

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

MAY 16, 2023

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:

Chair: John DiMarco, III
Vice-Chair: Peter Berry
Devon Browne
James Caton (Excused)
Dewey Enderle (ZOOM)
Sonja Lee Samek (ZOOM)
Martin de St. Pierre (ZOOM)

ALSO PRESENT: Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier County PTNE
Keyla Castro, Operations Support Specialist, Collier County PTNE
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier County PTNE
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation

1. Call to Order

Chairman DiMarco called the meeting to order at 3:03 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. March 21, 2023

The minutes of the March 21, 2023, Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting will be considered at the June 20, 2023, meeting.

5. Committee Action

a. Approval for TDP Annual Update

Mr. DeLeon presented an Executive Summary “*Fiscal Year 2023 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Annual Update*” for consideration. The five-year planning document identifies recommendations and implementation strategies to achieve the goals and objectives of Collier Area Transit. He provided an overview of the update noting:

Section 1: Overview

- 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, 2023.
- Comments received will be communicated to the Board of County Commissioners during final approval before transmitting to FDOT.

Section II – Previous Years Accomplishments

Service Improvements

- Collier County completed a Comprehensive Operation Analysis (COA) in July 2021.
- The COA established a process for improvements to the CAT system over the next few years.
- Significant changes were made during the first quarter of FY 22-23 with the implementation of the Seasonal Schedule Change in November 2022.
- CAT has seen a steady growth in ridership for the months of October 2022 through March 2023 compared to the year prior during these months.

ADA Bus Stop and Bus Shelter Improvements

- The goal of completing at least ten (10 bus) shelters and ten (10) ADA improvements per year will be exceeded this fiscal year with the ongoing construction of these improvements yielding twenty-one (21) total ADA improvements.

Title VI Plan

- Various CAT plans are reviewed including the Language Assistance Plan (LEP) and the Public Participation Plan (PPP).
- CAT has submitted this report to FTA, providing a program to ensure that transit services made available are equitably distributed, and provides equal access and mobility to any person, without regard to race, color, or national origin.
- The program was subject to a thirty (30) day public participation process, approved by the Board of County Commissioners, and submitted to both FTA (Federal Transportation Administration) and FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation).

On-Demand Paratransit Service

- On December 13, 2022, CAT launched an On-Demand Paratransit Voucher service designed to provide flexibility for riders.
- A mobile app is also available for the passengers to book their trips.
- The pilot program is only slated to run through June of 2023. Ridership has consistently increased, and passengers appreciate the service.

Perk Pass F.K.A. Corporate Pass Program

- The program currently allows businesses with over three hundred (300) employees to register for the Corporate Bus Pass providing workers a monthly bus pass at a 25% discount from the regular price.
- CAT has identified the businesses in the area and has mailers ready to circulate for each of those identified.
- CAT has also decided to rebrand the Corporate Bus Pass as the new Perk Pass.

New Beach Bus Route

- The annual beach bus service providing free rides from Conner Park to Vanderbilt Beach and Wiggins Pass Beach Access commenced on February 23, 2023.
- The service saw tremendous ridership, running from Friday through Monday, starting February 24, and ending April 29, 2023.

Capital Equipment, Facility Changes, and Improvements

- The CAT Operations and Maintenance Facility was severely damaged by Hurricane Irma.
- As a result of the damage and the continual aging of the structure, CAT along with other professionals concluded that the facility has met its useful life and should be replaced on the existing site.
- In September 2020, Collier County received notice of award from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for \$9,020,000.00 under FTA's Bus and Bus Facilities Program which will be used in part to construct a new Operations & Maintenance facility on site.
- As of April 2023, FTA has allocated an additional \$10,671,225.00 to Collier as part of the Emergency Relief Funds from Hurricane Irma directed to this project.
- Staff have begun the process to construct the facility including seeking bids for design of the project.

Marketing and Public Involvement/Communications

- CAT continues to promote and educate the public about service.

Section 3: Revisions and Recommendations

Tenth Year Transit Implementation Plan

- The 2021-2030 Collier County Major TDP Update includes a comprehensive list of activities leading up to the creation of an implementation plan guiding the County's development of services over a ten-year planning horizon.
- Collier County will actively pursue funding opportunities to implement recommendations from the 2021-2030 TDP.

