



**Public Transit Advisory Committee
Collier Area Transit
Hybrid Meeting
Collier County Museum Lecture Hall
3331 Tamiami Trail East Naples, Florida
August 17th, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of Agenda
- 4) Approval of Minutes
 - a. June 15th, 2021 Minutes
- 5) Committee Action
- 6) Reports and Presentations
 - a. Route Reduction due to Driver Shortage
 - b. Study Recommendations
- 7) Member Comments
- 8) Public Comments
- 9) Next Meeting Date – September 21st, 2021 Collier County Museum Lecture Hall
- 10) Adjournment
- 11) Two or more members of the Board of County Commissioners may be present and may participate at the meeting. The subject matter of this meeting may be an item for discussion and action at a future BCC meeting.

Collier Area Transit operates in compliance with Federal Transit Administration, (FTA) program requirements and ensures that transit services are made available and equitably distributed and provides equal access and mobility to any person without regard to race, color, or national origin, disability, gender or age. Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*; FTA Circular 4702.1A, "Title VI and Title VI Dependent Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients.

Anyone who required an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or other reasonable accommodations in order to participate in this proceeding, should contact the Collier County Facilities Management Department located at 3335 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, Florida 34112 or 239-252-8380 as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Such reasonable accommodations will be provided at no cost to the individual.

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

June 15, 2021 Naples, Florida,

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 Collier County Museum Lecture Hall, 3331 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, Florida with the following members present:

Chairman: John DiMarco, III
Vice-Chairman: Arthur Dobberstein
James Bennett
Peter Berry
Devon Browne (ZOOM)
James Caton
Sonja Lee Samek (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Arnold, Director, Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement
Omar Deleon, Public Transit Manager, Collier Area Transit
Natalia Esteban
Tamarin Kirby, MV Transit Planner
Elena Ortiz-Rosado, Events and Sales Marketing Coordinator
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier Area Transit

1. Call to Order

Chairman DiMarco called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

The members present recognized Devon Browne was attending via ZOOM.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bennett moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. Berry. Carried unanimously 6 - 0.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. May 18, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Berry moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Bennett. Carried unanimously 6 - 0.

5. Committee Action

a. Draft COA Report – Ryan Suarez – Kimley-Horn and Associates

Since January 2021, Collier County Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) Staff have been working with consultant staff on a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) of the fixed-route service network.

Mr. Suarez of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Planning and Design Engineering Consultants, presented a PowerPoint of the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) for Collier County Public Transit noting:

- The COA is a thorough analysis of the fixed-routes and provides recommendations to improve productivity and service efficiency.
 - Key elements include a focus on short-term operational improvements and a cost neutral implementation plan.
 - Short term: less than five (5) years, focused on operational improvements primarily of service changes.
 - Cost neutral approach: operations that require minimal investment; reallocation of resources from underperforming services within the means of the existing budget.
- CAT bus operators and members of the public were interviewed to ensure the planning meets the goals and objectives of the County.*
- Evaluation of Existing Services
 - Data and analysis for each CAT fixed bus route including level of service, service statistics and service performance measure were evaluated with supporting service and performance profiles.
 - Development of Performance Standards
 - Key performance indicators and standards were developed and applied to the existing fixed-route network to provide a basis for evaluating routes for modification.

- Data reviewed consisted of FY 2019 annual ridership, revenue hours, and operating expense for each CAT fixed route. Standard performance evaluation ratios were developed reflecting the ridership productivity and cost effectiveness of a route.
- Service Alternative and Evaluation
 - The range of service alternatives was developed from the existing conditions evaluation.
 - Public Outreach included two (2) Public Workshops held in April 2021 and a Survey.
- Service Policies
 - Policies are identified and described for potential modification or enhancement.
- Implementation Plan
 - A phased implementation plan consisting of near-term (1-2 years), short-term (3-4 years), and mid-term (>5 years) service improvement recommendations.
 - The near-term service network results in a cost neutral implementation which is consistent with the objective established for the COA at the onset of the project.
 - Near-Term (1 to 2 years) service frequency improvements include elimination of Route 12B, Addition of Route 24B and Route 20/26 and Route 25 Monday through Friday service only.

Mr. Berry motioned to recommend the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC) accept the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) report and proceed with implementation of the recommended service changes identified in the near-term phase. Second by Mr. Caton. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.

b. Golden Gate Parkway RAISE Grant Support Letter – Alexander Showalter – CAT Senior Planner

Mr. Showalter presented a letter from Chair DiMarco, III, Chairman, Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC), addressed to Honorable Pete Buttigieg, United States Secretary of Transportation, conveying support for Collier County’s application to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT), Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application.

