

**Volusia-Flagler Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2024**

Volusia County Mobility Management Center
950 Big Tree Road, South Daytona, FL 32119

TDLCB Members Physically Present:

Carmen Hall
DJ Lebo
Mary Tyson, Vice Chairperson
Carlos Colon
Emilio Santiago
Benjamin Juengst
Robert Watson
Council Member Matt Reinhart, Chairperson
Susan Pauly

Representing:

Association of Community Action
Children at Risk – Alternate
Disabled Citizens – Alternate
Florida Department of Transportation
Healthcare Administration
Medical Community – Alternate
Veterans Services Group
Volusia County
Vocational Rehab Services – Alternate

TDLCB Members Absent:

Sheryl Dick-Stanford
Diana Garcia
Beverly Johnson
Jean Cerullo
Christy Gillis
Todd Banks
Judy Craig
Ellen Labadie
Patricia Lipovsky (excused)
Steve Jack
Jennifer Fowler
Robin King
Kathy Spencer

Representing:

Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Agency for Persons with Disabilities – Alternate
Children At Risk
Citizens Advocate
Department of Children and Families
Department of Children and Families - Alternate
Disabled Citizens
Elder Affairs
Citizens Advocates, System User
Private for Profit
Public Education Community
Workforce Development Board
Workforce Development Board – Alternate

Others Physically Present:

Donna Ralston, Recording Secretary
Stephan Harris
Pamela Blankenship
Ida Wright
Ralf Heseler
Jacob Lunceford
Edie Biro
Kelvin Miller

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Florida Department of Health (FDOH)
Volusia County Transit Services Division
Volusia County Transit Services Division
Votran
Votran

Others Virtually Present:

Colleen Nicoulin
Doug Hall

Representing:

TPO Staff
Elderly Citizens

I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Determination of Quorum/Pledge of Allegiance

TDLCB Chairperson Matt Reinhart called the meeting of the Volusia-Flagler Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) to order at 10:01 a.m. The roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was physically present. The meeting was held in a hybrid format with nine voting members physically present and one voting member virtually present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Tyson to allow TDLCB members attending virtually to participate and vote. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lebo and carried unanimously.*

II. Public Comment/Participation

Ms. Tyson discussed her concerns about her recent trips with Votran being scheduled late and causing her to be 15-20 minutes late for work a few times.

Ms. Edie Biro, Votran, stated that she would check to see what happened on those trips.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of the July 10, 2024 TDLCB Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Watson to approve the July 10, 2024 TDLCB meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Juengst and carried unanimously.*

B. Review and Approval of Votran's Monthly Paratransit Reports

Mr. Heseler reviewed Votran's monthly Paratransit reports for May, June, and July 2024. He noted there was a decrease of about 2,000 trips when compared to the previous year, largely attributed to school closures for summer break. Additionally, Votran experienced fewer complaints over the past year, while no-shows have increased.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Colon to approve Votran's monthly Paratransit Reports. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lebo and carried unanimously.*

C. Nomination and Election of 2025 TDLCB Vice Chairperson

Chairperson Reinhart provided comprehensive details of the responsibilities of the Vice Chairperson position, also noting that the current Vice Chairperson, Ms. Tyson, is eligible to serve another term.

Ms. Hall nominated Ms. Tyson as the 2025 TDLCB Vice Chairperson.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Hall to nominate and elect Ms. Tyson as the 2025 TDLCB Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried unanimously.*

D. Review and Approval of the FY 2023/24 Annual Operating Report (AOR)

Chairperson Reinhart provided comprehensive details of the FY 2023/24 Annual Operating Report (AOR).

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Tyson to approve the FY 2023/24 Annual Operating Report (AOR). The motion was seconded by Ms. Hall and carried unanimously.*

E. Reappointment of 2025 Quality Assurance Committee Members

Chairperson Reinhart provided comprehensive details of the responsibilities of the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC). He noted that all current QAC members are eligible for reappointment and other TDLCB voting members are welcome to join the committee.

Mr. Harris stated that Ms. Lipovsky conveyed that she does not want to be reappointed.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Lebo to reappoint the 2025 Quality Assurance Committee members to include Volusia County Council Member Matt Reinhart, Carlos Colon, Doug Hall, and Mary Tyson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hall and carried unanimously.*

F. Reappointment of 2025 Grievance Committee Members

Chairperson Reinhart provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Grievance Committee. He noted that all current Grievance Committee members are eligible for reappointment and other TDLCB voting members are welcome to join the committee.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Ms. Lebo to reappoint the 2025 Grievance Committee members to include Volusia County Council Member Matt Reinhart, Carlos Colon (FDOT) Doug Hall, Patricia Lipovsky, and Mary Tyson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hall and carried unanimously.*

G. Review and Approval of the 2025 TDLCB Meeting Schedule

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Watson to approve the 2025 TDLCB Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Santiago and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentations and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of the Deland SunRail Station Grand Opening and Connecting Votran/VoRide Service

Mr. Harris delivered a PowerPoint presentation of the DeLand SunRail Station grand opening and the integration of Votran/VoRide services. He explained that SunRail, Central Florida's commuter rail system, links Orlando with the counties of Volusia, Orange, Seminole, and Osceola. The DeLand station serves as a key expansion point, extending the system by 12.2 miles to a total length of 61 miles, and marks the addition of the 17th station, thereby fulfilling SunRail's original vision. The grand opening celebration, held on August 9, 2024, attracted over 300 attendees, including Volusia County staff and various local elected officials. Mr. Harris showcased multiple photographs detailing the attendees and activities depicted and shared aerial images illustrating the station's expansion.

