

**Lee County Transportation Disadvantaged  
Local Coordinating Board**

**10:00 a.m., March 6, 2020  
City of Cape Coral Public Works – Green Room  
815 Nicholas Pkwy E, Cape Coral FL 33990  
239-330-2240**



**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jessica Cosden at 10:01 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members introduced themselves. There was a quorum.

Those members in attendance included:

<b>A Representative of:</b>	<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Alternates to Voting Members</b>	<b>Agency</b>
An elected official from the MPO Board to serve as the official Chairperson.	Jessica Cosden (Present)	City of Cape Coral	No alternate	
A. A local representative of the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT)	Kelley Fernandez (Absent)	FDOT	Dale Hanson (Absent) Michelle Peronto (Present)	FDOT
B. A local representative of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)	Nicole Negron (Absent)	DCF	Bryan DeLaHunt (Present)	DCF
C. A local representative of the Public Education Community which could include, but not be limited to, a representative of the District School Board, School Board Transportation Office, or Headstart Program in areas where the School District is responsible	Roger Lloyd (Absent)	Lee County School Board	Richard Perdue (Absent) Debbie Ferris (Present)	
D. In areas where they exist, a local representative of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services or the Division of Blind Services, representing the Department of Education	(Vacant)		(Vacant)	
E. A person recommended by the local Veterans Service Office, representing Veterans of the county	(Vacant)		(Vacant)	
F. A person recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action representing the economically disadvantaged	Kim Hustad (Absent)	Lee County Human Services	Kellie-Ann Torres (Present)	
G. A person representing the Elderly in the county	(Vacant)		(Vacant)	

H. A person with a disability representing the disabled in the county	(Vacant)		(Vacant)	
I-1. [One of Two] Citizen Advocates in the County	Michael Pierce (Present)		(Vacant)	
I-2. [One of two] Citizen Advocates this one must be a person who uses the transportation service(s) of the system as their primary means of transportation.	(Vacant)		(Vacant)	
J. A local representative for children at risk	Juliana Whitaker (Absent)	Golisano Children's Hospital	Brenda Hernandez (Absent)	Golisano Children's Hospital
K. In areas where they exist, the Chairperson or designee of the local Mass Transit or Public Transit Systems Board, except in cases where they are also the Community Transportation Coordinator.	N/A		N/A	
L. A local representative of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Vacant	Area Agency on Aging	Vacant	Area Agency on Aging
M. An experienced representative of the local private for profit transportation industry. In areas where such representative is not available, a local private non-profit representative will be appointed, except where said representative is also the CTC.	Michael Griffin (Present)	SWFL Transportation	Ryan Williams (Absent)	Creative Resources
N. A local representative of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Maribel Perez (Absent)	AHCA	Glenda Gonzalez (Absent) Signe Jacobson (Present)	AHCA
O. A representative of the Regional Workforce Development Board established in Chapter 445, <i>Florida Statutes</i> .	Jim Wall (Present)	Career Source SWFL	Jah-Mau Lambert (Present)	Career Source SWFL
P. A representative of the local medical community, which may include, but not be limited to, kidney dialysis centers, long term care facilities, hospitals, local health department or other home and community based services, etc.	Heidi Shoriak (Absent)	Lee Health Systems	Kim Anderson (Present)	Lee Health Systems
Q. A representative of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities	Leah Watson (Present)	Agency for Persons with Disabilities	Donna Fain (Absent)	Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Also in attendance: Maran Hilgendorf with Goodwill SWFL; Robert Codie, Randice Monroe, Carlos Rivera, Carlos Menjivar and Virginia Walter with LeeTran; Nicole Mills and Paul Simmons with FDOT; Richard Shine, a member of the public; John Irvine and David Darm from the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (via conference call); Brian Raimondo, Don Scott, and Calandra Barraco with the Lee County MPO.