- Collier County has a vision for Golden Gate City to be a safe, diverse, family-oriented community that offers easy access to education, parks, shopping, and services within a vibrant walkable community.
- The Growth Management Department (GMD) has been working with the community to develop the project with the goal of transforming Golden Gate Parkway to be a more walkable and multimodal area.
- Transportation Planning Division has identified grant opportunities with the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure program which may aid in funding the improvements along the corridor.
- The Collier County Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) supports the grant application because the construction of complete streets along Golden Gate Parkway could have substantial benefits to residents of the neighborhoods as well as those passing through.
- Staff requested the endorsement of the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Doberstein moved to recommend the Public Transportation Advisory Committee endorse Collier County’s RAISE grant application to the US Department of Transportation for

construction of the “Golden Gate Parkway Complete Streets” project. Second by Mr. Bennett. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.

c. TDP Annual Update – Alexander Showalter – CAT Senior Planner

Mr. Showalter presented an Executive Summary “*Fiscal Year 2020 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update*” for consideration. The ten-year planning document identifies recommendations and implementation strategies to achieve the goals and objectives of Collier Area Transit.

- 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 deadline to submit all TDP updates to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for approval is September 1, 2021.
- The Annual Progress Report outlines the progress Collier Area Transit has made in FY2020 towards achieving the goals and objectives identified in the TDP Major Update, approved October 27, 2020.
- The summary action highlights:
 - Covid-19 impact on transit ridership (down 59%).
 - Operational changes to comply with CDC guidelines (cleaning, masks, etc).
 - Release of a mobile APP, allowing “safer” ticket purchases.
 - Renovation of fourteen (14) shelters and bus stops.
- The Progress Report is required to go through the Collier Area Transit Public Participation Plan process, which includes endorsement from the Public Transit Advisory Committee and a fifteen-day public comment period (commencing June 10, 2021 and expiring on June 24, 2021).

Mr. Berry moved to endorse the Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Progress Report to the Transit Development Plan. Second by Mr. Caton. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.

6. Reports and Presentations

a. Regional Transportation Service Provide Lease Agreement – Update

Ms. Arnold presented an Executive Summary “*Regional Transportation Service Provider Lease Agreement*” for information purposes and provided an update on a lease to share CAT Transfer Facility space with Regional Transportation Service Providers.

- On January 27, 2021, the Conditional Use for the Radio Road location that houses the Collier Area Transit (CAT) Operations was amended to allow for the use of the Transfer Facility by Regional transportation services like Greyhound.
- Staff is working with the County Attorney’s office to prepare a standard lease agreement to establish parameters for the prospective tenants.
- A draft lease has been prepared with the assistance of the County Attorney’s office and Real Property; final review will be with Risk Management.
- PTAC’s input on the lease will be sought on review completion.
- Timeline for implementation of a partnership with Regional Transportation Service Providers is fall 2021.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Locations such as McDonalds and Gas Stations currently being used by Regional Transportation Service Providers, are not designed for this type of service.
- Current locations in use may experience loss of revenue.
- Staff does not anticipate and impact on the bus bay capacity.
- CAT Facility use will generate revenue for the operations.

7. Member Comments

Hurricane Preparedness

- Planning and exercise sessions are scheduled by the County.

Read-Ahead Package

- The Committee requested earlier distribution of the agenda material.

Consultants

- Staff works in tandem with consultants and reviews drafts and documents.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date

July 27, 2021 - Collier County Museum, Lecture Hall, 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 3:57 P.M.

Public Transit Advisory Committee

John DiMarco, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on _____ as presented _____ or as amended _____.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Reports and Presentations
Item 6a
Temporary Route Reduction

Objective:

To temporarily suspend select routes to improve the reliability of Fixed Route service that has been affected by driver shortage.

Considerations:

The Pandemic has significantly impacted the labor force creating a national driver shortage for the Transportation Industry. For the past few months, the CAT system has struggled to have enough drivers to cover the service. Each day the vendor identifies the routes they are unable to cover and posts notices to the public via the MyStop app and on the website. Additionally, the vendor has been closing routes during the day of service due to call outs and lack of extra board drivers to cover. This has caused inconsistent delivery of service for our passengers.

