

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

JANUARY 17, 2024

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Public Transit Advisory Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 1:00 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at Collier County Museum Lecture Hall, 3331 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, Florida with the following members present:

Chair: John DiMarco, III
Vice-Chair: Peter Berry
Devon Browne (ZOOM)
Dewey Enderle
Sonja Lee Samek
Martin de St. Pierre (Excused)
Open Seat

ALSO PRESENT:

Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier County PTNE
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier County PTNE
Keyla Castro, Operations Specialist, Collier County PTNE
Elena Ortiz-Rosado, Events, Sales & Marketing Coordinator PTNE
Liz Soriano, Project Manager, Collier County PTNE
Dusty Siegler, Senior Planner, Collier County MPO
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation
Nolan Begley, Fixed Route Manager, MV Transportation
Carmen Monroy, Stantec Engineering

1. Call to Order

Chair DiMarco called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum four was established.

Chair DiMarco motioned to allow Mr. Browne to participate in the meeting as a virtual participant. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 4 – 0. A quorum of five was present.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Enderle moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.

4. Approval of Minutes

November 15, 2023

Ms. Samek moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023, meeting of the Public Transit Advisory Committee as presented. Second by Mr. Enderle. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.

5. Committee Action

None

6. Reports and Presentations

a. FY23 Year in Review – CAT Fact Sheet

Mr. Showalter presented the Executive Summary “*FY23 Year in Review*” updating the Committee on the service provided and key statistics from CAT operations throughout Fiscal Year 2023. He noted:

- Changes to the fixed route system, including the removal and consolidation of routes, achieved the goal of increased ridership.
- Statistics provided on the CAT Fact Sheet distributed with the Agenda, showed that the changes made have been beneficial to ridership.
- The fact sheet highlighted other key measures including On Time Performance, Transit App downloads and usage, and Paratransit ridership.
- Transit App downloads skyrocketed enabling riders to pay the fare without cash.
- Improvements to On Time Performance will be researched.
- The statistics will be reviewed for the impact of changes and initiatives and provide a baseline for comparison and improvement during FY-24.

Chair DiMarco will submit the report to the Community Foundation of Collier County to raise awareness of CAT’s mission and explore opportunities for mutual benefit.

b. Regional Fare and Service Update

Mr. Showalter presented the Executive Summary “*Regional Service and Fare Study Update*” to update the Committee on the progress and next steps for the ongoing Regional Service and Fare Study. He noted:

- Collier Area Transit and Jacobs Engineering initiated the Regional Service and Fare Study in March 2023.

- Completion of the development of a Study which evaluates the prospect of implementing regional service from Collier County into adjacent Counties, including evaluation and recommendation for a Regional Fare structure, is the purpose of the Study.
- CAT and Jacobs Engineering released a survey available to the public in December 2023, closing on January 3, 2024, requesting feedback on routes ridden and riders route choice recommendation.
- The UF/IFAS to Lehigh Acres route was the top recommendation based on the survey results submitted by one hundred ninety-nine (199) respondents; the I75 Express route was the second most popular response.
- Development of the UF/IFAS to Lehigh Acres will be the route selected for study finalization in March 2024.

A recommendation to endorse implementation of the proposed UF/IFAS to Lehigh Acres route will be requested of the Committee in March 2024.

c. Construction and Facility Updates

Ms. Soriano presented the Executive Summary “*Construction Update*” to update the committee on the bus shelter construction program and transit facilities project. She noted:

Mobile App Boarding Pass

- The CAT App to buy bus passes, plan trips, identify bus schedules, and track a bus ride in real time has been activated.

Bus Stop Improvements

- Twenty-eight (28) ADA compliant bus stops will be constructed in 2024.
- The three (3) levels of bus stop facilities include a) pads, b) pads with benches and c) pads with benches and a protective shelter.
- The Pads will be large enough to accommodate future upgrades.
- The PTNE collaborates with communities such as the Bayshore CRA to install bus stops.
- Bus stop construction criteria level, a, b, or c noted above, is based on ridership.

Transit Facilities

1. Immokalee Transfer Station

- A new transfer facility is under construction on Immokalee Road with an estimated completion date of fall 2023.
- Three (3) bus routes connect on a regular basis via this facility.

2. O & M Facility

- The 25,000 square foot transit-oriented facility will include operational offices, a drive-through maintenance area for the buses, service for electric buses, and secure fleet parking.
- Grant funds were received for the project.
- Approval of the design consultant’s contract is on the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Agenda for February 13, 2024.
- The design phase is projected to take one (1) year.
- Construction project bid invitations will be solicited on completion of the design phase.

7. Member and Staff Comments

New Member

Mr. DeLeon introduced Nolan Begley, Operations Manager for MV Transportation.

TDP Update

Mr. DeLeon reported that the “*Transportation Development Plan (TDP) Major Update*” prepared for the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), will be presented at the March 20th meeting.

He noted:

- A TDP Major Update is required every five years.
- A *Recommendation* to endorse the plan is required by the PTAC Advisory Committee.

Committee Vacancy

A seat is available on the Public Transit Advisory Committee. The term is four (4) years.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date

March 20, 2024 - 1:00 P.M.
 Collier County Museum Lecture Hall
 3331 Tamiami Trail E
 Naples, FL. 34104

10. Adjournment

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the chair at 1:24 P.M.

Public Transit Advisory Committee

John DiMarco III, Chair

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on May 15, 2024 as presented X or as amended _____.