

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

JANUARY 17, 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
Dewey Enderle
Sonja Lee Samek
Martin de St. Pierre

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Arnold, Director, Collier County PTNE
Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier County PTNE
Mark Moujabber, District Manager, MV Transportation
Elena Ortiz-Rosado Events, Sales & Marketing Coordinator PTNE
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier County PTNE
Liz Soriano, Project Manager, Collier County PTNE
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation

1. Call to Order

Chairman DiMarco called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Berry moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. de St. Pierre. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.

Ms. Samek joined the meeting at 3:02 pm and a quorum of six was present.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Enderle moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting of the Public Transit Advisory Committee as presented. Second by Ms. Samek. Carried unanimously 6 - 0.

Mr. Caton joined the meeting at 3:03 pm and a quorum of seven was present.

5. Committee Action

None

6. Reports and Presentations

a. Seasonal Schedule Change Data

Mr. Stauffer presented the Executive Summary “*Seasonal Schedule Change Performance*” to update the Committee on the impacts the recent schedule change had on Ridership and On-time Performance. He noted:

Seasonal Route Changes and COA

- On November 27, 2022, CAT implemented service changes, several of which were recommended by the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA), designed to retain and promote ridership and improve the system’s on-time performance.

Overview of Route Changes

- Routes 19: Routes 19 and 28 were consolidated into a single Route servicing from Immokalee to the Government Center.
- Routes 20: Routes 20 and 26 were consolidated into a single Route servicing Pine Ridge Road.
- Route 21: The path has been extended north to service Walmart at the Collier/Radio Road to improve service to commuters from Golden Gate City.
- Route 25: The path north and south has been changed to service US 41 rather than Goodlette-Frank Rd.

Seasonal Change Operational Statistics Comparison FY22 vs FY23

- Ridership for comparable periods of 2023 is equivalent to 2022. Express buses, included in the Route 19 statistics up 46%, still run at full capacity,
- Two (2) months of data for On-Time Performance (OTP) statistics is available. Performance is slightly lower than normal due to bridge construction in Golden Gate City and lack of opportunity to detour the route.

- The Route 20 schedule will be adjusted in February to accommodate school hours on Oil Well Road.
- Based on feedback from members of the community, Staff recommends adding a mid-day loop to the Route 21 starting at the US-41 Walmart at 3:00 p.m. to provide connection for shift workers on Marco Island effective the beginning of February.

Staff responded to Committee queries:

- The Route 19 pattern is similar to the original route. Modifications include the addition of six (6) inbound and six (6) outbound stops on Oil Well Road and elimination of a stop at Ave Maria.
- A decision to initiate a bus service to the beach is under discussion. The impact of Hurricane Ian and the temporary closure of Wiggins Pass State Park necessitates adjusting the route and researching options to coordinate parking for riders.

b. On-Demand Paratransit

Mr. DeLeon presented an Executive Summary “*CATConnect Select*” to update the Committee on the new On-Demand Paratransit pilot project offered through CAT Connect Select. He noted a Florida Developmental Disabilities Council Grant for transit service to the disabled enabled implementation of the project.

Soft Launch

The On-Demand Paratransit service, CATConnect Select, launched December 13, 2022, allowing riders to make same day bookings with pick-ups with a thirty (30) minute window.

- The mileage-based program provides more flexibility for riders, allowing them to book trips for the same day.
- The service runs from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven (7) days a week.
- The customer is responsible for the first \$4.00 which covers trips under eight (8) miles.
- Trips greater than eight (8) miles, priced at \$2.50 per mile, are funded by the Grant with a ceiling of \$16.00.
- Customers are notified of their expenses when booking the trip.
- Customers can call in or book online to reserve trips.
- Preliminary transport data recorded forty-four (44) trips, servicing fifteen (15) passengers, with an average distance of five and one-half miles. Passengers primarily utilized the service for personal purposes and shopping.
- A mobile app to book trips will be available soon.

During discussion Staff noted:

- The technology partner for the program is HBSS Software Systems.
- HBSS brokers the service of Turbo Cab Taxi to provide the rides.
- Interviews with customers will be conducted and feedback shared with the Committee.
- Staff will share information on the app, the web portal and the contact number at a future meeting.
- The Grant funds terminate at the end of September 2023. A benefit and cost evaluation will be made to determine if the program can be continued in 2024.

c. Construction Update

Ms. Soriano presented the Executive Summary “*Construction Update*” for the bus shelter construction program and upcoming new transit facilities projects. She noted:

Bus Stop Improvements

- Eighteen (18) bus shelters were completed; fifteen (15) new shelters are under construction.
- Thirty-six (36) ADA compliant improvements were made; an additional eight (8) improvements are in progress.
- A bus shelter in collaboration with Paradis Cove Sport Complex was installed.

Tiger Grant

- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded the city of Naples a TIGER Grant.
- The Grant will fund a complete street project on Immokalee Road including sidewalk, drainage, lighting and bus stop improvements.
- Additionally, a new transfer facility will be constructed on Immokalee Road with an estimated completion date of fall 2023.

Collier Area Transit Operations & Maintenance Facility

- The current Radio Road facility, purchased in 2005, has exceeded its useful life.
- A Grant was awarded to fund the conceptual design plan.
- The facility will include operational offices, a drive-through maintenance area for the buses and secure fleet parking.

Committee discussion:

- The timeline for Transit Facility design completion is one (1) year. On completion the project will go out for construction bid solicitation.
- The bus shelter design is standardized, and the facility is maintained by CAT.
- Designs can be customized; however, the neighborhood must contribute to the cost of construction and maintain the facility. Bayshore is entertaining creation of a unique shelter in tandem with their street beautification project.

Ms. Arnold reported lease negotiations are underway with Flixbus to accommodate bus service within the state – Miami and Orlando. The Real Property Division will assist in preparing the lease.

7. Member Comments

Commissioner Chris Hall meeting

Ms. Arnold reported Vice-Chair Berry met with Commissioner Hall to familiarize him with the PTAC Advisory Committee’s mission and plans for the new Transit Facility building on Radio Road. He invited the Commissioner to attend a meeting and tour the Radio Rd. facility.

Ms. Arnold noted Rick LoCastro is the Commissioner for District 1. She encouraged, and offered to orchestrate, meetings between Committee members and Commissioners.

Vice-Chair Berry volunteered to accompany members to the meetings.

Martin Luther King Day

CAT’s participation with a designated bus in the MLK Day parade on Broad Street and Fifth Avenue S on January 16th was featured in the Naples Daily News.

8. Public Comments

None

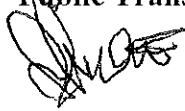
9. Next Meeting Date

February 21, 2023, 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 3:37 P.M.

Public Transit Advisory Committee



John DiMarco III, Chairman

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