

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

November 16, 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 (ZOOM)
Peter Berry (ZOOM)
Devon Browne (ZOOM)
James Caton (Excused)
Sonja Lee Samek (ZOOM)

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Arnold, Director, Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement
Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier Area Transit
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier Area Transit
Arlinda Karuli, Commute with Enterprise (ZOOM)
Tamarin Kirby, MV Transit Planner
Brandy Otero, Collier MPO

1. Call to Order

Chairman DiMarco called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

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. October 19, 2021, Minutes

The minutes of the October 19, 2021, Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting will be added to the December 21, 2021, Agenda.

5. Committee Action

a. Grant Applications 5311 and 5339

Mr. DeLeon presented the Executive Summary "Grant Application for 5311 and 5339" for submission of applications to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) must approve grant application submissions.

5311

- Collier County is proposing to apply for funds to purchase a replacement bus and utility truck that have met their useful life.
- The capital grant includes an 80% Federal share with a 20% local government match for a total of \$599,756.00.

5339

- The grant program provides capital funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses, vans, and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities in non-urbanized areas.
- The capital grant includes an 80% Federal share with a 20% State share for a total of \$765,059.00. Funds will be utilized for:
 - Replacement of one bus that has met its useful life.
 - Improvement of six (6) bus stops, selected based on ridership criteria, to ensure ADA compliance. Amenities will be added to three (3) of the six (6) stops.

The following was noted during Committee discussion:

- The new diesel bus and truck estimated cost is \$599,756.00. An exterior wrap identifies the vehicle as a Collier Area Transit (CAT) bus.
- A bus ordered in 2023 would be delivered mid-2024.
- The retired bus is sold by a County assigned auctioneer.
- Proceeds from the auction are reinvested to offset local government match requirements.
- The CAT bus fleet consists of twenty-eight (28) regular buses and thirty-five (35) paratransit buses.
- There are three (3) bus shelter templates. Bus stop sites are engineered depending on the Right of Way (ROW).
- The grant application dollars compared to last year are slightly lower for 5311; higher for 5399. Grant funds are utilized annually.

Committee members unanimously agreed to support the Collier Area Transit 5311 Grant Application in the amount of \$599,756.00 and Grant Application 5339 in the amount of \$765,059.00 for improvements to the Collier Area Transit (CAT) system.

6. Reports and Presentations

a. Try Transit Day Public Workshop

Mr. Showalter presented the Executive Summary “Try Transit Day/Seasonal Schedule Workshop” noting:

- On November 5, 2021, Collier Area Transit hosted a Try Transit Day, an event publicized on social media.
- A free day pass was made available to those who downloaded the “rideCAT” mobile app.
- Three (3) public workshops, hosted at the Government Center Transfer Station, CAT Operations Facility on Radio Road, and the Immokalee Health Department to advise the public about upcoming season changes and receive their feedback.

People were very appreciative of the free rides and provided feedback on the proposed changes. Immokalee attendees accepted the rerouting of routes #22 and #23 but other citizens expressed concern with the removal of route #18, recommended by the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) study.

Staff will confirm adequate service for riders living in the route #18 area is available.

In response to Committee inquiries, Ms. Kirby noted traditional ridership is down thirty (30) percent from 2019 and twenty-one (21) percent from 2020. Paratransit ridership is down forty-four (44) percent compared to October 2019 and eight (8) percent from 2020.

b. TDP Annual Update Revisions

Mr. Showalter presented the Executive Summary “TDP Annual Update Revisions.”

- 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.
- On June 15, 2021, staff presented the Annual TDP Update to the Advisory Committee who endorsed moving the report forward.
- The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the submittal of the TDP to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on July 15, 2021.
- FDOT provided staff with report comments the end of September 2021 requiring several items be addressed before the plan could be approved by the State.
- FDOT recommended some formatting changes for future updates including Collier Area Transit accomplishments and/or progress with the goals and objectives noted in the TDP Major Update, completed in October 2020.
- The revised report was resubmitted on November 4, 2021.
- Final approval from FDOT is due before December 31, 2021.

Staff responded to Committee comments noting:

- The Annual Progress Report, outlining Collier Area Transit’s progress towards achieving the goals and objectives identified in the TDP Major Update produced every five (5) years, will be shared with the Committee in June of each year.

- The Major Update includes retention of consultants and contractors to contribute to the document.
- CAT goals and objectives will be presented to the Committee between updates.

c. Vanpool Update

Mr. DeLeon presented the Executive Summary “*Van Pool Update*” to update the Committee on the vanpool programs currently active.

COMMUTE with Enterprise entered into a joint participation agreement with FDOT in May 2021 to provide turn-key commuter vanpool services.

- The vehicles seat seven (7) to fifteen (15) persons.
- Comprehensive auto liability insurance coverage and preventive maintenance repair package are included.
- Services are on a month-to-month basis.
- The comprehensive vanpool program serves the needs of the residents of rural Florida in need of affordable transportation services for work.

Collier County launched the program in August 2021.

- The program is gaining traction with major employers in the County.
- The cost benefit of this ride share program is significant with FDOT contributing to the monthly rent and fuel at 50% to offset costs for the vanpoolers for completing monthly trip recording.

Ms. Arlinda Karuli, Account Executive, COMMUTE with Enterprise, provided information about the program to the Committee.

- Collier County is in District I which covers twelve (12) counties in Southwest Florida.
- Employers and FDOT share the cost 50/50.
- Minimum ridership is four (4) people; most pools transport between seven (7) and fifteen (15) riders.
- The smallest vehicle is seven (7) passengers; sedan models are not used.
- Enterprise covers insurance and maintenance costs and provides roadside service.
- Traditionally vehicles are replaced after twenty to thirty thousand miles. The pandemic has created a vehicle shortage so mileage can be higher. The oldest vehicle in service is 2020.
- An “emergency ride home program” is offered to riders.
- Safety record data is not available currently. No major accidents have occurred.

7. Member Comments

In response to member inquiries, Staff reported twenty-five (25) regular bus drivers and twenty-four (24) paratransit bus drivers are needed to fill positions. MV Transportation anticipates the driver shortage will be resolved by March 2022.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date

December 21, 2021 - Collier County Museum, Lecture Hall, 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL.

November 16, 2021

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 4:08 P.M.

Public Transit Advisory Committee



John DiMarco III, Chairman

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

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

“PTAC”

February 15, 2022

#	NAME	EMAIL	ORGANIZATION
1	Michelle Arnold	Michelle.Arnold@colliercountyfl.gov	Collier County PTNE, Director
2	Omar DeLeon	Omar.Deleon@colliercountyfl.gov	Collier County PTNE Public Transit Manager -CAT
3	Elena Ortiz-Rosado	Elena.OrtizRosado@colliercountyfl.gov	Collier County PTNE Events & Sales Marketing Coordinator
4	Alexander Showalter	Alexander.Showalter@colliercountyfl.gov	Collier County PTNE Senior Planner – CAT
5	Braian Morales	Braian.Morales@Colliercountyfl.gov	MV General Manager <i>sf</i>
6	<i>James Bennett</i>	<i>urb:naples@gmail.com</i>	<i>Parker Aerospace</i>
7	<i>Sony Samek</i>	<i>sameks@collierschools.com</i>	<i>Collier County Public Schools</i>
8	<i>[Signature]</i>		
9	<i>Richard Ticehurst</i>	<i>richard.ticehurst@mvtelex.com</i>	<i>MV Telexist</i>
10	Jacob Stauffer	<i>Jacob.Stauffer@colliergov.net</i>	CAT
12	<i>Peter Berry</i>	<i>peter@berrytwo.com</i>	
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