



**Transportation  
Disadvantaged**

***DECLARATION AND  
ORDER OF EMERGENCY***

This **ORDER** of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged is made and **DECLARED** pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 427, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code, whereby emergency for the continuance of financial assistance to Designated Official Planning Agencies to implement the Transportation Disadvantaged program in each local area exist.

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order #20-52 declaring a State of Emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order #20-69 which suspended any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a local government body to meet in a specific public place and authorized local government bodies to utilize communication media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing per Florida Statutes.

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order #20-91 implementing mitigation measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, "Safer at Home," directing Senior Citizens or Individuals with significant underlying medical conditions to stay at home as well as encouraging other Florida residents to limit their movement and defining essential services, which includes transportation.

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Florida extended Executive Order 20-69 by Executive Orders 20-112, 20-150, 20-179, 20-193, and 20-246 until November 1, 2020.

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has a Designated Official Planning Agency in each county of the state to assist in conducting planning activities for the Transportation Disadvantaged program at the local level pursuant to section 427.015, Florida Statutes, including providing each Local Coordinating Board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the Coordinating Board to fulfill its responsibilities.

**WHEREAS**, a Local Coordinating Board exists for each service area of the state to provide information, advice, and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator on the coordination of services provided to the transportation disadvantaged pursuant to section 427.0157, Florida Statutes, with its membership comprising of representatives of state and local agencies as well as members of the public who are elderly and/or disabled.


**WHEREAS**, the Commission's planning related grant funds are provided to Designated Official Planning Agencies to support the Local Coordinating Boards and complete specific tasks as part of their statutory responsibilities, including review and approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.


**WHEREAS**, a physical quorum is required for Local Coordinating Boards to conduct business and take action on specific tasks required by the Commission's planning grant program, which is difficult to achieve due to board members with significant underlying medical conditions who stay at home and travel limitations for board members representing state and local agencies.

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is necessary and appropriate for the Commission to take immediate action to ensure Designated Official Planning Agencies and their Local Coordinating Boards continue to fulfill their statutory responsibilities during this public health emergency.

**IT IS ORDERED** in accordance with Chapters 427, Florida Statutes, and Rule 41-2, Florida Administrative Code, that the requirements for a quorum to be present in person and for Local Coordinating Boards to meet in a specific public place are suspended in response to the statewide emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To assist in fulfilling their responsibilities, the Commission shall allow Local Coordinating Boards to continue to meet utilizing communication media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes. This Declaration of Emergency does not waive any other requirement under the Constitution and "Florida Government in the Sunshine Laws," including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

This Emergency Declaration and Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2021.

  
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**Marion Hart**  
**Chairman**  
**Commission for the Transportation**  
**Disadvantaged**  
  
12/17/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

  
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**David Darm**  
**Executive Director**  
**Commission for Transportation**  
**Disadvantaged**  
  
12/17/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**