

**BYLAWS OF THE SUMTER COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD**

**ARTICLE I: PREAMBLE**

The following sets forth the Bylaws which shall serve to guide the functioning of the Sumter County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The intent is to provide procedures and policies for fulfilling the requirements of Chapter 427, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 41-2, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), governing the coordination of transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

**ARTICLE II: NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1: Name: The name of the Coordinating Board shall be the Sumter County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board, hereinafter referred to as the TDCB.

Section 2: Purpose: Pursuant to F.S. 427.0157, the primary purpose of the TDCB is to develop local service needs and to provide information, advice, and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) on the coordination of services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: Appointment of Members: In accordance with F.S. 427.0157 and Rule 41-2.012, F.A.C., members of the TDCB shall be appointed by the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization, hereinafter referred to as the MPO.

Section 2: Voting Members: In accordance with Rule 41-2.012(3), F.A.C., in addition to the Chairperson, the following agencies or groups shall be represented on the TDCB as voting members:

1. A local representative of the Florida Department of Transportation;
2. A local representative of the Florida Department of Children and Families;
3. A local representative of the Public Education Community, which may include, but is not limited to, a representative of the District School Board, School Board Transportation Office, or Headstart Program in areas where the School District is responsible;
4. A local representative of the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Division of Blind Services, representing the Department of Education;
5. A person recommended by the local Veterans Service Office representing the veterans of the county;
6. A person who is recognized by the Florida Association for Community Action (President) as representing the economically disadvantaged in the county;
7. A person over sixty years of age representing the elderly in the county;
8. A person with a disability representing the disabled in the county;
9. A citizen advocate representative in Sumter County;
10. A citizen advocate representative in Sumter County who uses the transportation services of the system as that person's primary means of transportation;
11. A local representative for children at risk;
12. A local representative of the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs;

13. An experienced representative of the local private for profit transportation industry, or in an area where such a representative is not available, a local private non-profit representative, except where said representative is also the CTC;
14. A local representative of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration;
15. A representative of the Regional Workforce Development Board established in Chapter 445, F.S.; and
16. A representative of the local medical community, which may include, but is not limited to, kidney dialysis centers, long term care facilities, assisted living facilities, hospitals, local health department or other home and community-based services.

Section 3: Alternate Members: All members of the TDCB may have their agency or organization designate, in writing, an alternate who may vote only in the absence of that member. All members not representing an agency or organization may have an alternate, who may vote only in the absence of that member, appointed for them by the MPO.

Section 4: Technical Advisors - Non-Voting Members: Non-voting technical advisors may be approved upon a majority vote of a quorum of the TDCB members for the purpose of providing the TDCB with technical advice.

Section 5: Terms of Appointment: Except for the Chairperson and state agency representatives, the members of the TDCB shall be appointed for three (3) year terms. The Chairperson shall serve until elected term of office has expired or until the Chairperson is otherwise replaced by the MPO. Individuals may be reappointed to serve an additional three (3) year term. No employee of a CTC shall serve as a voting member of the TDCB in an area where the CTC serves.

Section 6: Termination of Membership: A member of the TDCB may resign at any time by providing notice in writing to the Chairperson. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect when it is received by the Chairperson. Each member of the TDCB is expected to demonstrate his/her interest in the TDCB's activities by attending the scheduled meetings. If a voting member is unable to attend a meeting, he/she should ensure that his/her alternate will attend. The MPO shall review, and consider rescinding, the appointment of any voting member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings. The TDCB shall notify the Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Commission (Commission) of any state agency voting member or his/her alternate failing to attend three (3) consecutive meetings.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

Section 1: Officers: The officers of the TDCB shall include a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.

Section 2: Chairperson: The MPO shall appoint an elected official from Sumter County to serve as the official Chairperson for all TDCB meetings. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings, review and sign the official meeting minutes, and be responsible for all notices and agendas for meetings. The Chairperson shall serve until elected term of office has expired or otherwise replaced by the MPO, in accordance with Rule 41-2.012(4), F.A.C.

Section 3: Vice-Chairperson: The TDCB shall hold an organizational meeting each year for the purpose of electing a Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting TDCB members present. The Vice-Chairperson's term of office shall be for one (1) year starting with the first meeting after his/her election, but the Vice-Chairperson may be re-elected to an additional term or terms of office. In the event of the Chairperson's absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson and conduct the meeting.

Section 4: Absence of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson: In the event of the TDCB Chairperson's, and the Vice-Chairperson's absence, the TDCB will, if a quorum is present, elect a voting member of the TDCB to assume the duties of the Chairperson for that meeting and conduct the meeting.

## **ARTICLE V: COORDINATING BOARD MEETINGS**

Section 1: Regular Meetings and Procedures: The TDCB shall meet as often as necessary in order to meet its responsibilities. However, as required by Section 427.0157, F.S. and Rule 41-2.012(5), F.A.C., it shall meet at least quarterly. All meetings, including committee meetings, shall function under Florida's "Government in the Sunshine Law."

Section 2: Notice of Meetings and Meeting Agendas: A notice stating the date, time and place of each meeting shall be publicly advertised and sent to all TDCB members and, other interested parties at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting. A meeting agenda shall be sent to all TDCB members, and other interested parties at least seven (7) days in advance of each meeting, and shall be made available to the public at least four (4) days in advance of the meeting in accordance with the MPO Public Participation Policy (Section 6.0, Lake~Sumter MPO Bylaws). Agenda changes may be made at any meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the TDCB members present, provided that all agenda changes are made in accordance with the MPO Public Participation Policy (Section 6.0, Lake~Sumter MPO Bylaws).

