

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 20, 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 1:00 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  
Sonja Lee Samek (Excused)  
Martin de St. Pierre

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Wells, Director, Collier County PTNE  
Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier County PTNE  
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier County PTNE  
Keyla Castro, Operations Specialist, Collier County PTNE  
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation  
Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director, Collier County MPO  
Mark Moujabber, General Manager, MV Transportation  
Nolan Begley, Fixed Route Manager, MV Transportation  
Dusty Siegler, Senior Planner, Collier County MPO

1. **Call to Order**

**Chairman DiMarco** called the meeting to order at 12:59 P.M.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll call was taken, and a quorum five was established.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

*Vice Chair Berry moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. Enderle. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.*

4. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **June 20, 2023**

*Mr. Enderle moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023, meeting of the Public Transit Advisory Committee as presented. Second by Mr. Browne. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.*

b. **August 16, 2023**

*Mr. Enderle moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2023, meeting of the Public Transit Advisory Committee as presented. Second by Mr. Browne. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.*

5. **Committee Action**

a. **Draft 2023 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) Major**

**Ms. McLaughlin**, Executive Director, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), presented the *Draft 2023 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) Major Update* for Committee review and endorsement. She noted:

- The County is required to submit the Major Update to the TDSP to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) due to the re-designation of the Board of County Commissioners as the Community Transportation Coordinator.
- PTNE and MPO staff worked with Capital Consulting Solutions, LLC to prepare the update.
- Specific component requirements addressed to ensure qualification for financial reimbursement included:
  1. A Transportation Service Analysis.
  2. A Service Plan including updates to the current Standards and Policies.
  3. Quality assurance.
  4. Amendment updates to the Service Plan, (made in May 2023 and effective for five (5) years).
- Demographic changes  
The consultants' work focused on the U.S. Census data.
  1. A community profile map was presented.
  2. The consultants' work focused on the U.S. Census data noting that between 2010 and 2020, Collier County's population grew by 16.94 percent. From 2020 to 2022 growth continued to exceed the rate for the state of Florida increasing from three hundred seventy-six thousand (376K) to three hundred ninety-eight thousand (398K) from 2020 to 2022, an increase of 22,000 residents.
- Public and Member Comment Period

1. A meeting has been scheduled for October 4, 2023, for the adoption of the TDSP Major.
2. PTAC members and the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the document prior to the October meeting.

The Plan identifies CAT's goals, objective and strategies including:

- CAT's mission:
  1. Provide safe, accessible, and courteous public transportation services to its customers.
  2. CAT Connect's (formerly known as Collier Area Paratransit) mission is to identify and safely meet the transportation needs of Collier County, through a courteous, dependable, cost effective, and environmentally sound team commitment.
- CAT's goals:
  1. Implement a fully coordinated transportation system.
  2. Maximize effective transfers of individuals from paratransit to fixed route services.
  3. Provide an efficient and effective coordinated transportation service.
  4. Educate and market fixed route and paratransit services to current riders, the public, agency sponsored clients, visitors, and other potential customers.

**Mr. DeLeon** reported:

- The plan addresses the qualifying elements to ensure subsidies for expansion.
- Paratransit service and performance measures are included.
- The large geographic area of Collier County poses a challenge to assessing needs.
- Overall, the numbers are good.
- Different plans and how they are connected are being reviewed.
- Cost line increases from 2020 to 2022 are driven by:
  1. Fuel costs.
  2. Contractual increases in wages, etc.
  3. Increase in ridership creates longer travel times between destinations.

#### Recommendation

**Mr. Browne** motioned to endorse the Collier Area Transit draft, Fiscal Year 2023, Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) Major Update. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

## 6. Reports and Presentations

### a. Regional Service and Fare Study – Technical Memorandum

**Mr. Showalter** presented the Executive Summary “Regional Service and Fare Study” updating the Committee on the first technical memorandum provided by Jacobs Engineering for a Regional Service and Fare Study. He noted:

- Jacob's Engineering initiated the Study in March 2023.
- The purpose is to evaluate the prospect of implementing regional transit service from Collier County into other Counties.
- The study includes strategies to connect and create transit options for the residents of Collier and Lee counties and includes an evaluation of a regional fare structure and the costs associated with implementing a regional bus service.
- The project has been separated into eight (8) tasks.

A tech memo was presented summarizing the data collection and analysis portion of the project with the following highlighted:

- The Transit Development Plans (TDPs) for Collier and Lee counties evaluated transit needs and demand for a 10-year period (2021–2030) and included recommendations for regional interconnectivity based on public outreach, transit demand, and a situation appraisal.
- Data from CAT and LeeTran were evaluated to determine the feasibility of new regional service and fare structure.
- The ridership, fare data, annual operating/capital costs, and annual revenue will be used to develop a proposed regional corridor and cost estimates to implement the route.
- The data will also be utilized to identify potential funding opportunities for the project.

#### Program Considerations

- The transit investment will be utilized to determine the feasibility of the project.
- Staff consulted with Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) on the ramifications of utilizing a joint Farecard system for participating Counties. The additional costs and personnel demands required for the joint fare structure for Pasco and Sarasota Counties have impacted profitability.
- Acknowledging the issues associated with a joint fare concept, the consultant will research the concept and the work will include interviewing riders for feedback.

#### Next Tech Memo Topics

- A Policy Assessment
- Coordinate Destination Analysis.
- Identify Key Activity Center(s) to target.

#### Tech Memo Timeline

- The next memo is anticipated in October 2023.
- The final report is due in February 2024.
- Staff requested members submit topics to be included in the Study.

#### **7. Member and Staff Comments**

None

#### **8. Public Comments**

None

#### **9. Next Meeting Date**

October 18, 2023 - 1:00 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 1:29 P.M.

Public Transit Advisory Committee



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John DiMarco III, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on November 15, 2023 as presented X or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.