

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

April 20, 2021

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 via hybrid video/teleconference/in-person at Collier County Human Resources, 3303 Tamiami Trail East, Naples FL 34112, with the following members present:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman: Mr. John DiMarco - Zoom

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Arthur Dobberstein – Zoom

Mr. Peter Berry - Zoom

Mr. Devon Browne – Zoom

Ms. Sonja Lee Samek - Zoom

Excused:

Mr. James Bennett

Mr. James Caton

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Michelle Arnold,

Mr. Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier Area Transit

Ms. Tamarin Kirby, Planning Technician, MV Transportation

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

The meeting could not be called to order due to the absence of an in-person quorum.

III. Approval of Agenda

Approval of the agenda could not be voted upon due to the absence of an in-person quorum.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. February 16, 2021

b. March 16, 2021

Approval of the minutes could not be voted upon due to the absence of an in-person quorum.

V. Committee Action

a. Membership Renewal – Sonja Samek

Committee action could not be taken due to the absence of an in-person quorum.

VI. Reports and Presentations

a. Update on CAT ridership impact

An overview was given of ways unemployment rates and decreased tourism due to COVID-19 have impacted CAT ridership, as well as a brief update of performance measures regarding the current standing of fixed route services.

In March 2021, fixed route buses transported approximately 1700 riders per day, which is down 2% from the prior year and down 22% from 2019. Paratransit ridership transported approximately 180 riders per day, down 9% from the prior year and down 27% from March 2019.

With regards to impacts on ridership due to unemployment, unemployment in Collier County in 2019 was 3.3%, currently at 4.7%, with a significant impact on ridership coinciding with the onset of COVID-19 in April 2020. As unemployment has decreased, ridership has steadily improved. Likewise, reduced tourism negatively impacted ridership, notably during pandemic induced lockdown in April 2020. Tourism remains down approximately 48% compared to January 2020, however, the data suggests that the majority of riders are local residents. Unemployment and tourism are linked, as heightened tourism requires an enhanced workforce, which positively impacts ridership numbers. It is difficult to determine what percentage of the overall ridership is due to tourists, as routes dedicated to tourists, such as the beach routes would need to be studied.

- b. Update on Service:** Work on the Comprehensive Operating Analysis remains ongoing. As part of this project, two workshops are planned; one to be held at the Government Center in Naples on Thursday, April 22, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., to provide information on proposed changes, as well as for public feedback. The second workshop will be held in Immokalee on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Both workshops will have virtual capability.
- c. Vaccination event:** A vaccination event was held on Saturday, April 10, 2021 at the transfer station, at which 350 individuals were administered the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. A second event which was scheduled was canceled due to the temporary suspension of the use of that vaccine. A second event will be scheduled upon reinstatement of the use of the Johnson & Johnson product.
- d. Lease status:** Ms. Arnold noted that she has been working with the County Attorney's office to draft a lease for regional transportation vendors, specifically working with the Real Properties office to create a fair and equitable rent for participants, and Risk Management to ensure risk and insurance requirements are also included in the final lease agreement. A draft lease is anticipated to be available for review at the next PTAC meeting. Feedback from vendors has been positive for potential partnerships.
- e. PTAC Quorum:** Ms. Arnold noted that a discussion was held with the County Attorney's office regarding the requirement of a minimum in-person attendance for voting on official business. It was clarified that the requirement is based on Ordinance, which is complicated to amend. The County Board has not made any changes to this ordinance and the recommendation was for no amendment.

VII. Member Comments

+Mr. Dobberstein inquired as to the status of the 5339b grant, which included the purchase of electric buses and building modification with solar panels, which was approved at the February 2021 BCC meeting. Mr. DeLeon stated that an application has been submitted within the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA), which is currently in process for review and final approval before the grant may become active and utilized.

+Mr. Dobberstein inquired as to the status of the Transportation for the Disabilities grant which was due to expire in September 2021. Mr. DeLeon clarified that the program has not begun, as an agreement with Uber has yet to be finalized, as well as a contract with a secondary vendor will have to be entered into to ensure that all requirements are met.

+Ms. Arnold stated that Ms. Samek's application for renewal of Advisory Committee membership would be presented to the BCC for approval, without PTAC recommendation due to the lack of a quorum for three consecutive meetings. An

informal vote was held by PTAC members, which unanimously supported Ms. Samek's application for Committee membership.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

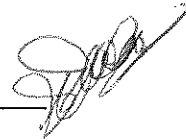
IX. Next Meeting Date – May 18, 2021 (Location TBD)

X. Adjournment

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

Public Transit Advisory Committee

John DiMarco, Chairman



These minutes approved by the Committee on June 16th 2021 as presented _____ or as amended _____.