Mr. Heseler provided insights into the free DeLand SunRail Circulator. He noted that since the DeLand station opened, there has been strong demand for transportation into downtown DeLand for shopping, dining, and employment. In response, a partnership with the City of DeLand has facilitated a circulatory service originating from the station, offering hourly service through approximately six stops in the downtown area. The schedule is aligned to meet SunRail trains whenever possible, with nearly every train arrival coordinated for smooth connections. A designated bus stop adjacent to the train station serves as the pick-up and drop-off location, where VoRide is also accessible for scheduled trips to further destinations.

Mr. Heseler noted that the circulator currently operates within the downtown area, with funding from the City of DeLand secured through January. Discussions are underway to identify additional funding sources to extend this service beyond January and potentially expand hours to accommodate early-morning commuters. Currently, workers in the downtown area need to transfer at the DeBary SunRail Station and take the Route 31 north bus, but efforts are ongoing to streamline direct connections to DeLand. Looking forward, it is anticipated that expanded service options may be available in the new year.

Mr. Heseler addressed questions from TDLCB members regarding the growth in circulator ridership.

Mr. Harris added that Ms. Blankenship was also present at the grand opening event, where she took photographs documenting the occasion. He further noted that he, along with Mr. Heseler, Ms. Blankenship, and several others, traveled on SunRail to attend a Mobility Week event in downtown Orlando just yesterday, describing the experience as very positive. He encouraged all attendees to consider using SunRail.

B. Presentation and Discussion of FY 2023/24 TPO Public Involvement Activities

Ms. Blankenship gave a PowerPoint presentation on the TPO's public involvement over the past fiscal year. She emphasized the importance of committee and board attendance and shared data on committee vacancies,

website activity, social media engagement, and the monthly email newsletter, key outreach events from the past year were highlighted, including the distribution of 72,000 buck slips to Flagler County residents via registration renewals. FDOT plans to extend this initiative to other Central Florida counties, including Volusia; the TPO will be extending the distribution in Flagler County for an additional year. Ms. Blankenship outlined upcoming outreach activities.

V. Staff Comments

Staff provided updates on the Volusia-Flagler TPO's rebranding initiative and the changes to the TPO's planning area boundary and voting membership. They noted that this year's White Cane event, held earlier this week, was rebranded as "Disabled Transit Users Awareness Day." Highlights included perspectives shared by Chairperson Reinhart and TPO staff on their involvement in the event, as well as the participation of Votran and other planning agencies in the recent Mobility Workshop.

It was also announced that Votran will offer free rides on Election Day with a valid voter ID. Additional updates included a review of the recent awards received by Votran during a ceremony hosted by the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Commission, information on Votran's recent service changes, the scheduled fare increase effective January 1, 2025, and details about future token purchase options which could include purchases through an app.

VI. TDLCB Member Comments

TDLCB members shared information on Easterseals' partnership with Lyft to offer free rides to voting precincts and emphasized the importance of raising awareness and extending support to individuals with disabilities.

VII. TDLCB Chairperson Comments

Chairperson Reinhart acknowledged the County Council's challenging decision to raise Votran fares, noting that an increase was long overdue, as fares have remained unchanged for the past decade out of consideration for taxpayers. If re-elected as a Volusia County Council Member, he intends to propose smaller, incremental, annual increases to minimize the financial impact that larger adjustments over extended periods would have.

VIII. Information Items

- Actual Expenditure Report (AER) for FY 2023/24
- River to Sea TPO Board Meeting Summaries
- River to Sea TPO Outreach & Activities
- River to Sea TPO Planning Grant Quarterly Progress Report
- TDLCB Attendance Record
- TDLCB Interest Form
- TDLCB Membership List
- Upcoming Events/Mobility Week Transit Events
- Votran Statewide Awards

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.


VOLUSIA-FLAGLER TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



**VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER MATT REINHART, CHAIRPERSON
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD**

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned, duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the Volusia-Flagler TPO certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the October 30, 2024 regular meeting of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB), approved and duly signed this 8th day of January 2025.



PAMELA BLANKENSHIP, RECORDING SECRETARY
VOLUSIA-FLAGLER TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**A recording of the October 30, 2024 TDLCB meeting is available upon request.*