

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

MAY 15, 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
Dewey Enderle
Sonja Lee Samek
Open Seat
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
Elena-Ortiz Rosado, Marketing Manager, Collier County PTNE
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 1:05 P.M.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Enderle moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 4 - 0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Enderle moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024, and March 20, 2024, Public Transit Advisory Committee meetings as presented. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 4 - 0.

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 at the March 20, 2024, meeting noting the five-year planning document, which identifies recommendations and implementation strategies to achieve the goals and objectives of Collier Area Transit. The plan has been distributed for Public comment with an end date of May 24, 2024.

He noted:

- 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.
- Public 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 to the Committee 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.

Recommendation

Vice Chair Berry motioned to approve the Collier Area Transit Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Progress Report to the Transit Development Plan. Second by Mr. Enderle. Carried unanimously 4 - 0.

b. Approval of CAT Regional Service and Fare Study

Mr. Showalter presented the Executive Summary “*Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Fare Study*” at the March 20, 2024, meeting. He noted 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 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 CAT and analyzes existing conditions and funding opportunities.

Felicia Kirby, Jacobs Engineering, presented the draft at the March 20, 2024 meeting and highlighted:

- 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.
- 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.
- The Regional Fare and Regional Service Study is scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval on May 28, 2024.

Recommendation

Ms. Samek motioned to approve the Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Fare Study. Second by Mr. Enderle. Carried unanimously 4 – 0.

c. Endorsement of 5307 & 5339 POP

Mr. DeLeon presented an Executive Summary “*Endorsement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)*” to inform the PTAC Advisory Committee of the Program of Projects for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307 and 5339 grant application submittals.
Section 5307

- The Public Transit Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) Division receives federal grant funds for the management of the Collier Area Transit (CAT) system annually.
- Collier County is located within the Bonita Springs/Naples Census Urbanized Area.
- A portion of the Section 5307 funding received is shared with Lee County.
- The total amount allocated to the Urbanized Area Formula Program is \$6,844,463 of which \$5,025,205 is awarded to Collier County, \$176,792 to FDOT, and \$1,642,466 distributed to Lee County.

- Projects proposed for the appropriated funding may include:
 1. Transit Improvement Projects include the rehabilitation of bus stops.
 2. Security and Safety enhancement by replacing Intelligent Transportation Equipment.
 3. Provision of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit services.
 4. Funding for a replacement bus.
 5. Preventative maintenance.
 6. Fixed Route and Paratransit operational expenses.

Section 5339

- The program provides capital assistance for new and replacement buses, related equipment, and facilities.
- Collier County is the designated recipient for the urbanized area.
- \$362,341 is allocated to the Bonita Springs/Naples Urbanized Area for USC Section 5339 Bus and the Bus Facilities Urbanized Area Formula program would be \$474,920.

Proposed Program of Projects for the Appropriated Funding
5339 FY24-25

- Project proposed for the funding may include the purchase of a 40-foot bus.
- The match has been approved and is reflected in the Operating Budget.

Recommendation

Vice Chair Berry motioned to endorse the Collier Area Transit 5307 FY24-25 Program of Projects in the amount of \$3,933,690.00, financed by Federal Grant Funds, and 5339 FY24-25 Program of Projects in the amount of \$474,920.00 for transit capital projects and operating assistance to the Collier Area Transit (CAT) system. Second by Mr. Enderle. Carried unanimously 4 – 0.

d. Membership Application

Mr. Showalter reported there are three seats available on the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC). The terms are for 3-years, and an application was received from Benita Staadecker.

Ms. Staadecker shared her credentials and expressed her desire to be seated on the Committee.

Recommendation for Benita Staadecker

Chair Di Marco recommended the Board of County Commissioners appoint Benita Staadecker to the Public Transit Advisory Committee. Second by Mr. Enderle. Carried unanimously 4 – 0.

The candidate motioned for recommendation will be placed on the Board of County Commissioner's *Consent Agenda* for consideration to the Advisory Committee.

6. Reports and Presentations

None

7. Member and Staff Comments

Committee Vacancies

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

June 19, 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 chair at 1:24 P.M.



Public Transit Advisory Committee

John DiMarco III, Chair

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on June 19, 2024 as presented X or as amended _____.