

Overview of *MARIONTRANSIT* *COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM*



Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged



MARIONTRANSIT

A DIVISION OF

Marion Senior Services, Inc.

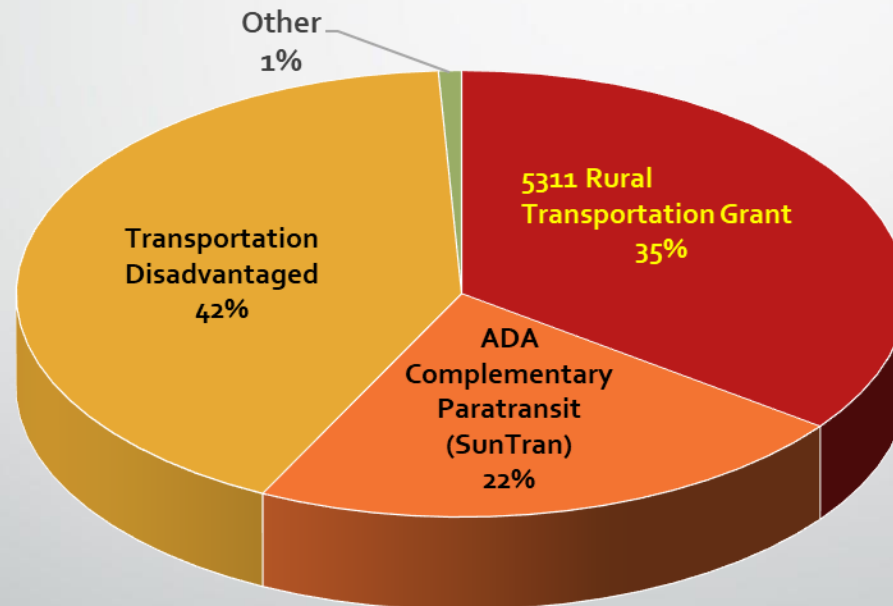
- Marion Transit - Serving Marion County, Florida since 1976
- Our paratransit service provides public transportation to all persons in our service area of Marion County, Florida, however, it is designated to maximize usage by “transportation disadvantaged” persons in general.
- Fast Facts:
 - 1982 Designated as the Marion County Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) by Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. Marion Senior Services, Inc. d/b/a **Marion Transit has been the CTC since the program inception.** In June 2020 we were again designated by the Florida TD Commission to serve as Marion Counties CTC for another 5-year term.
 - Service Area - All of Marion County Florida, 1663 Square Miles. (Larger than the State of Rhode Island)
 - Average number of one-way trips per day: 350-450 (Pre-COVID19)
 - Number of paratransit buses working per day: 25-35

Major Grants that Support ***MARIONTRANSIT***

- 5311 – Rural Transportation (Operating Funds Grant – 50% Local Match)
 - Grant is awarded by FDOT
- 5310 – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities (Capital Funds to purchase buses) – 10% Local Match
 - Grant is awarded by FDOT
- **Transportation Disadvantaged Trip & Equipment Grant Program**
 - *TDLCB approves equipment purchases. TRIP Rates are reviewed by board. Funds are "formula" based throughout the 67 Counties.*
- *"Other" Grants are applied for as needed. i.e. Shirley Conroy Rural Assistance Grant, 5339 for Buses & Bus Facilities, etc.*
- Local match funds required for these grants comes as a budget request to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, fare revenue & donations.

TRIPS

(By Funding Source)



Florida's Coordinated Transportation System Organizational Structure

Transportation Disadvantaged Riders

Independent State Agency

Guiding Philosophy:

- Centralized Policy Development
- Decentralized (Local) Implementation

Governor

Appoints
Commissioners

Implements Statutes
& Policy Guidance

**Commission for the
Transportation
Disadvantaged**

Administratively
assigned

FL DOT

**Designated Official
Planning Agency**

Designates

Recommends
CTC

Appoints & Staffs

**Local Coordinating
Board**

Oversees

**Community
Transportation
Coordinator**

Contracts With

Buys
Trips

Contracts With

Bills

**Purchasing
Agencies**

May bill
directly

Transportation Operators

Provides
Transportation

Pays Co-pay

May provide
direct services

Transportation Disadvantaged Riders
(Older Adults, Persons with Disabilities, People with Low Incomes, At-Risk Children)

