

**MEETING MINUTES
BROWARD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD
FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED
Monday, September 28, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
100 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 850
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309**

Members and Alternates Present

Chair Caryl Shuham, Commissioner of Hollywood
Barbara Bateman, Florida Department of Health
Maria Chiari, Florida Department of Children and Families
Sam Cox, Alternate, Persons Over 60
Ray Croteau, Alternate, Private Transportation
Manny Fuentes, Broward County Elderly and Veterans' Services Division
Sue Gallagher, Children's Services Council
Tatiana Gillyard, Alternate, Florida Department of Transportation
Phelicia James, Alternate, Broward County Elderly & Veterans Services Division
Jake McIntyre, System User
Shatara Piedrasanta, Alternate, Community Action Agency
Milory Senat, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Vera Sharitt, Persons Over 60
Rebecca Thompson, Broward County School Board

Members and Alternates Absent

Vice Chair Charlotte Mather-Taylor, Area Agency on Aging
Clara Alevy, Alternate, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Hugh Chen, Private Transportation
Vish Deonarine, Alternate, Career Source Broward
Marie Dorismond, Florida Department of Transportation
Alexis Harrison, Alternate, Florida Department of Education – Vocational Rehabilitation
Jerome Hill, Agency for Health Care Administration
Lori Mandke, Alternate, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Ruth Masters, Alternate, Broward County School Board
Prudence Mollica, Florida Department of Education – Vocational Rehabilitation
Natasha Parks, Alternate, Florida Department of Children and Families
Denise Payne, Alternate, Citizen Advocate
Michelle Ramirez, Career Source Broward
Demetria Rawls, Alternate, Children's Services Council
Lance Rigby, Broward County School Board
Nancy Scott, Alternate, System User
Reginald Shagoury, Alternate, Florida Department of Health
Pauline Spence, Alternate, Agency for Persons with Disabilities

MPO Staff

Carl Ema
Jennipher Tucz

Also Present

Paul Strobis, Broward County Transit (BCT) Paratransit Director
Nancy Weizman, Broward County Transit (BCT) Paratransit Division

REGULAR ITEMS
(All Items Open for Public Comment)

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Recognition of Quorum

Chair Shuham called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2026

Motion made by Ms. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Piedrasanta, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Ms. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Gallagher, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

None.

ACTION ITEMS

1. MOTION TO APPROVE the 2027 LCB Meeting Schedule

Chair Shuham reviewed the following 2027 Local Coordinating Board (LCB) proposed meeting dates:

- January 25, 2027
- April 19, 2027
- May 17, 2027
- September 20, 2027
- October 18, 2027

Motion made by Ms. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Piedrasanta, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

2. MOTION TO APPOINT Grievance Committee

Chair Shuham recalled that the 2026 LCB members serving on the Grievance Committee are Ms. Gallagher, Mr. Hill, Ms. Piedrasanta, and Ms. Senat. Ms. Gillyard volunteered to join the Grievance Committee as well.

Motion made by Ms. Sharitt, seconded by Ms. Thompson, to add Ms. Gillyard to the existing 2025-26 Grievance Committee. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

1. Paratransit Update and Transportation Disadvantaged Grant Tracking Report – Paul Strobis, BCT Paratransit Director

Broward County Transit (BCT) Paratransit Director Paul Strobis reported that Broward County recently approved its final operating budget for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2026. This included a \$3.5 million increase to BCT's budget to meet its operating needs. Paratransit will manage a 9% increase in ridership and will add 134 vehicles to the program in the coming fiscal year.

Since the May 2026 LCB meeting, BCT had not yet known what funds would be available from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) as part of the annual trip and equipment grant. Since that time, the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) grant allocation has come in at \$6.6 million, which is a 10.6% increase over the previous year. It is the second-largest TD grant awarded in the state of Florida and will help Paratransit provide approximately 270,000 trips.

Paratransit continues to see 9.3% growth in ridership over the previous year. They continue to show record days and weeks in ridership, with September 18, 2026 reported as the largest single day in the history of the Paratransit program with over 5,500 trip requests, of which over 4,300 were completed by the end of the day. Two weeks in September have shown the highest weekly totals on record.

Paratransit has recently completed receipt of 61 vehicles. Over the past five months, they have experienced a 2% increase in on-time performance and have stabilized the workforce at the vendor's location. Some drivers who had previously worked under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are no longer protected. BCT and the vendor are currently excluding drivers with TPS because of ongoing uncertainty, but otherwise continue to recruit new drivers.