Section 4: Status of Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Assessment of 2019 Major Update Goals and Objectives

- The TDP contains seven (7) goals, each designed with objectives and initiatives to meet the corresponding goal.
- Several initiatives were removed to eliminate duplicates and streamline the assessment process.
- Revisions to goals, objectives, and strategies were necessary to reflect the changing service delivery approach and operating environment.

Section 5: Financial Plan

- This section provides the revised financial plan consisting of the capital and operating costs and revenues associated with maintaining the existing system and with the implementation of the 10-year *Needs Plan*.
- The format is a planning tool utilized to quantify the cost of service and related capital enhancements and does not represent a commitment of funding or incorporate adjustments for inflation.
- Existing service levels and capital improvements are planned through the first nine (9) years of this Annual Progress Report, with needs-based improvements being added to the tenth year. All improvements included in the tenth year related to addressing the transit needs will require new revenue sources.

Next Steps

- The Plan will be considered by the Board of County Commissioners in June 2023.
- Approval by the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC) is required for submission to the BCC.
- Comments and suggestions by Committee members should be forwarded to Mr. DeLeon prior to submission to the BCC.
- Public comments will be documented.
- The final Annual Progress Report must be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in September 2023.

Committee discussion:

- The Community Redevelopment Agency approved the design of a pedestrian boardwalk on a seventeen (17) acre site connecting Bayshore Drive to Sugden Regional Park.
- The design includes two (2) parking lots to support users of the boardwalk.

- CAT is coordinating with the CRA on initiatives to support user access and reduce traffic activity.
- Installation of additional benches on roadways will be researched.

Recommendation

The Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Progress Report to the Transit Development Plan will be considered for Committee endorsement at the June 20, 2023, PTAC meeting.

6. Reports and Presentations

a. FY23 POP – 5307,5339

Mr. DeLeon presented an Executive Summary “*Endorsement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)*” to inform the PTAC Advisory Committee of the Program of Projects for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307 and 5339 grant application submittals.

Section 5307

- The Public Transit Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) Division receives federal grant funds for the management of the Collier Area Transit (CAT) system annually.
- Collier County is located within the Bonita Springs/Naples Census Urbanized Area.
- A portion of the Section 5307 funding received is shared with Lee County.
- The total amount allocated to the Urbanized Area Formula Program is \$4,382,649.00 of which \$3,933,690.00 is awarded to Collier County and \$448,959.00 is distributed to Bonita Springs/Lee County.
- Projects proposed for the appropriated funding may include:
 - Transit Improvement Projects include the rehabilitation of bus stops.
 - Security and Safety enhancement including the replacement of the vehicular and pedestrian gates.
 - Provision of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit services.
 - Funding for transit operating expenses.
 - Funding for the construction of the replacement maintenance facility.
 - Rehab of the Administration Building, including paint and re-roofing.

Section 5339

- The program provides capital assistance for new and replacement buses, related equipment, and facilities.
- Collier County is the designated recipient for the urbanized area.
- \$362,341 is allocated to the Bonita Springs/Naples Urbanized Area for USC Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Urbanized Area Formula program.
- Projects proposed for the appropriated funding include:

5307 FY23-24

- Fuel station maintenance and rehabilitation.
- Security camera – Immokalee Transfer Facility.
- Rehabilitation of the Administration Building – Paint and re-roofing.
- Security & Safety.
- ADA Paratransit Services.
- Operations and Maintenance Facility construction.

5339 FY23-24

- Maintenance Facility construction.
- The Board of County Commissioners has approved the proposed projects and the information is being brought to the PTAC for informational purposes.

Staff responded to Committee queries:

- The new Maintenance Facility is 25,000 square feet, similar to the previous building.
- The transit-oriented facility will include operational offices, a drive-through maintenance area for the buses, service for electric buses, and secure fleet parking.

7. Member and Staff Comments

New Member PTNE

Keyla Castro has joined PTNE as the Operations Support Specialist.

Former and Current Directors PTNE

Michelle Arnold, former PTNE Division Director, retired March 31, 2023. Brian Wells, the new Director, will be on board mid-late May.

Meeting Time

A proposal to change the meeting time to 2:00 P.M. will be added to the June Agenda.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date

June 20, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Collier County Museum Lecture Hall
3331 Tamiami Trail E
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 3:32 P.M.

Public Transit Advisory Committee



John DiMarco III, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on June 20th, 2023 as presented ✓ or as amended _____.