— Operational
- - - Fiscal

May contract
with



Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

- Commission is an independent agency responsible for the coordination of transportation services for older adults, persons with disabilities, persons of low income and children at-risk.
- Designates the planning agency
- Approves appointment of CTCs
- Contracts with CTCs





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Designated Official Planning Agency



The Planning Agency assists the Commission at the local level in accomplishing the coordination of transportation services to the transportation disadvantaged. The TPO Ocala Marion County has been designated as the local agency. <https://ocalamariontpo.org/>

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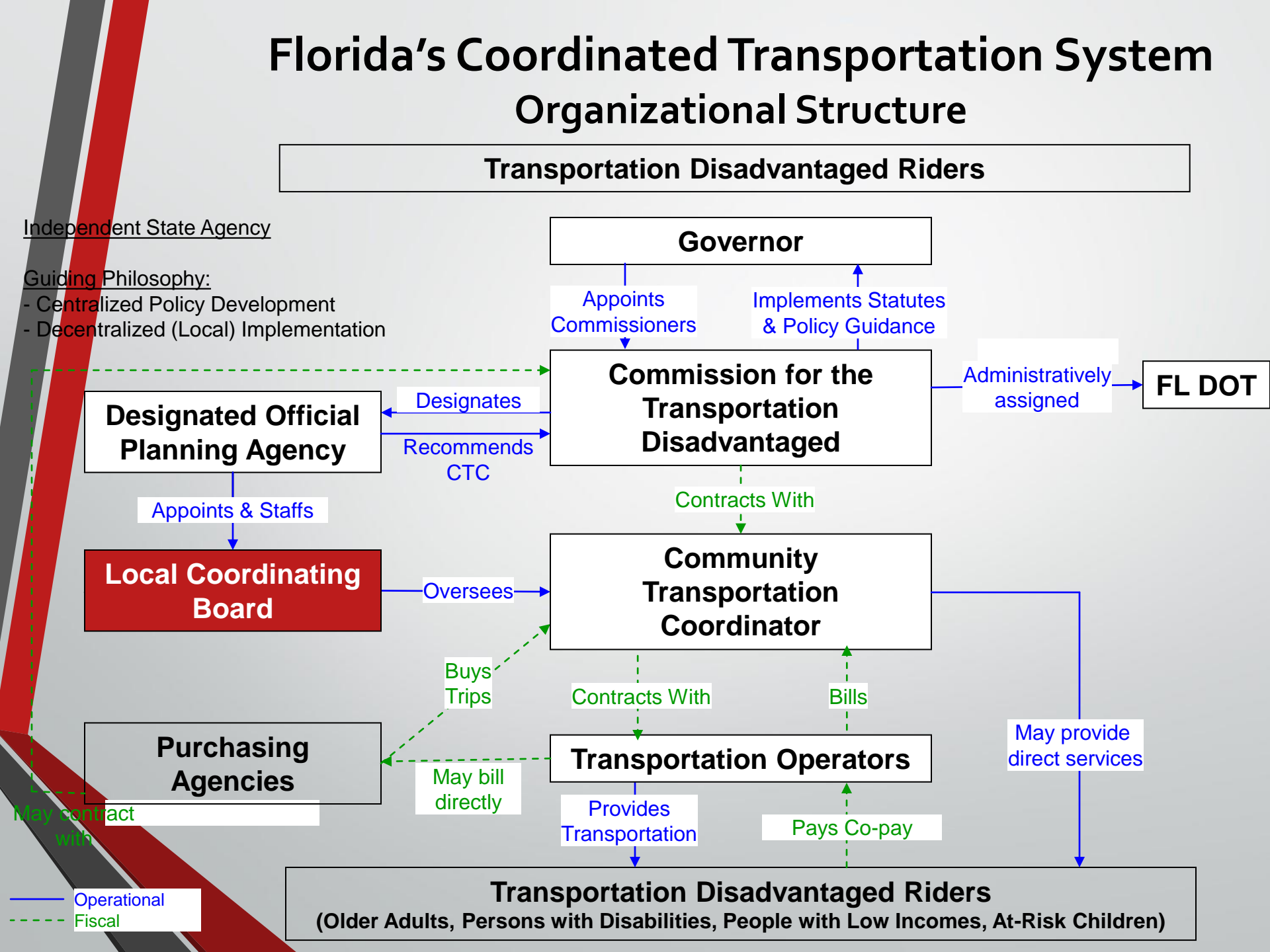
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Local Coordinating Board