**Section 3: Emergency Meetings:** If determined by the Chairperson to be necessary, the Chairperson may call an emergency meeting. A notice stating the date, time and place of the emergency meeting shall be publically advertised and sent to all TDCB members and other interested parties at least seven (7) days, if possible, in advance of the meeting. A meeting agenda shall be sent to all TDCB members as soon as early as possible.

Section 4: Quorum: At all meetings of the TDCB, the presence in person of a majority of the members currently seated shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 5: Voting:** Unless otherwise expressly required by law or these Bylaws, all matters to be voted on shall be decided by a majority vote of those TDCB members present. TDCB members can participate in meetings via conference call, however, a physical quorum must be present to vote for the transaction of business.

Section 6: Public Participation: All TDCB meetings shall be held in accordance with the MPO Public Participation Policy (Section 6.0, Lake~Sumter MPO Bylaws).

## **ARTICLE VI: STAFF**

The MPO shall provide the TDCB with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the TDCB to fulfill its responsibilities as set forth in Chapter 427, F.S., and Chapter 41-2, F.A.C. This includes providing sufficient staff to manage and oversee the responsibilities of the TDCB. This also includes but is not limited to, assistance in the scheduling of meetings, preparing meeting agenda packets, training board members, evaluating cost effectiveness, reviewing the local Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) and other necessary administrative duties as appropriate.

## **ARTICLE VII: COORDINATING BOARD DUTIES**

Section 1: Coordinating Board Duties: Pursuant to F.S. 427.0157 and Rule 41-2.012 the TDCB shall perform the following duties:

1. Maintain official meeting minutes, including an attendance roster, reflecting official actions and provide a copy of same to the Commission and the Chairperson of the MPO;
2. Review and approve the CTC's Memorandum of Agreement and the CTC's Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) prior to submittal to the Commission;
3. On a continuing basis, evaluate services provided under the approved Service Plan. Annually, provide the MPO with an evaluation of the CTC's performance in general and relative to Commission standards and the completion of current Service Plan elements. Recommendations relative to performance and the renewal of the CTC's Memorandum of Agreement shall be included in the report;
4. In cooperation with the CTC, review and provide recommendations to the Commission and the MPO on all applications for local government, state or federal funds relating to transportation of the transportation disadvantaged in Sumter County to ensure that any expenditures within the County are provided in the most cost effective and efficient manner;
5. Review the coordination strategies of service provision to the transportation disadvantaged in the county to seek innovative ways to improve cost effectiveness, efficiency, safety, working hours, and types of service in an effort to increase ridership to a broader population. Such strategies should also encourage multi-county and regional transportation service agreements between area CTCs and consolidation of adjacent designated service areas when it is appropriate and cost effective to do so;
6. Appoint a Grievance Subcommittee to serve as a mediator to process, investigate and decide grievances or complaints from agencies, users, potential users of the system and the CTC in the county, and make recommendations to the Coordinating Board for improvement of service. The Coordinating Board shall establish procedures to provide regular opportunities for grievances and issues to be brought before the committee and to address them in a timely manner, and the Coordinating Board shall hear grievances and appeals itself as provided for in the grievance procedures. Members appointed to the Subcommittee shall be voting members of the Coordinating Board;
7. Annually review coordination contracts to advise the CTC whether the continuation of said contract provides the most cost effective and efficient transportation available;
8. Review and approve the CTCs Annual Operating Report by September 15<sup>th</sup> each year;
9. Review and approve the (TDSP) for consistency with approved minimum guidelines and the goals and objectives of the Coordinating Board. The TDSP shall include a vehicle inventory of those vehicles purchased with transportation disadvantaged funds;
10. Assist the CTC in establishing eligibility guidelines and priorities with regard to the recipients of non-sponsored transportation disadvantaged services that are purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund monies;
11. Hold at least one public hearing per year for the purpose of receiving input on unmet needs or any other areas that relate to the local transportation services;

12. Work cooperatively with regional workforce boards established in Chapter 445, F.S. to provide assistance in the development of innovative transportation services for participants in the welfare transition program; and
13. Evaluate multi-county or regional transportation opportunities.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES**

Section 1: Grievance Subcommittee: The Grievance Subcommittee shall be appointed and function pursuant to Grievance Procedures adopted by the TDCB.

Section 2: Other Committees: Other committees may be designated by the Chairperson as necessary to investigate and report on specific subject areas of interest to the TDCB and to deal with administrative and legislative matters.

#### **ARTICLE IX: COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ENTITIES**

The MPO authorizes the TDCB to communicate directly with other agencies and entities as necessary to carry out its responsibilities in accordance with Chapter 427, F.S., and Chapter 41-2, F.A.C.

#### **ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws shall be reviewed, updated (if necessary), and adopted annually.

#### **ARTICLE XI: CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned hereby certifies that he/she is the Chairperson of the Sumter County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and that the foregoing is a full, true and corrected copy of the Bylaws of this Coordinating Board as adopted by the Sumter County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022.

#### **SUMTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD**

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Craig Estep, Chairman