

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 15, 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 (ZOOM)  
James Caton (Resigned)  
Dewey Enderle  
Sonja Lee Samek  
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  
Mark Moujabber, General Manager, MV Transportation  
Nolan Begley, Fixed Route Manager, MV Transportation  
Dusty Siegler, Senior Planner, Collier County MPO

*Chair Forman motioned to allow Mr. Brown to participate in the meeting via ZOOM remote access due to an extraordinary circumstance. Second by Ms. Samek. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.*

**1. Call to Order**

**Chairman DiMarco** called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

*Mr. Showalter reported a letter of resignation was received from Mr. Caton.*

**2. Roll Call**

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

*Vice Chair Berry motioned to allow Mr. Brown to participate in the meeting as a virtual participant. Second by Mrs. Lee Samek. Carried unanimously 5-0*

**3. Approval of Agenda**

*Vice Chair Berry moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. de St. Pierre. Carried unanimously 6 - 0.*

**4. Approval of Minutes  
September 20, 2023**

*Mr. Enderle moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023, meeting of the Public Transit Advisory Committee as presented. Second by Mr. de St. Pierre. Carried unanimously 6 - 0.*

**5. Committee Action**

**a. 5210, 5311, 5339 Grant Applications**

**Mr. DeLeon** presented the Executive Summary "Grant Application for 5310, 5311, and 5339" for the submission of the FFY24/SFY25 Operating or Capital Grants for Rural Areas Program applications to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) must approve the grant application submissions. He noted:

**5310**

The 5310-capital grant request in FY24 supports Collier Area Transit (CAT) System to purchase replacement vehicles to support the paratransit service.

- Funding in the amount of \$578,062.00 will be used to purchase four (4) replacement paratransit vehicles that have met their useful life.
- The capital grant includes an 80% Federal Share (\$462,447.00), a 10% State Match of (\$57,803.00) and a 10% Local Match of (\$57,812.00).
- Replacement vehicles will not increase the overall paratransit fleet inventory.
- The acquisition will provide for ongoing transportation services to the elderly and disabled residents of the County.

**5311**

The 5311-capital grant request in FY24 supports the Collier Area Transit (CAT) System to offset operational costs to support fixed route service in the rural areas.

- The rural capital grant funding amount is \$1,568,510.00.

- The capital grant includes a 50% Federal Share (\$784,255.00), and a 50% Local Match (\$784,255.00).

### **5339**

The 5339-capital grant request in FY24 supports the Collier Area Transit (CAT) System to purchase a replacement vehicle to support fixed route service in rural areas.

- The capital grant funding in the amount of \$676,172.00 will be used to purchase one (1) forty (40) foot fixed route bus to replace a bus that has met its useful life.
- The capital grant funding and match requirements include a 75% Federal share (\$507,129.00) with a 25% State Match (\$169,043.00).

**Mr. DeLeon** noted:

- The report includes a copy of the Grant Applications to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners on December 12, 2023, for approval to submit them to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) December 15, 2023.
- Grant funds, awarded to FDOT by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are utilized annually by the Program.

*Vice-Chair Berry motioned to endorse the submittal of Grant Applications 5310, 5311 Rural, and 5339 Rural in the amount of \$2,822,744.00 to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval and submission to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Seconded by Mr. Enderle. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.*

## **6. Reports and Presentations**

### **a. November Route Changes**

**Mr. Stauffer** presented the Executive Summary “November Route Changes” updating the Committee on the service modifications to be implemented for the season schedule change on November 26, 2023. He noted:

- Changes will be implemented across multiple Collier Area Transit routes.
- Public notification in advance of the changes included distribution of the proposed schedule modifications throughout the community and postings on social media and RideCAT.com.
- Many changes are driven by an effort to improve the On-Time Performance of CAT’s fixed route service.
- Data collected over the past two years includes “run times” and driver feedback, resulting in adjustment to the timepoints to provide riders a more accurate estimation of bus arrival at the stops.
- Routes 11,12,13,14 and 17 have had the last loops removed.
- Routes 15 and 16 will return to travel along Golden gate Parkway now that the Golden Gate Bridge replacement is complete.
- Changes will be available for public review online and across multiple locations throughout the County.
- Proposed 2023 Seasonal Route Changes are available at:  
<https://www.ridecat.com/wpcontent/uploads/2023/11/Item-6a-November-Season-Changes.pdf>.

In response to Committee comments Mr. Stauffer noted:

- Routes 11, 11B, 12, 13 and 14 will end service earlier in the day.
- Drivers anticipate complaints from passengers due to the proposed changes.
- Additional revenue infusion from local funds must be approved by the BCC.
- Seasonal ridership statistics for the routes impacted by shorter hours were shared with members.
- Service frequency and extended hours were modified on some routes.
- A ridership survey conducted previously indicated most of the use is by the work force.

**7. Member and Staff Comments**

**Mr. DeLeon** provided an update on Maintenance Facility construction noting:

- The 25,000 square foot transit-oriented facility will include operational offices, a drive-through maintenance area for the buses, service for electric buses, and secure fleet parking.
- On finalization of a contract with the engineering firm selected, the design process will be initiated.
- Construction project bid invitations will be solicited on completion of the design phase, estimated time eighteen (18) months.

**8. Public Comments**

None

**9. Next Meeting Date**

December 20, 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 1:26 P.M.**

**Public Transit Advisory Committee**



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**John DiMarco III, Chairman**

November 15, 2023

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on JANUARY 17, 2024 as presented X or  
as amended \_\_\_\_\_.