Efforts have been taken by the vendor, MV Transportation Inc., to recruit new drivers, including the following:

- Increased Fixed Route Operators starting wage from \$13.00 to \$16.00
- Hired a Recruiter to put focus on finding drivers
- Placed “Now Hiring” banners on the property
- Eliminated the training wage
- Increased the sign-on bonus from \$500 to \$1,500
- Established a new work schedule for the drivers, reducing the number of operators required per day from 41 to 35

The shortage is affecting the vendor’s (MV Transportation, Inc.) ability to recruit enough drivers to fully operate the service. Unfortunately, despite the steps taken above, the results have not produced enough new candidates to fill the current 9 vacant positions.

In addition to the initiative identified above, PTNE has assisted by placing ads on CAT’s Facebook page and adding the job availability on the “Getting back to work after the Coronavirus Pandemic” link established by Fox-4 News.

With all this in mind staff determined the level of service that can be sustained with the current number of drivers, providing for vacation leave and potential call outs. The routes revenue hours, ridership and service areas were evaluated to select the routes that could be suspended with the least impact to the community.


Routes 18, 20, 25, and 26 are being recommended for suspension until further notice. Route 18 was selected as it is already slated to be eliminated through the COA process. Route 17 will continue to service the same areas that Route 18 was servicing. The other routes selected have low ridership and would impact fewer passengers.

Recommendation:

To endorse the temporary closure of Routes 18, 20, 25, and 26.

Attachment:

