

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 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  
Cliff Donenfeld  
Dewey Enderle  
Sonja Lee Samek  
Benita Staadecker  
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 Support Specialist, Collier County PTNE  
Rosio Garcia, Operations Analyst, Collier County PTNE  
Marika Maldonado, Paratransit Manager, Collier County PTNE  
Elena-Ortiz Rosado, Marketing Manager, Collier County PTNE  
Corene Sanger, Management Analyst, Collier County PTNE  
Liz Soriano, Project 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 1:00 P.M.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Approval of Agenda**

*Ms. Staadecker moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 4 - 0.*

**4. Approval of Minutes**

*Mr. Enderle moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024, Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.*

*Ms. Samek and Mr. Donenfeld joined the meeting at 1:04 P.M. A quorum of six was present.*

**5. Committee Action**

**a. Grant Applications for 5310, 5311, and 5339**

**Mr. DeLeon** presented the Executive Summary “*Grant Application for 5310, 5311, and 5339*” for the submission of the FY25 Capital/Operating Grants Program applications to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) must approve the grant application submissions. He noted:

**FTA Section 5310 Grant Request**

The 5310 capital and operating grant requests in FY25 supports the Collier Area Transit (CAT) System to purchase replacement vehicles and operating expenses to support the paratransit service.

- Funding in the amount of \$625,766 will be used to purchase four replacement paratransit vehicles and equipment that have met their useful life.
- Another \$800,000 requested will be utilized to provide paratransit services in the urbanized areas. Funding allocated, which requires a 50% local match, would be \$400,000 in Federal funds and \$400,000 in Local funds.
- The capital grant includes Federal Funding (\$900,613), a State Match of (\$62,577) and a Local Match of (\$462,577) for a total of \$1,425,766.
- Replacement vehicles will not increase the overall paratransit fleet inventory.
- The acquisition will provide for ongoing transportation services to the elderly and disabled residents of the County.

**FTA Section 5311 Grant Request**

The 5311 capital grant request in FY24 supports the Collier Area Transit (CAT) System to offset operational costs to support fixed route service in the rural areas.

- Rural capital grant funding in the amount of \$1,444,000 will be used to offset operational costs to support fixed route service in the rural areas.
- The capital grant includes a 50% Federal Share (\$722,000), and a 50% Local Match (\$722,000).

### **FTA Section 5339 Grant Request**

The 5339 capital grant request in FY24 supports the Collier Area Transit (CAT) System to purchase a replacement vehicle to support fixed route service and construction of four bus stop improvements in rural areas.

- Funding in the amount of \$852,079 will be used to purchase one forty-foot fixed route bus to replace a bus that has met its useful life.
- Additionally, funding in the amount of \$284,071 will be used for the purchase and construction of bus stop improvements including shelters.
- The capital grant funding match requirements include an 80% Federal share (\$924,481) with a 20% State Match (\$231,120) for a total grant funding request of \$1,155,602.

**Mr. DeLeon** noted:

- Grant funds, awarded to FDOT by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are utilized annually by the Program.
- Rural area boundaries, determined by PTAC, rely on census data. FDOT recently approved the boundaries.
- Collier County is not in competition with other entities for rural Grants 5311 and 5339.
- “Elderly Eligibility Criteria” would be defined if introduced as a criterion for Grant distribution.

*Vice-Chair Berry motioned to endorse the submittal of Grant Applications 5310, 5311 Rural, and 5339 Rural in the amount of \$4,025,368.00 to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval and submission to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Seconded by Ms. Staadecker. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.*

## **6. Reports and Presentations**

### **a. Seasonal Schedule Change 2024**

**Mr. Stauffer** presented the Executive Summary “November Route Changes” updating the Committee on the service modifications to be implemented for the season schedule change on November 17, 2024. He noted:

- Changes will be implemented across multiple Collier Area Transit routes.
- Public notification in advance of the changes included distribution of the proposed schedule modifications throughout the community and postings on social media and RideCAT.com.
- Many changes are driven by an effort to improve the On-Time Performance of CAT’s fixed route service.
- Data collected over the past two years includes “run times” and driver feedback, resulting in adjustment to the timepoints to provide riders a more accurate estimation of bus arrival at the stops.
- Significant route changes related to Route 19 and Route 22.
- Route 22 had its morning outbound trip from the Government Center to Immokalee, as well as the evening inbound trip from Immokalee to CAT Ops, removed.
- The Route 19 Express will be out of service on the way to Immokalee to service the Route 22 segment before starting service as Route 19.
- Changes will be available for public review online and on social media.

**Mr. Stauffer** noted:

Facebook Survey

- Statistical data will be reported when available.

Paratransit Bus Schedule

A member reported wait time experienced for passenger pick-up was occasionally unreasonable and efforts to contact dispatch were unsuccessful.

**Mr. Stauffer** noted:

- Eligibility requirements must be met to book special trips.
- A “window time and” is provided to the passenger for pick up as is ride time.
- Dispatch should be notified if the passenger is ready ahead of the scheduled pick up. accommodation will be made if possible.
- The dispatch number (239.262.7272) offers a recorded option menu.

*Mr. Stauffer will investigate the functionality of the dispatch number and provide an update at the December 18, 2024 meeting.*

**7. Member and Staff Comments**

Marco Island Trolley Pilot Program

**Mr. Showalter** reported:

- Two new members were elected to the Marco Island City Council.
- The Council members voted against the trolley route pilot program to the island.
- The program, scheduled to commence in January 2025, was designed to reduce traffic congestion on the island.

**8. Public Comments**

None

**9. Next Meeting Date**

December 18, 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 1:30 P.M.**

**Public Transit Advisory Committee**

**John DiMarco III, Chair**

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on January 15, 202~~4~~<sup>5</sup> as presented X or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.