## **New/Other Business**

**Chair Cosden asked for approval to adjust the agenda and take Agenda Items #1, #4, and #6 first and then address the remaining items.**

**Mr. Michael Griffin made the motion to approve the adjusted agenda. Mr. Bryan DeLaHunt seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #1 - \*Approval of the Minutes from the November 1, 2019 Meeting**

**Mr. Michael Griffin made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2019 meeting. Mr. Bryan DeLaHunt seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #4 - \*Endorsement of FTA Grant Applications for Operating and Capital Assistance**

Chair Cosden introduced this item. Mr. Raimondo then presented this agenda item for the endorsement of the FTA Grant Applications for Operating and Capital Assistance. He said the only grant application received was from Goodwill. Chair Cosden asked if there were any questions or discussion. Mr. Raimondo noted that Ms. Maran Hilgendorf was present to answer questions. There was a brief discussion as to if this funding/grant was formerly applied for by Good Wheels. Mr. Raimondo said this is a grant that Good Wheels could have possibly gone after. Chair Cosden asked if there was a motion.

**Mr. Bryan DeLaHunt made the motion to endorse the Goodwill application. Mr. Michael Pierce seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #6 – Good Wheels’ 2018/2019 LCB Evaluation**

Mr. Raimondo presented this agenda item to review and approve the FY 2018/2019 LCB Evaluation of Good Wheels. Mr. Raimondo noted the evaluation was held in early February with Good Wheels staff present. He added it was done for the last fiscal year, 2018/2019, and not this current fiscal year. He said the draft version was included in the agenda packet and changes/additions can be made by the LCB. He said this motion would just be to approve the evaluation done by the LCB. Chair Cosden asked if there were any questions on the evaluation. Mr. Michael Pierce asked if those that conducted the evaluation saw any indications of financial problems. Mr. Codie responded that although there were some indications, it is difficult to find the trail of funds. He noted Good Wheels always seemed to be playing catchup. Mr. Codie also mentioned the FDOT audit that was occurring at the same time as the evaluation and expenses versus anticipated income. Mr. Raimondo mentioned that there isn't a requirement for the LCB evaluation to examine income. Mr. Pierce noted there never seemed to be a reserve and this was an ongoing pattern. Mr. Codie commented that there were multiple facets as well as multiple revenue sources that didn't come in as anticipated. Chair Cosden asked for a motion to approve the evaluation.

**Mr. Bryan DeLaHunt made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 LCB Evaluation of Good Wheels. Mr. Jim Wall seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #3 – Status of Good Wheels/New CTC**

Mr. Raimondo presented this agenda item as a status report of Good Wheels and the new emergency CTC LeeTran. Mr. Raimondo said MPO staff notified the LCB the same day that Good Wheels announced they were going out of business. He asked if there were any questions. He noted Mr. John Irvine with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) was on the phone. Mr. Jim Wall asked who was taking over trips and if any violations resulted from Good Wheels closure. Mr. Raimondo explained that this is an emergency situation with LeeTran entering into an emergency agreement with the CTD to cover the TD trips through the end of the fiscal year with the possibility of an extension for another fiscal year and then taking over permanently. He said if LeeTran does not take over permanently then the MPO will put out an RFP for a new permanent CTC. He added that Good Wheels was closed down and in the process of liquidation of assets. Mr. Michael Pierce said there were valuable assets at Good Wheels that could help LeeTran with the transition. He commented that he uses paratransit every day, gave examples of LeeTran and Southwest Florida Transportation trip increases, and

thanked all agencies involved for coordinating and cooperating. Mr. Wall mentioned that any former Good Wheels employees would qualify for assistance through Career Source and could contact him. Mr. Raimondo said Mr. Wall could forward him the information, and he will send it to Mr. Mandel. Mr. Raimondo commented on the liquidation of assets and liens on property/assets. Mr. Pierce said it may be difficult to transfer assets from a non-profit to a government agency. Mr. Raimondo said that Mr. Mandel was invited but couldn't make the meeting. Mr. Raimondo added that Mr. Mandel asked for any question to be forwarded to him. Mr. Raimondo said he would forward questions to Mr. Mandel if the LCB sent them to him. Chair Cosden asked if there were any more questions before moving on. Mr. Richard Shine asked about public comment.

### **Agenda Item #2 - Public Comments on Items on or not on the Agenda**

Mr. Richard Shine gave public comment on his desire to prevent any CTCs from shutting down so abruptly in the future. He commended LeeTran, FDOT, and other involved agencies for their quick response. He added that preventing the loss of life for these clients is important. He recommended the appropriate party to request an analysis of what went wrong with Good Wheels to prevent future abrupt shut downs of CTCs. He offered his assistance.

