

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

MARCH 20, 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 (Virtual Participant)
Dewey Enderle (Virtual Participant)
Sonja Lee Samek
Open Seat
Open Seat

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Wells, Director, Collier County PTNE
Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier County PTNE
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier County PTNE
Keyla Castro, Operations Specialist, Collier County PTNE
Felicia Kirby, Jacobs Engineering
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation
Nolan Begley, Fixed Route Manager, MV Transportation

1. Call to Order

Chair DiMarco called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M.

Mr. Showalter reported Martin de St. Pierre resigned from the Committee.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was not established.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Committee agreed to hold an informational meeting in accordance with the Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. January 17, 2024

The minutes of the January 17, 2024, Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting will be considered at the April 17, 2024, meeting.

5. Committee Action

a. Approval of Draft PIP for TDP Major

Mr. Showalter presented an Executive Summary “*PIP for 2025 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update*” for consideration. The five-year planning document which identifies recommendations and implementation strategies to achieve the goals and objectives of Collier Area Transit, will be presented to the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He provided an overview of the update noting:

- To receive State Block Grant Funds for system operations, each transit agency must develop a Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update every five (5) years and an Annual Progress Report for all other years.
- The report outlines Collier Area Transit’s progress made over the past year(s) towards achieving the goals and objectives identified in the TDP Major Update, approved October 27, 2020, by the BCC and FDOT on December 14, 2020.
- A public involvement plan was established for distribution to solicit public comments.
- Comments received will be provided to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) during final approval before transmitting to FDOT.
- The final TDP Major Update draft will be submitted for review and comment in March 2025.
- The proposed final TDP will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval in June 2025.
- The deadline to submit all TDP updates to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for approval is September 1, 2025.
- The draft was prepared by CAT Staff, Collier MPO Staff, and Stantec consultants.

Mr. DeLeon noted any questions on the proposal plan should be submitted via email to Mr. Showalter.

Recommendation

Members in attendance endorsed the Collier Area Transit Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Progress Report to the Transit Development Plan.

b. Approval of CAT Regional Service and Fare Study

Mr. Showalter presented the Executive Summary “*Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Fare Study.*” The Study was performed with the Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and CAT to evaluate the prospect of implementing a new regional transit corridor for Cat to provide a service between Collier County and Lee County, connecting to the Lee County Transit (Lee Tran) system. The Study proposes a new regional connection operated by CA and analyzes existing conditions and funding opportunities.

Felicia Kirby, Jacobs Engineering, presented the draft noting:

- The Regional Transit Vision mission is to provide effective and efficient multimodal mobility services cross-county and connect the transit network to facilitate the needs of workers, residents, and visitors to support economic, environmental, and community benefits.
- Performance measures developed include:
 - Decrease travel time and increase coverage and frequency of service to areas cross the county.
 - Development of a plan to fund improved/expanded services.
- Public Outreach and Survey
 - All Participants: The I-75 Premium Express received the most first place rankings.
 - Bus Riders only: The UF/IFAS and Lehigh Acres route received the highest rankings.
- Recommended regional route:
 - Based on the outreach data, the UF/IFAS to Lehigh Acres route was selected.
- Capital cost projection:
 - Bus, equipment and bus stop improvements are estimated at \$628,700.
 - Annual operating costs are estimated at \$605,000.
- Fare Policy Recommendation: Separate and joint fare policies were evaluated.
 - Both agencies, LeeTran and CAT, recommended maintaining a separate regional pass structure.
- An interlocal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for terms and conditions of future regional service will be created.

Next Steps

Presentation of the “Study” to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for approval.

Comments

Mr. DeLeon reported:

- A Corridor Ranking criteria focusing on servicing the current needs for commuters was utilized.
- U.S. Census data and economic data were taken into account.

Recommendation

Members endorsed the proposed Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Fare Study for presentation to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

6. Reports and Presentations

a. CAT Paradise Beach Trolley

Mr. Showalter updated the Committee on the *Paradise Beach Trolley* service providing transportation from Conner Park to Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park and Vanderbilt Beach. He noted:

- The beach bus, rebranded as the *Paradise Beach Trolley* with a resort themed beach wrap, commenced February 16 and will end April 28, 2024.
- The travel route, a loop from Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park to Vanderbilt Beach, stopping at Conner Park in between, is complimentary.
- The trolley transported 1700 passengers in five weeks, 610 of which were booked during spring break (March 10th – 15th).
- The service has had great success in previous years and CAT plans to continue to provide the service.

7. Member and Staff Comments

Committee Vacancies

Mr. Brown’s term expires March 22, 2024, leaving three seats available on the Public Transit Advisory Committee. The term is four (4) years.

Chair DiMarco urged members to reach out to the community and their peers to invite candidates to apply for Committee membership.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date

April 17, 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 1:41 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 _____.