

**Transportation Disadvantaged Public Hearing Minutes
Votran
950 Big Tree Road
South Daytona FL 32119
October 13, 2021**

TD Public Hearing Attendees Physically Present:

TDLCB Chairperson Barbara Girtman
Doug Hall, TDLCB
Patricia Lipovsky, TDLCB
Jean Cerullo, TDLCB
Anne Ruby, Citizen
Big John, press
Pam Blankenship, TPO staff
Stephan Harris, TPO staff
Ralf Heseler, Votran staff

TD Public Hearing Attendees Virtually Present:

Carlos Colón, FDOT

Due to COVID-19, the hearing was held in a hybrid format with three TDLCB voting members physically present and one TDLCB voting member virtually present.

Florida Statutes require a physical quorum to be physically present and allows the use of telephone and video conferencing.

TDLCB Chairperson Barbara Girtman opened the Transportation Disadvantaged Public Hearing at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Big John, press, commented that Mr. Kelvin Miller, General Manager of Votran, is not in attendance for this public hearing; he thanked the TDLCB members, Votran and TPO staff that are in attendance. Staff is working hard but nothing is getting done. Mr. Miller reported earlier that five new bus benches and one shelter are being installed; however, there are 2,600 bus stops with only 300 benches and 45 shelters so there is still room for improvement. Ms. Lipovsky had asked about mobility-on-demand (MOD) and the response was Votran is hiring a consultant; he wants to know when that consultant will be hired, how much they will be paid and when they will deliver a product. He would also like to know how he can motivate the TDLCB to get things done. We need more bus stop benches, shelters, and sidewalks that lead to the bus stops. He publicly requested information on the exact number of benches and shelters that are in place to ensure his numbers are correct. He suggested again his idea of using Creative Outdoor Advertising or other agencies; Creative Outdoor Advertising installed 61 benches and five shelters in Daytona Beach for free which is much better than what Votran is doing. The government needs to get out of the way and let private companies put benches anywhere they want. Chairperson Girtman replied that there is the correct way to do it because Votran is attached to the bus stops and there is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance to consider. It is not as simple as just allowing them to install benches anywhere.

Mr. John stated that could be included in the bid; the 61 benches Creative Outdoor Advertising installed are ADA compliant and they know the rules regarding ADA. He suggested they ask the city of Daytona Beach if they are happy with the benches.

Chairperson Girtman replied that the feedback she has received is that everything is not as it appears but if it is worth pursuing in an orderly way; she will look into it.

Mr. John put in another public information request regarding the consultant, Tindale Oliver & Associates, and the status of the mobility-on-demand (MOD) service plan. He noted that only a few TDLCB members are in attendance for this public hearing and asked how we can get the public more involved in the process.

Chairperson Girtman thanked him for his comments and encouraged him to share with the public that this hearing is their opportunity to share their concerns.


Mr. Hall referred to comments made by Mr. John in the past regarding development in West Volusia County; thousands of homes are also being built there. There is little public transportation service in that area; he encouraged Votran to look at expanding and for the Volusia County Council to fund it. There are a number of businesses and stores moving out there from downtown where people can get to them; public transportation services are not available where those businesses are moving. He encouraged Votran to look at providing more services in that area. He referred to Sam's Club and the fact that there is a huge parking lot to cross from the bus stop to the store.

Chairperson Girtman replied we need to give an opportunity for more customized services to be evaluated because a fixed route bus stopping where people have to walk a far distance need a different look at that type of environment and what is needed. Perhaps the development needs to look at mobility around the complex; not everything is a Votran problem. Her understanding is there is a bus stop at Sam's Club but it may not be in the most optimum location and may need to be revisited. This was done right before COVID-19 so we cannot prove what the true need during a time like the last 18 months; we need to provide an opportunity to discover the true need and the find the best path forward in a cost-efficient way.

Discussion continued regarding the bus stop at Sam's Club and transit service in that area and how to get more public input on what is really needed.

Having no further comments, TDLCB Chairperson Girtman closed the public hearing at 12:40 p.m.

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



**VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER BARBARA GIRTMAN, CHAIRPERSON
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD**

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned, duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the October 13, 2021 Transportation Disadvantaged Public Hearing approved and duly signed this 12th day of January 2022.



**DEBBIE STEWART, RECORDING SECRETARY
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**