Chair Cosden asked if there was additional public comment. Mr. Shine said he could send his information by email to MPO staff. Mr. Wall asked if the LCB could make a motion to investigate. Ms. Leah Watson commented on education and understanding so that better planning can be done. Mr. Raimondo directed Mr. Wall's question to Mr. John Irvine who was participating in the meeting via conference call. Mr. Irvine introduced Mr. David Darm who was also on the conference call. Mr. Darm commented on lessons to be learned, education, patience, and a collaborative/proactive coordination of efforts to support the CTC. He added the problem will not be solved in one day, and he encouraged patience to get the system back together. Chair Cosden asked if there was any one body or person responsible for investigating. Mr. Darm said there are many agencies involved and it will be a collective effort as there isn't just one agency to hold the CTC responsible. Ms. Watson asked if the audit processes and/or policies and procedures will be amended to help prevent this in the future. Mr. Shine commented on recommending a process assessment. Mr. Pierce noted that where the problem developed needs to be discovered in order to prevent it from happening again. Mr. Codie added that it boils down to process and oversight. He gave LeeTran examples, noting it all depends on how processes are set up and which requirements need to be met. He questioned how the same systems could be set in place for the CTCs. He said that transparency is important. Mr. Raimondo suggested this should go to the CTD Board as multiple counties are impacted. Mr. Wall clarified his earlier question and asked if the LCB could take some proactive action or step. Mr. Raimondo said the LCB could recommend that the CTD take action. Chair Cosden asked if someone would like to make a motion.

### **Mr. Jim Wall made the motion for the CTD to research/investigate the process of the collapse of Good Wheels.**

Mr. Pierce commented that it is important to have members on the LCB that use paratransit. He added that the paratransit services are essential.

### **Mr. Michael Griffin seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Michelle Peronto abstained from the vote.

Mr. Raimondo then handed out the Emergency MOA between LeeTran and the CTD. Mr. Codie said it was approved by the Lee County Board on Tuesday and runs from February 20, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Mr. Raimondo noted the CTD is still asking the LCB to approve the MOA.

### **Mr. Jim Wall made the motion to approve the Emergency MOA between LeeTran and the CTD. Mr. Bryan DeLaHunt seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item #5 – CTC 2020/2021 Rate Model**

Mr. Raimondo presented this agenda item on the CTC 2020/2021 Rate Model. He noted he didn't have a rate model to present for approval or discussion so this item could be tabled until the next meeting.

### **Agenda Item #7 – Program Updates and Distribution Items**

Chair Cosden mentioned the next meeting would be held in May. Mr. Raimondo commented on the TDSP and the next public meeting.

### **Agenda Item #8 – Good Wheels Updates and Reports**

Chair Cosden said there was no Good Wheels report and asked LeeTran if they had anything to report. Mr. Carlos Rivera commented on the TD Trip Report that Mr. Raimondo handed out. The committee briefly discussed the phasing in of other trips, recertification of TD clients, nutritional trips, general medical trips, and servicing in other counties. Mr. Raimondo said he could provide the contact information for Heartland TPO for those interested in Hendry and Glades County trips.

### **Agenda Item #9 - Member Comments**

Ms. Peronto commented on FDOT's review of federal grants and recommendations, an upcoming professional development workshop in June, and the TD conference in August. Mr. Wall introduced Mr. Jah-Mau Lambert, the new disability navigator for Career Source, who would be attending the future LCB meetings as a representative of Career Source. Mr. Pierce announced that the Center for Independent Living of the Gulf Coast will be holding a celebration on July 26 for the thirty year anniversary of ADA being signed into law. Mr. DeLaHunt reminded providers about the abuse hotline available to those in need, 1-800-96-ABUSE. Mr. Raimondo asked LeeTran who their LCB representatives will be. Mr. Codie said the LCB reps for LeeTran are Mr. Carlos Rivera and Mr. Carlos Menjivar.

Chair Cosden thanked the committee for attending.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.**

\*Action Items    \*May Require Action

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