Citizen Participation - Podcast Transcript

Host 1: All right, let's dive right in today. We're going to be talking all about how you can make a difference in Brevard County.

Host 2: Oh yeah, that's right.

Host 1: So we are going to be looking at the citizen participation page on 321transit. com. And there's a lot here. You can help seniors, you can shape transportation, you know, planning, uh, so many things.

What do you think about all this?

Host 2: I think this is a really fantastic resource. It's kind of a one stop shop for people in Brevard County who really want to, like, roll up their sleeves and get involved, you know, and make a difference.

Host 1: Absolutely. Yeah. And I mean, if we want to start right at the top. Yeah.

We've got, uh, Volunteers in Motion. And you know, I think this is probably one of the most impactful things because it's really a personal thing. You know, you're helping senior citizens who need that extra help. to live independently.

Host 2: Yeah. I mean, they need help, you know, maybe getting to doctor's appointments or going to the grocery store.

Host 1: Exactly.

Host 2: And the volunteers help with that and make sure that they're able to live their lives with dignity.

Host 1: Right. And I mean, even if it's just a few hours a week.

Host 2: Yeah.

Host 1: You know, we've heard from volunteers that it's a super rewarding experience.

Host 2: Yeah.

Host 1: And you know, it's. You really form a bond with the people that you're helping.

Host 2: And it makes a real difference. I mean, it, you think about it, you're helping these people stay active in the community and engaged. And it just, it makes our community stronger.

Host 1: Absolutely.

Host 2: As a whole.

Host 1: Now if we move on, we also have Transit One. Which is a non profit. It's a nonprofit that focuses on improving public transportation throughout the whole county.

I'm really impressed by this one. Yeah. Uh, it's a nonprofit that focuses on improving public transportation and mobility.

Host 2: They're doing some really great work advocating for investment in public transportation.

Host 1: Yeah. That's awesome.

Host 2: Yeah. So it's a great example of how citizens can really influence decision making.

Host 1: Yeah.

Host 2: And create positive change.

Host 1: Yeah. They're not just talking about it. They're actually doing it. Right. And what I also like is that it's open to everyone.

Host 2: Yeah, any individual or organization can join and, and work together to like, you know, create a better transportation system.

Host 1: Right. Awesome. Yeah. Okay.

So now let's, uh, let's talk about the big picture stuff.

Host 2: Okay.

Host 1: The Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization, or the TPO as they call it.

Host 2: Yeah. This is where the long term planning happens, uh, you know, developing transportation plans for the entire county. It's a pretty complex process when you think about.

All the factors involved, like managing traffic congestion planning for future growth, ensuring sustainability, you know, it's a big job.

Host 1: Yeah. And they really emphasize community input, right? They're holding public meetings, workshops, even online surveys to gather feedback from residents.

Host 2: It's all about collaboration, you know, bringing together government officials, citizens and different groups to create a transportation system that works for everyone.

Host 1: Yeah. So, if you want to have your say, definitely reach out to the TPO and get involved.

Host 2: Absolutely.

Host 1: So, let's talk about one more group that I think is doing really important work, uh, and that's the Local Coordinating Board for Transportation Disadvantaged Service. Oh,

Host 2: yes. The LCB.

Host 1: Yeah. Um, so, who does this board serve and what kind of work are they doing?

Host 2: So they're focused on making sure that people who might have challenges getting around, whether that's because of a disability or their age or, you know, their economic situation, they're making sure that those people have access to transportation.

Host 1: Right. And I mean, transportation is so important to be able to live your life.

Exactly. To be able to do the things that you need to do. So they're working with, Space Coast Area Transit and other service providers to try to figure out, okay, what are the special programs that we need?

Host 2: Exactly, yeah.

Host 1: And how do we make sure that people can get to where they need to go? Right. This is all really amazing stuff.

Host 2: Yeah, it's exciting.

Host 1: I'm actually feeling a little inspired.

Host 2: Yeah.

Host 1: I want to get involved more. Do you have any advice for somebody like me who, you know, they want

to make a difference, but they're not quite sure where to start?

Host 2: I would say start by thinking about what you're really passionate about, you know.

What are you interested in? Do you want to get involved in direct service, like with volunteers in motion? Or do you want to be more on the policy side, maybe working with Transit One or the TPO? Yeah. Yeah. Think about your skills, too. What are you good at? What can you offer these organizations? Look at the links on the page, you know, reach out to them and just see what's out there.

Host 1: That's great advice.

Host 2: Yeah, and even just a small step can make a difference.

Host 1: Absolutely, and I think that's what we've really learned in this deep dive, is that there's so many ways That you can participate, you know, you can support seniors. You can advocate for better transit. You can even help, you know, plan for the future of transportation.

Host 2: Yeah. And I think what's amazing is that all these things are connected, you know, they're all working together to make Brevard County a better place to live.

Host 1: So yeah, check out this page, see what resonates with you and think about what small step you can take today to get involved and make a difference.

Host 2: Absolutely.

Host 1: That's all the time we have today.

Host 2: Okay. Thanks.

Host 1: Thanks for listening.

Host 2: Bye.

Host 1: Bye.