“TDLCB”

Purpose

- Identify local service needs
- Provide information, advice and direction to the CTC on the coordination of services to be provided through the Coordinated Transportation System
- Serve as an advisory body to the Commission regarding a particular service area

Local Coordinating Board

Duties

- Assists CTC in establishing eligibility guidelines and trip priorities
- Evaluates CTC annually
- Reviews and approve Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- Appoints Grievance Committee to process and investigate complaints

Local Coordinating Board

Duties (Continued)

- Meets at least quarterly
- Reviews and recommends other funding applications
- Reviews strategies of service provision to the area
- Evaluates multicounty or regional transportation opportunities

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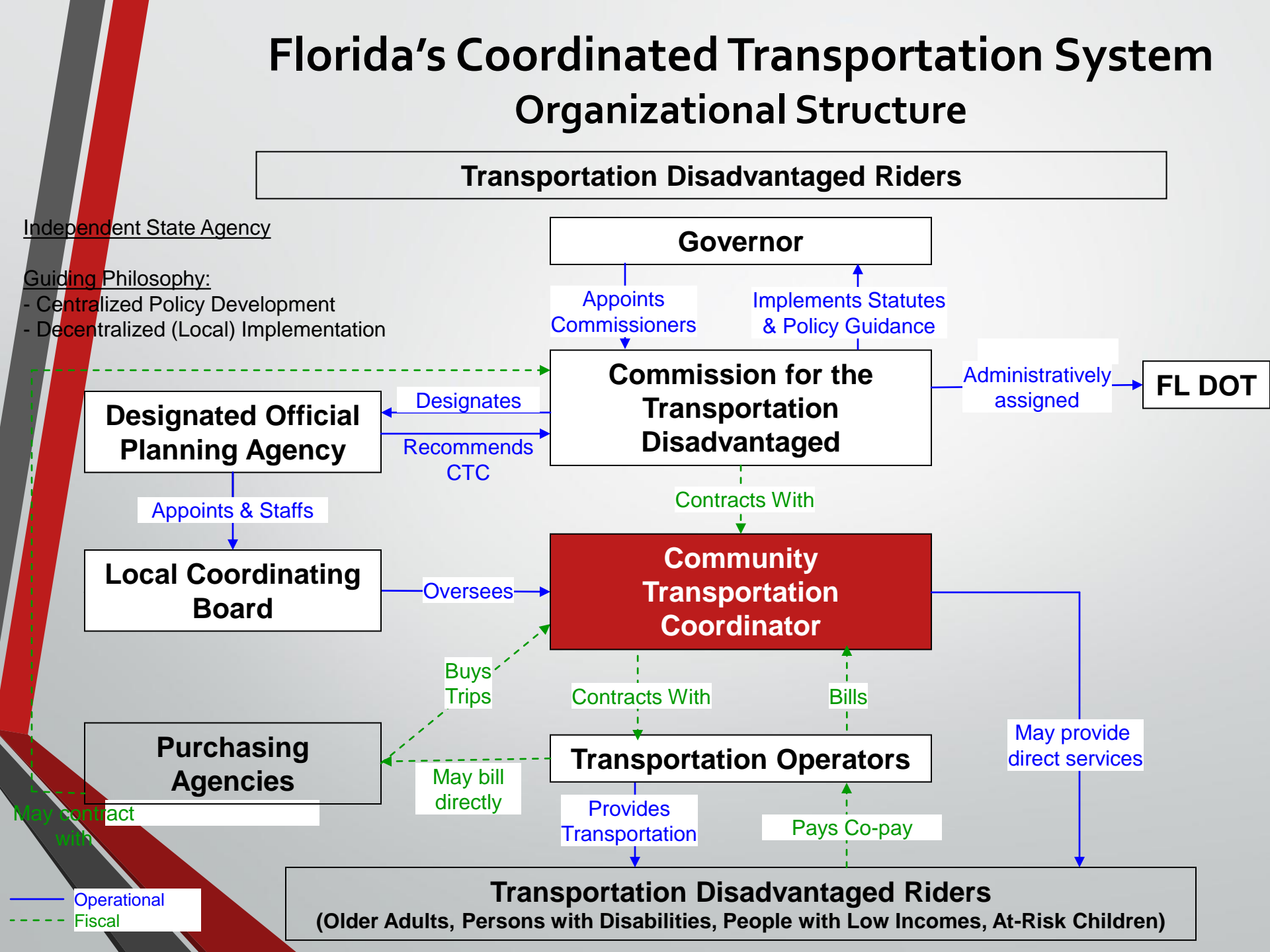
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Community Transportation Coordinator



