



**Transportation Disadvantaged Public Hearing Minutes  
 Votran  
 950 Big Tree Road  
 South Daytona FL 32119  
 October 14, 2020**

**TD Public Hearing Attendees:**

- TDLCB Chairperson Barbara Girtman
- Judy Craig, TDLCB Vice Chairperson
- Doug Hall, TDLCB
- Robert Watson, TDLCB
- Jean Cerullo, TDLCB
- Renee Gahagan, TDLCB
- Patricia Lipovsky, TDLCB
- Marina Villena, TDLCB
- Shelisha Coleman, TDLCB
- Patricia Boswell, TDLCB
- Big John, press
- Nancy Burgess Hall, citizen
- Heidi Heller, citizen
- David Knopf, citizen
- Debbie Stewart, TPO staff
- Pam Blankenship, TPO staff
- Lois Bollenback, TPO staff
- Stephan Harris, TPO staff
- Frank Alvarez, Votran staff
- Kelvin Miller, Votran staff
- Jacob Lunceford, Votran staff
- John Cotton, Votran staff
- Edie Biro, Votran staff

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Due to the COVID-19 virus, the public hearing was held online and via teleconference pursuant to Florida Governor’s Executive Orders 20-62, 20-114, 20-150, 20-179 and 20-246 which suspended the

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Beverly Beach	DeBary	Flagler Beach	New Smyrna Beach	Palm Coast	South Daytona
Bunnell	DeLand	Flagler County	Oak Hill	Pierson	Volusia County
Daytona Beach	Deltona	Holly Hill	Orange City	Ponce Inlet	
Daytona Beach Shores	Edgewater	Lake Helen	Ormond Beach	Port Orange	

Florida Statutes that 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 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Big John, press, stated he attended the TD Public Hearing last year under a different Chairperson and almost no TDLCB members were present; today there are 10 board members present. There was no bus service to Tanger Outlet Center/Tomoka Town Center then, but there is now thanks to the new Chairperson, Volusia County Council Member Barbara Girtman and the rest of the county council. Safety regarding bus stops was mentioned earlier during the TDLCB meeting and he respectfully disagrees with Mr. Stephan Harris that bus stops are not a transit safety performance measure; bus stops are an important part of Votran but no one mentions them. It was explained to him a long time ago that a bus stop can be just a pole in the ground; for much of Volusia County there is a just a pole in the ground. He has made several public record requests over the years for information regarding bus stops; first, how many stops there are and how many of those have benches or shelters. Mr. Cotton has done that inventory. Second, he would like to know more about Votran ridership demographics; how many seniors, students, disabled persons, etc. ride Votran as that information could come to bear on bus stop situation. There are three bus stops he would like Votran to review; the first is at Kennedy Road and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. It has a shelter with a bench but is not accessible because the concrete slab is above the grade. The second bus stop is at the Sunshine Mall in South Daytona; it has a shelter with a bench but is in the middle of the parking lot and it is difficult for the visually impaired to get through the parking lot safely to the stores. He does not know if it is Publix that does not want it close to their store but it could be moved closer and be made safer. The third bus stop is at Fairview Avenue and Ridgewood Avenue; there is a customer that gets on and off the bus there but there is no stop there or near there. He would like Votran to look at those three specific bus stops. Lastly, he thinks driving a bus is hard and years ago, when the bus rodeo was held at Votran, he won against the bureaucrats. In fact, Votran has 20 drivers that received awards, including Doc; and he would like more information about these awards and would like to have Doc or another one of Votran's superstar bus drivers on his radio show. He hopes that in the future we will think more about benches and shelters for bus stops and not just put poles in the ground.

Chairperson Girtman agreed; it fits in with the culture of discussions occurring for Votran to be more customer friendly and more than just an alternative form of transportation but a resource.

Ms. Heidi Heller, citizen, stated she appreciates the efforts of Votran in coordinating a myriad of details including the ages of riders, where they live and where they are going into a cohesive system. She hopes that when new developments come about it is encouraged or can be required for developers to include sheltered bus stops. It would be easier to do as a part of a new site plan compared to installing bus stops at an established business. She lives in Holly Hill and rides the bus to several places; she does have a car but likes the ease of riding the bus. It is a disappointment when riding the bus to see riders coming from Publix or the Dollar General with shopping bags that get wet when it is raining; she hopes that can be improved. There are no requirements for shelters at bus stops and she is hoping for more of a focus on installing improved shelters where there are



high volumes of riders. She commented that when viewing DVD's of foreign cities there are magnificent buses for tourists and asked why we cannot have Votran buses available for races and other special events and charge passengers \$20 a day to ride. Tourists would likely enjoy the ease of riding a bus. She thanked Chairperson Girtman for the opportunity to speak today.

Chairperson Girtman thanked Ms. Heller for caring enough to be here and share her concerns. She is the type of rider Votran wants to attract; riders of convenience and not just necessity. We do need to look at how to be a friendlier transportation option for our community.

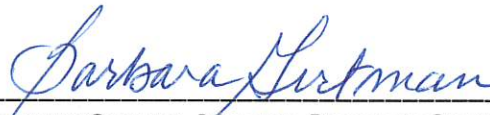
Mr. John stated he is proud of the job Chairperson Girtman is doing; she seems to be doing it because she cares which makes a huge difference.

Mr. Hall stated he has a comment based on what Mr. John has said in the past and what Ms. Heller said; he urges planners, officials and developers to work with Votran in the future to ensure new developments include public transportation access. He was dismayed to see that the Tanger Outlet Mall/Tomoka Town Center was allowed to be built without it; it should have been included in the initial planning stages.

Chairperson Girtman thanked the TDLCB members for staying for the public hearing and the public for sharing their concerns.

Having no further comments, TDLCB Chairperson Girtman closed the public hearing at 12:16 p.m.

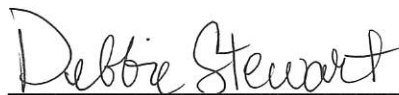
**RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**



**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 14, 2020 Transportation Disadvantaged Public Hearing approved and duly signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.



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