

July 12, 2022

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 12, 2022 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 1:30 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at the Collier Area Transit (CAT) Conference Room, 8300 Radio Road, Naples, Florida 34104 with the following members present:

Chair: John DiMarco, III
Vice-Chair: Peter Berry
Devon Browne
James Caton (Excused)
Sonja Lee Samek (ZOOM)
Vacancy
Vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Arnold, Director, Collier County PTNE
Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier County PTNE
Brandy Otero, Principal Planner, Collier County Museum
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier County PTNE
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation
Patrick Bernal
Dewey Enderle
Martin de St. Pierre

1. Call to Order

Chairman DiMarco called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was not established.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Committee agreed to hold an informational meeting in accordance with the Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. April 19, 2022

b. May 17, 2022

c. June 21, 2022

Continued to the next meeting.

6. Recognition of Arthur E. Dobberstein

b. The Committee agreed to modify the agenda and commence the meeting with the recognition of Arthur E. Dobberstein.

In recognition of **Arthur E. Dobberstein**'s contributions to the Public Transit Advisory Committee and public transit in Collier County, a commemorative plaque was installed on a bench located at the Collier Area Transit headquarters on Radio Road.

Mr. Dobberstein devoted part of his time to the Public Transit Committee as a valued Board Member and committed to making his home in Collier a transit-friendly place to live. He served on the Public Transit Advisory Committee for nine years, including acting as Chairman for 3 years.

5. Committee Action

a. PTAC Member Attendance

Mr. Showalter presented an Executive Summary "*PTAC Member Attendance*" to review attendance records to identify any members with unsatisfactory attendance. He provided an overview noting:

- Staff reviewed the attendance records of the Committee Members for the current fiscal year and Committee rules (Ordinance 2001-055 – Creation of PTAC and bylaws) regarding attendance requirements.
- In-person attendance of a least four (4) members at each committee meeting is required to obtain a quorum.
- Committee members are encouraged to attend all meetings in-person for the proper operation of the Committee.
- An attendance spreadsheet for 2022 was distributed demonstrating several meetings were held without sufficient in-person participation to establish a quorum.
- Required "actions" had to move forward without Committee formal action.

The Committee discussed:

- If a quorum is physically present, the participation of an absent member by communications media technology is permissible when such absence is due to extraordinary circumstances.
- The Collier County Museum Lecture Hall is the preferred location for the meeting.

- Alternate dates to the current third Tuesday of the month will be considered.
- Some members expressed a preference to meet earlier, i.e., between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

New Membership

- Dewey Enderle and Martin de St. Pierre’s applications for membership to the Advisory Board, endorsed by the Committee, have been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) September Agenda for approval.
- Patrick Bernal expressed his desire to be appointed to the Committee at a future date.
- Currently seven (7) members comprise the Advisory Board, in accordance with the Ordinance.
- An amendment to the Ordinance is required to increase membership. An odd number of members is preferred for “voting” purposes to successfully adopt a motion by plurality.
- An increase to membership may require an increase to the quorum minimum.
- Membership terms are for three (3) years.
- Election of Officers, Chair and Vice Chair, is conducted annually. The last election was held October 19, 2021.

6. Reports and Presentations

a. COA Changes for Season 2022

Mr. Showalter presented an Executive Summary “*Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) for Season 2022*” for information purposes. He provided an overview noting the purpose is to update the Committee on service changes and actions for undertaking these changes for the upcoming season in Fall 2022.

- Collier County Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) hired Kimley-Horn to work with staff on a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA).
- An analysis of the fixed-route service was conducted, and recommendations provided to improve productivity and service efficiency.
- Enhancements Staff is reviewing and hope to implement in Fall 2022 include:
 - Route 27 improvements – recommendation to divert the route off Collier Blvd. to provide service along Immokalee Road to the new Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park. An additional stop by Publix and Walmart as well as route timing and rider surveys will determine feasibility of the change.
 - Route 19 and Route 28 – recommendation to analyze consolidation of the routes to increase frequency providing a consistent route between Immokalee and Naples.
 - Route 20 and 26 – recommendation to analyze for consolidation due to similar service area and low ridership. The merge may improve consistency of service resulting in higher ridership along the adjusted path.
 - Route 25 – recommendation to re-align a portion of the route to US 41 north instead of going north on Goodlette-Frank Road. CAT headquarters would not be serviced; the route would loop between the Walmart on Collier Blvd. and the Pine Ride and Goodlette-Frank Road intersection.

Staff will be surveying riders and running simulated routes to determine the practicality of the recommendations. If the analysis is not completed in time to implement changes in fall 2022, the improvements may be delayed until spring 2023.

The Committee discussed:

- Adding a *Park & Ride* on Immokalee Road (across from Seed to Table) into Route 27 if the recommended route improvement does not work.
- Consulting Wastewater Management on opportunities to add additional bus shelters and sidewalks on Immokalee Road by the canal.
- Adding an additional stop between Walmart/Publix as suggested by Mr. Thayka at the June meeting.

Staff noted:

- Route changes go into effect semi-annually in November and April.
- The new route 20 would be a hybrid of routes 20 and 26. The proposed singular route would run all day and provide greater consistency in service.
- A pilot “Shuttle” program to run additional service along Immokalee Road is being investigated.
- To initiate a change, a determination must be made there is demand for the service, the operation is efficient and additional revenue is created for the program.
- Bus drivers canvassed were supportive of the revisions to the routes.
- A “rider survey” has been developed and will be distributed virtually.

Staff requested members provide comments and suggestions prior to Staff implementing audio announcements on the buses regarding the changes.

7. Member Comments

Additional Bus Stops on Immokalee Road

Staff is reviewing a request by Nash Thayka, Manager for the Residence Hotel on Juliet Blvd. for additional westbound bus stops on Immokalee Road to provide users easier access to work.

Bus Route Loop Time Accuracy

Data is retrieved and averaged with allowances for seasonal adjustments (including school sessions in/out) to determine actual run times. Accommodations are made as necessary to address the findings.

Gas Price Increase Effect on Ridership

April ridership increased 13.5%; May 17.0%. Ridership has not reached pre-COVID levels.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date

August 16, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – Collier County Museum Lecture Hall, Naples, FL. 34104

10. Adjournment

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 2:51 P.M.

July 12, 2022

Public Transit Advisory Committee



John DiMarco III, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on 09-22, 2022 as presented _____ or as amended _____.