Duties

- Plans, administers, monitors, coordinates, arranges and delivers coordinated Transportation Disadvantaged services originating in their designated service area
 - Operates centralized call center (aka Reservations)
 - Determines transportation eligibility (for TD riders)
 - Schedules trips (scheduler)
 - Performs gatekeeping duties (with regards to TD)

Community Transportation Coordinator

Duties (Continued)

- Develops a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan with Local Coordinating Board & TPO.
- Prepares and submits Annual Operating Report (AOR)
- Recommends eligibility guidelines and trip prioritization to the Local Coordinating Board for *non-sponsored trips.*

Community Transportation Coordinator

CTC Agreements with Commission

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- Trip & Equipment Grant
- Shirley Conroy Grant (Rural Capital Equipment)
- Innovation & Service Development Grant

Community Transportation Coordinator

Service Network Types

- **Sole Source— (Marion Transit) provides all services**
- Partially Brokered—contracts some services and provides some services
- Fully Brokered—contracts all services



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TD Trips

- These Trips are defined as "NON-SPONSORED" Trips



Florida Commission for the



**Transportation
Disadvantaged**



Each Of Us Knows Someone Who Is Transportation Disadvantaged

- Older Adults
- Persons with Disabilities
- Persons with Low Income
- At-Risk Children



They Could Need A Ride To...

- Medical Services
- Work
- School
- Grocery Store



The TD Rider

Transportation Disadvantaged Rider Eligibility

Those persons who cannot obtain their own transportation due to their age, disability or income.



The TD Rider

Eligibility for Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund

- Commission establishes guidelines for Transportation Disadvantaged eligibility
- Local Coordinating Board develops local eligibility policy, based on Chapter 427, Florida Statutes, and Commission Guidelines.

CTD Eligibility Criteria

Adopted May 22, 1997, by TD Commission

At a minimum:

- No other funding available
- No other means of transportation is available
- Cannot utilize public transit
- Physical or mental disability
- Age (60+ 16 under)
- Income status is a specified percent of the poverty level (150% below)
- No self-declarations allowed (must show proof or provide affidavit)
- Ability to pay (we offer a fare waiver for fares)

