**Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Public Workshop Summary**

Palm Beach TPA, 301 Datura St, West Palm Beach, FL

February 23, 2022

**Public Workshop Overview**

The Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) serves as the official Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) for Palm Beach County and is required by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) to host an Annual Public Workshop for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD).

This year, the workshop was held on February 23, 2022, immediately following to the scheduled quarterly TD Local Coordinating Board (LCB) meeting. The TPA organized the public workshop with the assistance of Palm Tran, the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) and provider of TD service in Palm Beach County.

The TD Public Workshop aimed to gather input on TD service in Palm Beach County and facilitate knowledge transfer and a thorough understanding of the paratransit system for all LCB members and attendees. The workshop consisted of brief presentation by TPA staff followed by an opportunity for public comment, which included a facilitated discussion by TPA and Palm Tran staff to provide information and collect feedback.

**Presentation**

The presentation included an overview of the TD Program, the CTC, and Palm Tran, as shown in Appendix A.

**Attendees**

The TD Workshop had a total of 26 participants. These included 12 LCB Members, 9 members from the public/other agencies, 4 TPA staff, and 1 Palm Tran staff as listed below and as shown in Appendix B.

**Workshop Participants**

1. Mayor Steven Grant – LCB Chair, City of Boynton Beach, Florida
2. Uyen Dang – Citizen Advocate
3. Robert Goodman – Representative for the Disabled
4. Vanessa Palomino – Area Agency on Aging
5. Jerome Hill – FL Agency for Healthcare Administration
6. Elizabeth Clark – Children at Risk
7. Jodie Boisvert – Department of Community Services
8. James Bonfiglio – Representative for the Elderly
9. Marie Dorismond – Florida Department of Transportation
10. Laura Schultze – School District of Palm Beach County
11. Angela Choice – Department of Veterans’ Affairs
12. Milory Senat – Agency for Persons with Disabilities
13. Vice Mayor Chelsea Reed – City of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
14. Jean Malacko – Family Care Council
15. Krystal Logan – First Transit
16. Stacy Jackson – First Transit
17. Joanna Peluso – Healthier Jupiter
18. CS – General Public
19. Cesar Rued – General Public
20. Natasha Villalba-Cruz – General Public
21. Sue Davis-Killian – General Public
22. Alyssa Frank – TPA Staff
23. Margarita Pierce – TPA Staff
24. Cassidy Sparks – TPA Staff
25. Amanda Williams – TPA Staff
26. Ron Jones – Palm Tran

**Public Comments**

The following questions and comments were collected during the workshop:

* Chair Grant commented on closing the Digital Divide experienced within the county and shared that it connects to transportation. For example, if someone can work from home, then it lowers the number of trips they would need to take via Palm Tran Connection.
* The fare for Palm Tran is $3.50. Although that amount may seem small, it can add up quickly for a family facing poverty. Is it possible to move to a sliding scale model instead?
  + Question answered by Palm Tran staff.
* Is the only option to purchase a Palm Tran Pass to go to the office in the Southern part of the county?
  + Question answered by Palm Tran staff.
* The addition of scheduling through the website has been helpful in scheduling. However, why has the number of days to book in advance changed from four days to three?
  + Question answered by Palm Tran staff.
* How will changes to the recertification process impact rider experience?
  + Question answered by Palm Tran staff.
* Member discussion ensued on fixed route locations in front of every high school, and transportation being the third highest barrier to employment.
* Palm Tran Connection helps provide mobility for citizens with disabilities and the drivers provide great service.