

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 25, 2020

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 3:00 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at the Collier County Government Complex Human Resources Training Room, Building B, 3303 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman: Mr. John DiMarco
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Arthur Dobberstein
Mr. James Caton
Mr. Harold Weeks

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. James Bennett - Excused
Ms. Sonja Lee Samek – Excused

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement
Mr. Braian Morales, General Manager, MV Transportation, Inc.
Mr. Peter Berry

I. Call to Order

Mr. DiMarco called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum established.

III. Approval of Agenda

Requested Amendments to the Agenda:

- a. Consideration of an application for membership to the PTAC (Reports and Presentations).
- b. Presentation of thank you card to Transit Marketing Coordinator (Member Comments).

Mr. Dobberstein entered a motion to approve the February 25, 2020 meeting agenda, with the noted changes. Mr. DiMarco seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. January 21, 2020

Mr. Weeks entered a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Dobberstein seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

V. Reports and Presentations

a. Report of Smart Cities Road Show – Mr. DeLeon

Mr. DeLeon provided a summary of recent attendance by Collier Area Transit Staff at the Smart Cities Road Show held in Miami, Florida, presented by the Government of Canada. The Chief Innovation Officer representing the City of Miami shared information regarding the progress made in the Smart Cities initiative, with the introduction of new technologies, and new methods of capturing and analyzing data, resulting in problem identification and determination of appropriate solutions.

Multiple vendors were in attendance at the event, notably those offering information on electric vehicles, solar power technologies, such as for use in parking lots and charging stations, as well as bidirectional batteries; vehicle to grid technology which allows bidirectional power flow between the battery of an electric vehicle and the power grid. A list of vendors in attendance at the Smart Cities Road Show will be shared with Advisory Committee members for review.

Mr. Weeks inquired as to the possibility of utilizing solar power in Florida, which has been met with some resistance in the past. Mr. DeLeon concurred that there are challenges with the use of solar power in Florida due to the effects of extreme heat on the equipment; however, information has been requested from a vendor to explore how solar power technology may be utilized. Mr. Weeks further inquired as to whether consideration has been given to a transition to electric buses in the future.

Mr. DeLeon noted discussions have been had related to pursuit of greater energy efficiency and sustainability options. A complete transition to electric vehicles is not currently under consideration, however technological advancements resulting in longer battery life have been noted. Coordination with FPL would also be necessary in order to identify the impact upon the electrical grid. Mr. Dobberstein inquired as to the cost of an electrical vehicle, which Mr. DeLeon stated was twice that of a fueled vehicle. Mr. Dobberstein pointed out the possible consequence of reduced services resulting from the higher cost vehicles. Mr. Dobberstein suggested consideration be given for a cleaner fuel option, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), which produces far fewer harmful emissions and hydrocarbons than gasoline. Using CNG makes the engine cleaner and more efficient, and unlike gasoline, CNG minimizes harmful carbon deposits when combusted. This results in a cleaner and more efficient engine, as well as longer lasting spark plugs. Mr. DeLeon noted the unique weather challenges in Florida and that the options for obtaining gasoline or accessing an electrical grid following a major storm event need to be taken into consideration in the future.

Mr. DeLeon noted that the focus of the conference was for businesses to be more data driven and more responsive to the data, identifying issues and seeking real solutions, rather than pursuing applications for the sake of employing the latest technology available. Mr. Caton inquired as to whether a cross county/city collaboration in Miami had been discussed, such as MetroPlan Orlando, a regional metropolitan planning organization (MPO) which provides a forum for multi-modal transportation planning and inter-governmental partnership. Mr. DeLeon noted that the potential benefits which result from coordination with an MPO had been discussed, as well as the challenges of coordinating with the many municipalities in Miami.

Locally, LeeTran, in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), had been permitted to initiate development of their Transit Development Plan (TDP) one year early in order to collaborate in a regional effort with the development of the Collier County TDP. Mr. Caton inquired as to the possibility for regional grant funding requests. Mr. DeLeon noted the potential for regional grant funding requests via FDOT, and that the LinC route, which links Lee and Collier counties, had been a joint funding effort.

Mr. DiMarco inquired as to the status of the Masabi smartphone application which is planned for use in Collier County. Mr. DeLeon stated that full implementation is anticipated for August 2020, with a pilot program scheduled for June 2020.

b. CAT Performance Measures – Mr. DeLeon

Annual Performance Measures were shared with the Advisory Committee. A comparison of first quarter results with previous year performance was done, with an overall 0.3% increase in fixed route ridership, October through December 2019, and a 5% increase in January 2020. Excellent driver customer service and the successful partnership with MV Transportation were remarked upon, although specific reasons for the increase in ridership have not been examined in depth.

Goals regarding safety and preventable accidents were shown to have been met, with only one accident reported in November 2019. Mr. Dobberstein inquired as to whether any impact had been felt following the removal of the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirement for non-fixed route drivers. Mr. DeLeon stated work is being done on a Public Transit Safety Plan, which is a new requirement that will reflect a five-year trend related to preventable accidents and injuries. Findings will be shared with the Advisory Committee upon completion. Mr. Morales clarified that the CDL requirement relates more to vehicle classification, and that training is the same. Development of paratransit drivers takes longer, with a higher turnover of paratransit drivers. Monthly goals were discussed, specifically attempts to achieve a higher number of riders per hour, as well as continued forward movement with ongoing ADA improvement projects county wide.

VI. Application for PTAC Membership – Mr. Peter Berry

Mr. Berry addressed the Advisory Committee for introduction, presentation of credentials, and reasons for interest in becoming a member of the Public Transit Advisory Committee. Mr. Berry has been a full-time resident of Collier County for the past 8 years, originally from Connecticut. Professionally, Mr. Berry founded and led Association Management Company for 30 years, which managed 20 non-profit associations. Mr. Berry is also actively involved in several professional organizations, having recently successfully completed the Greater Naples Leadership Program. Mr. Berry expressed a desire to be of assistance to the community by lending his expertise in management and strategic planning, specifically in response to potential transportation issues resulting from the anticipated doubling of the County population by 2040.

Mr. Weeks entered a motion to endorse the application submitted by Mr. Peter Berry for membership of the Public Transit Advisory Committee. Mr. DiMarco seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

VII. Member Comments

+Mr. Dobberstein wished to formally recognize the community outreach program led by Ms. Elena Ortiz Rosado, Transit Events, Sales, and Marketing Coordinator. Specifically, Ms. Ortiz Rosado recently met with the Brownie Girl Scouts to provide information about using public transportation, as well as taking the girls for a bus ride. In Ms. Ortiz Rosado's absence, a thank you card from the Brownie Troop was presented by Mr. DiMarco to Mr. DeLeon.

+ Mr. DiMarco stated that a friend had been visiting from Canada for several weeks and had been actively utilizing Collier Area Transit, with positive feedback received on the service.

+The beach bus route was briefly discussed, noting the now single route. The service is free, with only a fee charged to enter the State Park at Wiggins Pass. The route was noted to be performing well, with no complaints noted regarding capacity for bicycles.

+Mr. Weeks notified the Advisory Committee of his resignation from the PTAC and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to have served on the Committee since its inception.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no further comments from members of the public.

IX. Next Meeting Date – March 17, 2020

X. Adjournment

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Chair.

Public Transit Advisory Committee

John DiMarco, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Committee on _____ as presented ___ or as amended___.