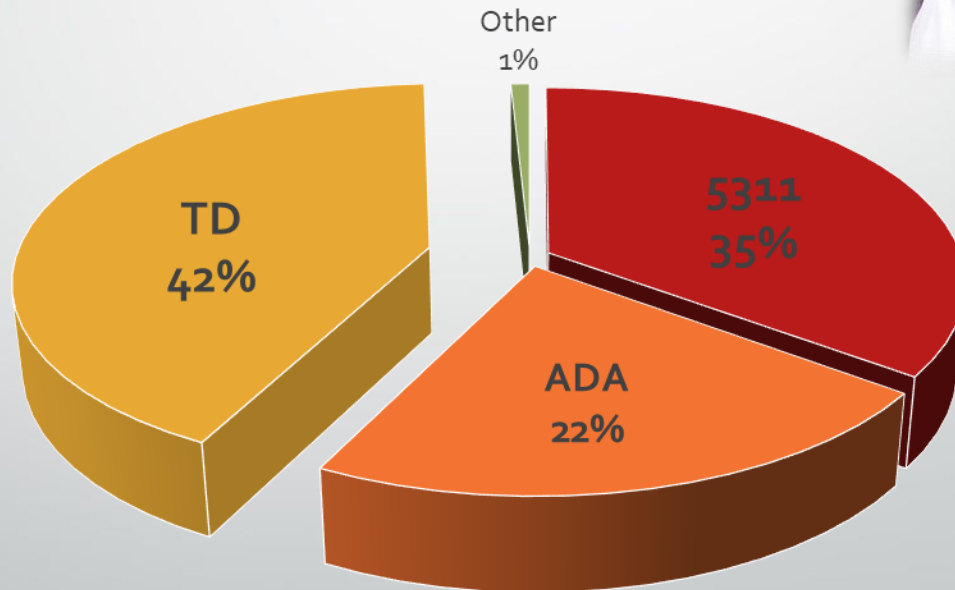
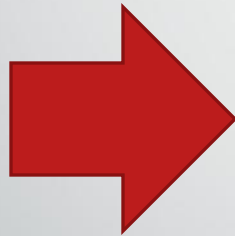
TD Service Area



The TD Rider

Summary

- Riders are older adults, persons with disabilities, people of low income and at-risk children
- **Rider eligibility** is determined locally based upon Chapter 427, F.S. and Commission Guidelines



2020 Rider Breakdown

ADA Complementary Paratransit Service for SunTran (Fixed Route System)

- These Trips are defined as “SPONSORED” Trips

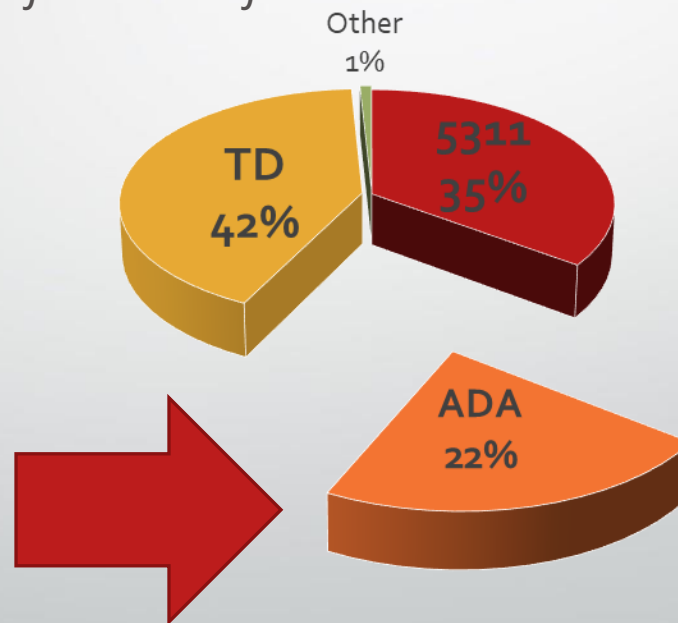


MT Services – ADA (AKA Sponsored Trips)

The City of Ocala is the administrative agency for SunTran and has contracted with RATP Dev to perform day-to-day operations and management of the fixed route system. **Fixed route systems are required to provide ADA complementary paratransit service to riders who live within 3/4 of a mile of the fixed route system and cannot walk to a bus stop.** Marion Transit has the agreement with RATP to provide that service for them. Note: *Center for Independent Living is the designated agency who qualifies riders for MT.*



