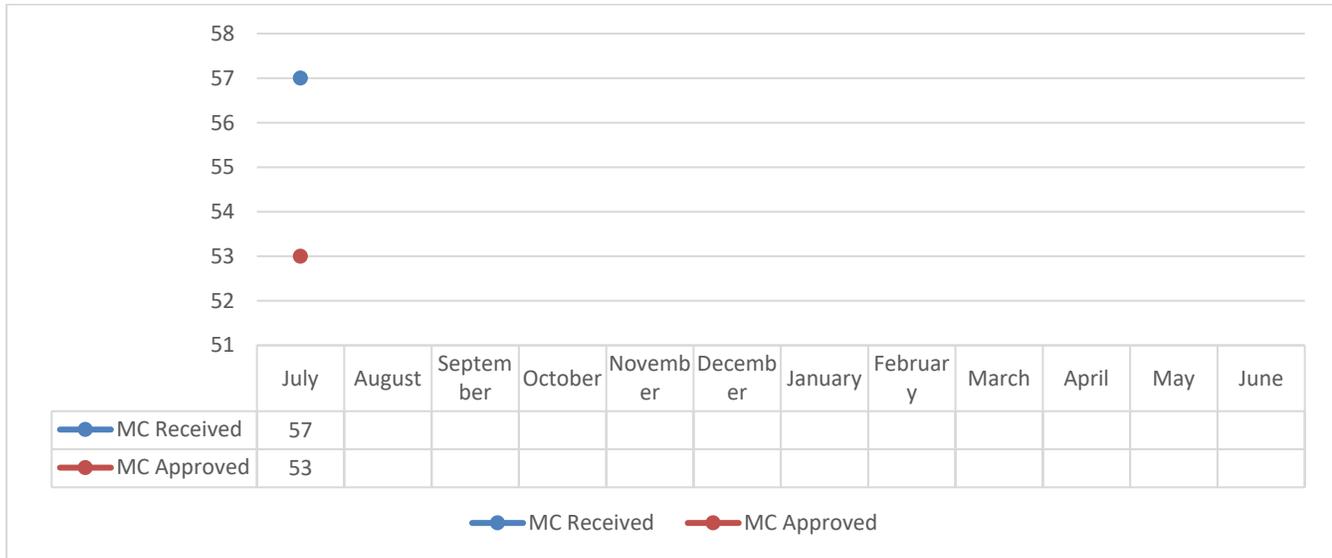


Treasure Coast Developmental Disability Advantage Ride

- 3,265 passenger trips for people with developmental disabilities in July 2024.
- Our Advantage Ride ISD Grant award was 9.2% less in FY24/25 than FY23/24. This is why we have done less trips this year.



Demand-Response Applications Processed



Phone Reports-July, 2024

Service	# of Phone Calls in July	Avg. Wait Time*
Martin Community Coach	822	17 seconds
Advantage Ride	643	10 seconds
Total	1,465	13.5 seconds

*Wait times do NOT include the SRA recording

System Complaints

3 complaints were received in July 2024

- 3 regarding Community Coach
 - 1 about Timeliness
 - 2 about Customer Service

By Comparison, 4 complaints were received in July, 2023

New Hours/Routes

- The new transit service hours on weekdays (from 6am until 9pm) started on Monday, May 6th
- Saturday Service expanded to 7am-7pm on August 3, 2024



**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB-TD) MEETING
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE: August 26, 2024	DUE DATE: August 19, 2024	UPWP#: 6
WORDING: TD PROGRAM GRANTS - UPDATE		
REQUESTED BY: MPO	PREPARED BY: Lucine Martens / Beth Beltran	DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION: N/A

BACKGROUND

Each year the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) awards the grant(s) to the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), Senior Resource Association (SRA). These grants provide funding for the TD trips in Martin County. All grants require a minimum 10% match. The formula grant awarded each year is the Trip and Equipment (T&E) Grant.

UPDATE

On June 3, 2024, at the CTD Business meeting the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) voted unanimously to award an Innovative Service Development (ISD) Grant in the amount of \$347,738 + \$38,637 Local Match = \$386,375 to the Martin County CTC, Senior Resource Association (SRA).

Here is a brief description of the Martin County ISD Grant Project FY 24/25:

- Provide same day or scheduled transportation to TD eligible individuals who reserve trips utilizing the online, self-service reservations mobile app. The Ecolane Community Coach Mobile App is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and allows scheduling in real time versus the current requirement to book a trip 72 hours in advance. Riders and their caregivers can reserve trips and verify trip status in real time.
- Estimates providing 24,000+ trips booked through the App.

In addition, at the July 22, 2024, Martin County Board of County Commission (BCC) Budget Workshop Meeting, the BCC supported the TD Transportation System in Martin County by proposing additional funding in the amount of \$150,000 (pending FY 25 Budget Adoption) and stated that they would revisit TD funding in February 2025.

With the Trip & Equipment (T & E) Grant funding of \$311,924 for FY 25 and county- overmatch, there will be no trip limits imposed on the TD riders in Martin County at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an informational item.

ATTACHMENTS

None



**MARTIN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB-TD) MEETING
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE: August 26, 2024	DUE DATE: August 19, 2024	UPWP#: 6
WORDING: LCB-TD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS		
REQUESTED BY: MPO	PREPARED BY: Lucine Martens / Beth Beltran	DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION: N/A

BACKGROUND

The Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB-TD) has 15 voting members on the Board, including one locally elected official. These members represent different agencies and groups that are involved with the TD population.

ISSUES

With the addition of new members to the LCB-TD, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staff thinks that it would be in the best interest of the Board to familiarize themselves with the other members. Staff has asked that each member of the LCB share a brief introduction about who they are, who they represent, and how they are involved with the TD population.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an informational item.

ATTACHMENTS

List of LCB-TD Members and who they represent

LCB-TD Member	Representing
Susan Gibbs-Thomas Indiantown Council Member Chair	Elected Official appointed by MPO Board as of 4-17-23
Robert McPartlan - Vice Chair	Department of Children & Families
Brindell Serrano	Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs
Zachary Hoge	Fl. Div. Vocational Ser. Or Blind Serv. Representing the Department of Education
Gayle McArdle	Rep. Persons with Disabilities
Dalia Dillon	Dept. of Elder Affairs
Phyl Weaver	Rep. Persons over 60 representing the elderly in the county
Michelle Miller	Rep. Florida Assoc. Community Action (President) Economically Disadvantaged
Modeline Acreus	FDOT Representative
Joe Azevedo	Martin County Career Center
Brenda Matheny Alt. Angelica Castillo Da Silva	Local Medical Community (kidney dialysis centers, long term care facilities, assisted living facilities, hospitals local health departments or other home and community based services.)
Ashman Beecher	Martin County Transit
Monique Robbins	Rep. Children at Risk
Mary Jo Pirone	1/2 Citizens Advocate (Rider Rep)
Dr. Elizabeth Jekanowski	Rep. Public Education Community District School Board, School Board Transportation Office or Headstart Program (Program Specialist- Transition)
Milory Senat	Agency for Persons with Disabilities