Route Maps for Routes 18, 20, 25, & 26

Prepared by:  _____ **Date:** 08/11/2021
Braian Morales, MV General Manager

Approved by: _____ **Date:** 08/11/2021
Michelle Arnold, PTNE Division Director

Route 18



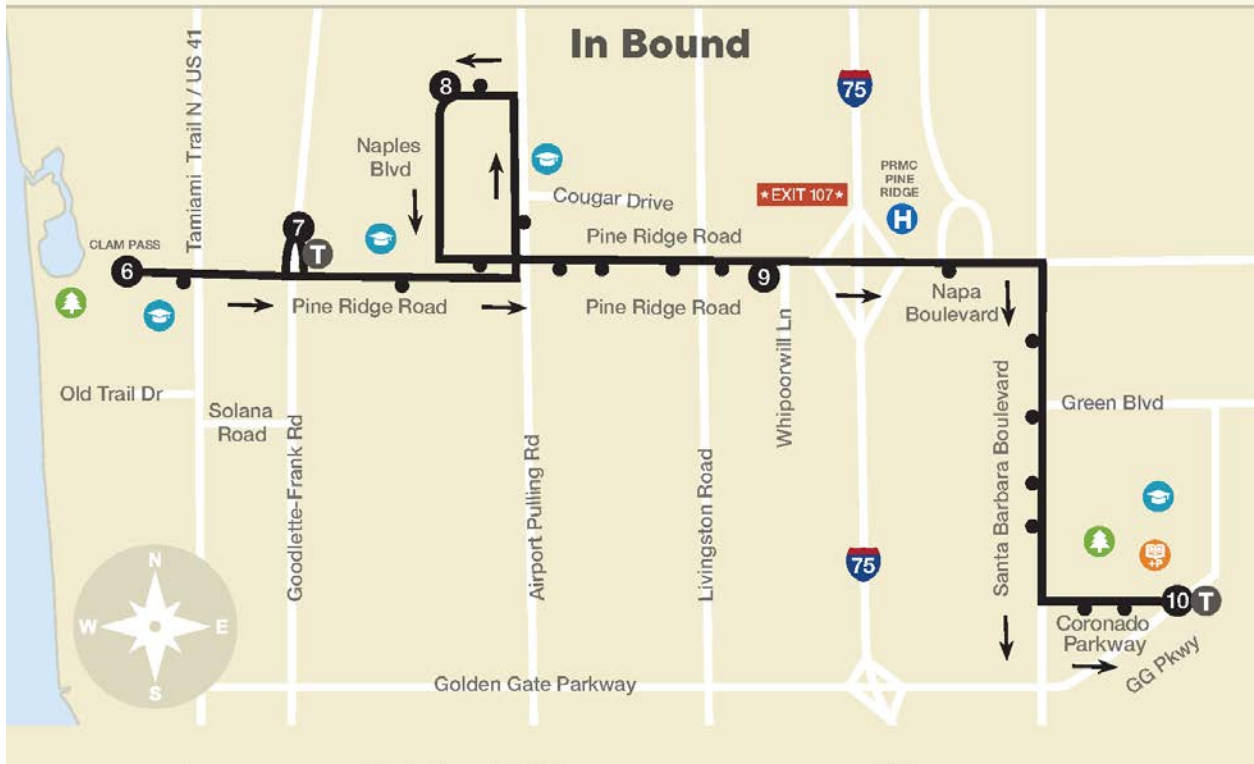
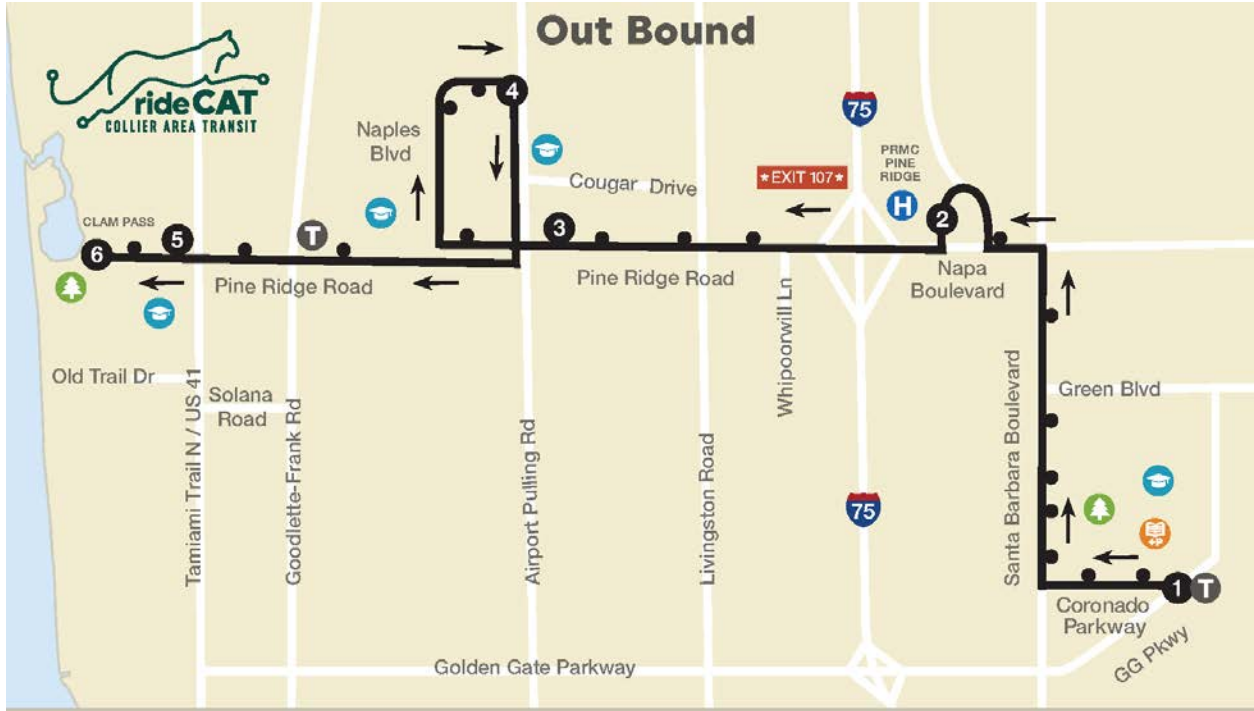
Route 20



Route 25



Route 26



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Reports and Presentations
Item 6b
Study Recommendations

Objective:

The hear from the Committee on what Studies they might like the MPO to assist us with.

Considerations:

MPO staff advised PTNE that there is funding allocated for Transit Studies and would like to here from us what we would like them to assist us on.

Staff has considered the following ideas but would like to hear from the Committee what other ideas you all might have.

Ideas from the TDP:

- A Market Study for the development of marketing strategies and best practices to increase awareness of CAT, CAT services, CAT image, and increase market share in terms of model split ridership.
- Downtown Autonomous Circulator
- Electric Naples Pier Shuttle
- Mobility on Demand – Demand and Operations requirements study
- A Fare Study

Recommendation:

To receive input from Committee member.

Attachment:

None

Prepared by: _____ **Date:** 08/11/2021
Michelle Arnold, PTNE Division Director

Approved by: _____ **Date:** 08/11/2021
Michelle Arnold, PTNE Division Director