Agreement with
RATP d/b/a SunTran



2020 Rider Breakdown

5311 Program – Rural Public Transportation

- These Trips are defined as “SPONSORED” Trips

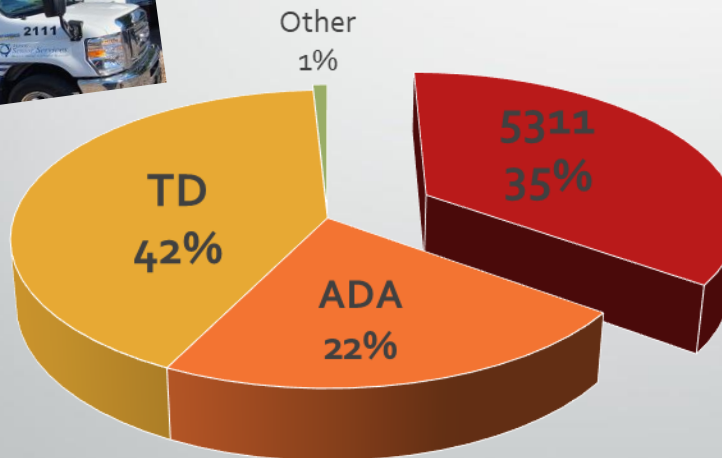


MT Services – 5311

AKA Sponsored Trips

The 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas. Residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations.

These TRIPs by appointment are considered “Public Transportation” for rural areas. The criteria to ride is different than TD. We also offer 2 “deviated” services serving Dunnellon “Blue Line” & Marion Oaks “Gold Line”. These services follow a schedule but can deviate to provide door to door service.



Rural Public Transportation Service

The 5311 Rider

(AKA Sponsored Trips)

According to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5311 Program, 49U.S.C.5311, services may not be designated exclusively to serve the transportation requirements of social service agencies without regard for the mobility needs of the community as a whole.

This means as a Section 5311 sub-recipient, Marion Transit is committed to providing “public transportation” services to all persons in our rural service area.

The service is designed to maximize usage by transportation disadvantaged persons in general but is open to the public during all operating hours.

Since we are not a fixed route system, rural riders need to call for an appointment following our RSVP guidelines.

Exception – Blue & Gold Lines

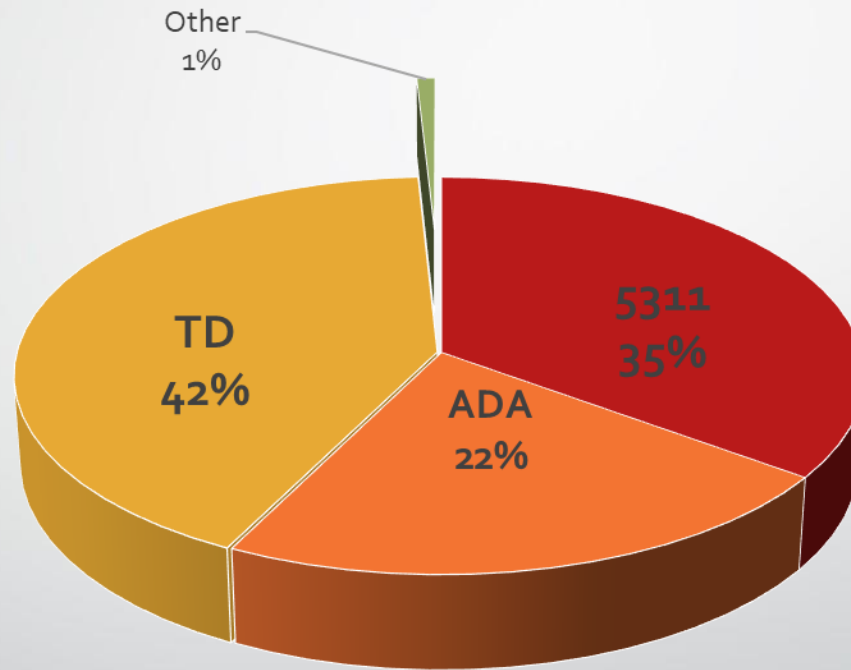
Rural Service Area



MT Services – Other

AKA – Sponsored Trips

- These are agreements with MT to provide transportation for eligible riders. In 2020 we signed an agreement with the Marion County School Board to provide homeless children rides to school until they could be scheduled on a normal bus route. Prior agreements were with Medicaid brokers (i.e., MTM, Access2Care, etc.) providing trips such as pediatric babies to their daycares.