Mr. Strobis advised that on November 3, 2026, a Florida Constitutional amendment will appear on the ballot which would change how property taxes are levied in the state of Florida. He explained that this would have a significant impact on services, and recommended that any individuals with questions visit www.broward.org for additional

information on the services funded through property tax revenue at both the County and municipal levels.

Mr. Strobis continued that hurricane season remains underway, and encouraged the Board members to ensure the organizations they represent have plans for storms and emergencies. Information and a checklist are available at www.broward.org/at-risk.

Ms. Gallagher asked if any insight was available on the reason for increased ridership. Mr. Strobis replied that the number of new applications for Paratransit service is greater than it has been in the past; while there are fewer system users re-certifying, more new users are joining. As more residents no longer drive, they need Paratransit service to maintain independence. Many of the new applicants are aged 60 and older.

Ms. Gallagher asked if Paratransit drivers fit a certain profile. Mr. Croteau, who serves as general manager for vendor Transportation America, replied that many drivers came from the Haitian community; to diversify the workforce, the vendor has been seeking to bring in other cultures as well. Customer service is also a consideration. He concluded that Transportation America is working with different communities and holding job fairs to identify the best candidates for positions.

Mr. Strobis noted that Paratransit works with Career Source Broward as a contractual requirement. He added that BCT recently extended its contracts with both Transportation America and Inktel, the call center vendor, for an additional year. The Transportation America contract includes a negotiated rate increase for the workforce in order to be more comparable to other transportation-related organizations.

Chair Shuham asked how Paratransit reconciles anecdotal reports of frustration with service with its improved on-time record. Mr. Strobis replied that while it has improved by 2%, on-time performance can still become better, as it is at approximately 86.5%. During the day, service experiences peaks and valleys that are affected by factors such as school zones and rush hour traffic, both of which can result in a decrease in on-time performance. All complaints are investigated and any mitigating circumstances are identified, and the service seeks to take steps to address these.

Chair Shuham noted the effects of king tides along A1A and asked how drivers are handling this situation. Mr. Strobis stated that drivers are trained not to drive through standing water for safety reasons. Drivers report flooding to the control center, and the communications department issues flashes to social media as well as text messaging for riders to inform them of route deviations.

Chair Shuham also addressed the Constitutional amendment known as Amendment 3, advising that should it pass in November, Broward County would lose approximately \$144 million in the first year and \$382 million in the second year. She recalled that Broward County's match of state funding for the Paratransit program is left to the

discretion of the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Strobis clarified that only a 10% local match is required; the allocation of additional funds is discretionary.

2. Introduction to Micromobility

Jennifer Tacy of Broward MPO Staff gave a presentation on micromobility, which is used in several Broward County municipalities. Florida Statutes define micromobility as motorized transportation devices designed for individual use which are typically 20 in. to 30 in. wide and 50 lbs. or less in weight. These devices operate at a speed which is typically less than 15 miles per hour (MPH) and no more than 28 MPH. The term refers to both human-powered and non-human-powered devices such as bicycles, electric bicycles, motorized scooters, or any other device owned by an individual or part of a shared fleet.

Ms. Tacy reviewed different classes of micromobility devices, including electric bicycles, for which there are three separate classifications. Devices that can exceed 30 MPH are not classified as bicycles by the statutory definition. Additional classes include motorized scooters, which are not currently defined by Florida Statutes, although they may be defined by municipal ordinances.

The MPO has prepared a series of public service announcements (PSAs) and safety videos which will be rolled out over the next few months. The state of Florida requires all riders aged 16 or younger to wear helmets. Because micromobility devices are faster than standard bicycles, riders must wear helmets that are specifically rated for their speeds. Some devices are subject to multiple definitions depending upon municipality. Another concern for micromobility devices is safe infrastructure and its maintenance.

Mr. Cox asked if cars for visually impaired persons which are driven using artificial intelligence (AI), which are currently being tested outside the United States, are considered micromobility. Ms. Tacy replied that she did not have an answer at this time, but would raise this question with the Broward County Micromobility Task Force. The Broward MPO Board also plans to host a workshop on November 12, 2026 to further discuss micromobility.

Chair Shuham commented that micromobility can be challenging for cities, noting that it can be difficult to enforce laws limiting use of some areas to human-powered devices only. She noted that many riders do not wear helmets. She suggested that the MPO website include information on municipal ordinances as well as best practices.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Member Comments

None.

2. **Monthly LCB Operating Reports – April-June 2026**
3. **Planning Related Grant Agreement Tasks Quarterly Progress Report**
4. **Upcoming CTD Business Meetings – <https://www.fdot.gov/ctd/ctd-calendar>**
5. **Attendance Roster – Members and Alternates**

With no other business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 19, 2026