2020 Rider Breakdown

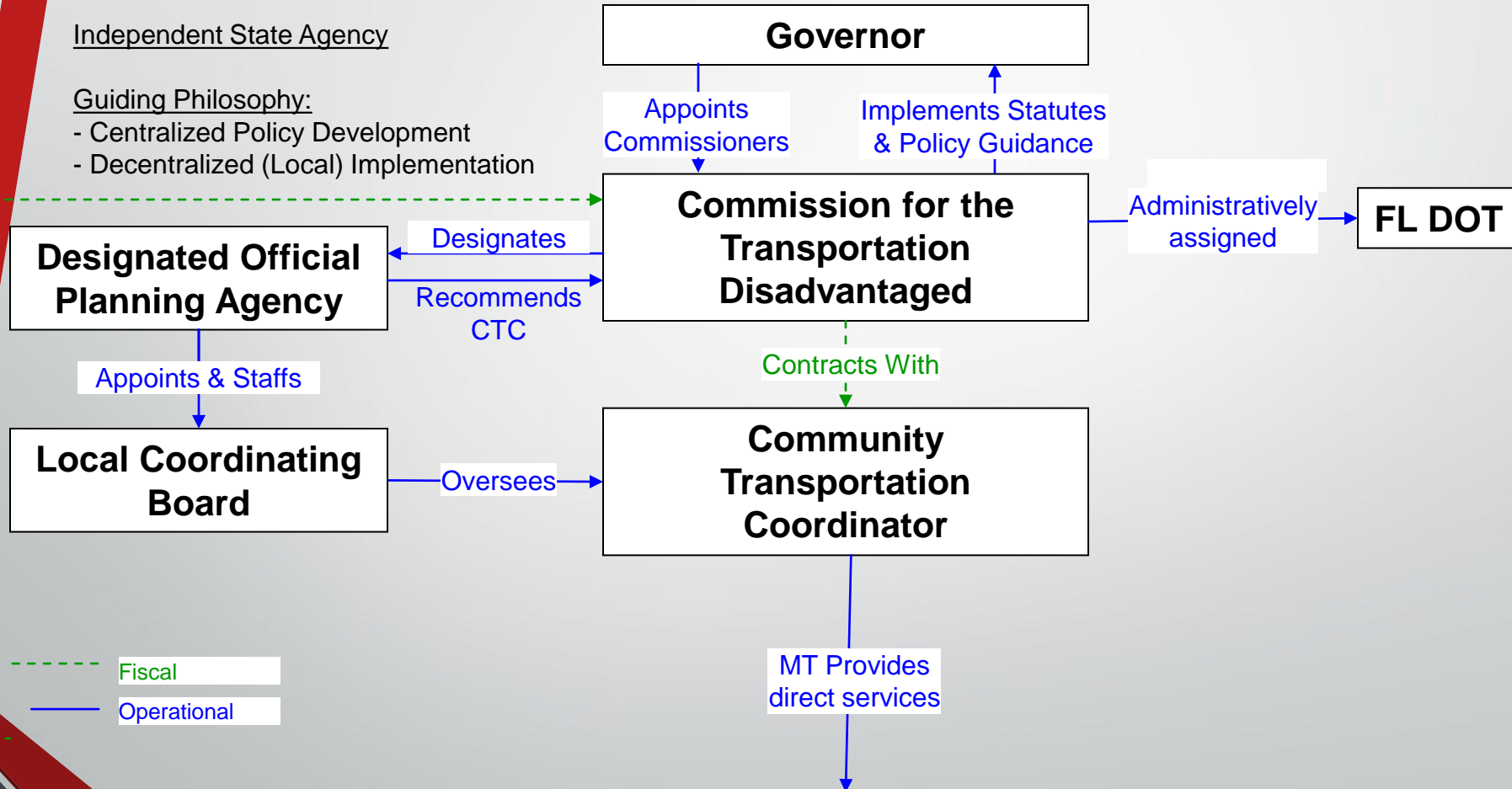
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MARIONTRANSIT Mission:

"Is to provide public transportation that offers riders a high-quality safe, reliable, and efficient paratransit experience."

352-620-3071

