



**Public Transit Advisory Committee
Collier Area Transit
Hybrid Meeting
Collier County Museum Lecture Hall
3331 Tamiami Trail East Naples, Florida
May 21st, 2025
1:00 p.m.**

Agenda Packet

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of Agenda
- 4) Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 19th, 2025
- 5) Committee Action
 - a. FY2025 Program of Projects
 - b. DBE Goal Update
- 6) Reports and Presentations
 - a. Off-Season Schedule Change
- 7) Member Comments
- 8) Public Comments
- 9) Next Meeting Date – June 18th, 2025, Collier County Museum Lecture Hall
- 10) Adjournment

Two or more members of the Board of County Commissioners may be present and may participate at the meeting. The subject matter of this meeting may be an item for discussion and action at a future BCC meeting.

Collier Area Transit operates in compliance with Federal Transit Administration, (FTA) program requirements and ensures that transit services are made available and equitably distributed and provides equal access and mobility to any person without regard to race, color, or national origin, disability, gender or age. Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*; FTA Circular 4702.1A, "Title VI and Title VI Dependent Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients.

Anyone who required an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or other reasonable accommodations in order to participate in this proceeding, should contact the Collier County Facilities Management Department located at 3335 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, Florida 34112 or 239-252-8380 as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Such reasonable accommodations will be provided at no cost to the individual.

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

MARCH 19, 2025

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
	Cliff Donenfeld
	Dewey Enderle
	Sonja Lee Samek (Virtual)
	Benita Staadecker
	Open Seat

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Wells, Director, Collier County PTNE
Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier County PTNE
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier County PTNE
Leslie Barnes, General Manager, MV Transportation
Elena Ortiz-Rosado, Events, Sales and Marketing Coordinator, PTNE
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation
Wally Blain, Consultant, Benesch

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of Agenda

*Ms. Staadecker moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Mr. Enderle.
Carried unanimously 4 - 0.*

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Staadecker moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2024, Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting as presented. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 4 - 0.

Ms. Samek joined the meeting at 1:04 P.M.

Ms. Staadecker motioned to allow Ms. Samek to participate in the meeting as a virtual participant. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 4 - 0. A quorum of five was present.

5. Committee Action

a. Zero Emissions Vehicle Transition Plan

Wally Blain, of Benesch, presented the Executive Summary “Zero Transmissions Vehicle Transition Plan” to the Committee noting:

- CAT Staff and the MPO retained consulting firm Benesch to complete a Zero Emissions Vehicle Transition Plan.
- The study was completed as a prerequisite to apply for federal grant funding related to alternative fueled vehicles.
- The Plan evaluates the implementation of battery electric and other alternative fueled vehicles into the CAT fleet.
- The Plan proposes a three-phase implementation aligning with the purchase of CAT’s latest electric bus and evaluating the usefulness of the technology for CAT’s future fleet.
- The goal is to provide a path forward to include these vehicles into CAT’s everyday fleet in a cost-effective and operationally efficient manner.

Market Trends and Service Expansion

- CAT has 64 vehicles and 1 electric bus, 16 fixed routes servicing a population of 385K people.
- The national trend over the past 15 years indicates that use of diesel fueled vehicles has declined from 70% to 45% - 50%.
- Peer Agencies within Florida were interviewed to gain knowledge of their experience with alternative fuel vehicles.

Mr. Donenfeld joined the meeting at 1:13 P.M. A quorum of six was present.

Feasibility Analysis

The plan outlines four scenarios for Fixed Route performance and cost and three scenarios each for Demand Response and Support Vehicle performance:

Fixed route Vehicles

1. Least Harmful Emissions: Diesel, Battery Electric, Hybrid
2. Optimized Vehicle Function: Diesel, Battery Electric, Hybrid, Compressed Natural Gas
3. Balanced Approach: Diesel, Battery Electric, Hybrid, Biodiesel
4. Lowest Capital Cost: Diesel, Biodiesel

Demand Response Vehicle

1. Balanced Emissions and Costs: 75% Gasoline, 25% Compressed Natural Gas
2. Lowest Capital Cost: Diesel, 75% Biodiesel
3. Strong CNG: 25% Biodiesel, 75 % Compressed Natural Gas

Support Vehicles

1. Lowest Emissions: 100% Electric Vehicle
2. Lowest Capital Cost: 33% Gasoline, 67% Electric Vehicles
3. Strong CNG: 67% Gasoline, 33% Electric Vehicles

Implementation Plan

Phase in with a pilot application.

- Phase I: BEB (Buy Electric Vehicle) Pilot Plan (2025-2029)
- Phase 2: BEB
- Phase 3: Hybrid Pilot (2032 – 2034)

Facility Assessment

- CAT Operations Maintenance Building.

Workforce Assessment

- Transition diesel mechanics into alternative fuels without displacing workers.

Stakeholder Input and Recommendations

Improve communication and underserved area access and focus on operational efficiency and connectivity.

Next Steps

- Develop UF/IFAS Lehigh Acres route.
- Expand Park and Ride and Trolley Services.
- Implement MOD and FMLM pilot projects.

Approval Dates

- April 11, 2025: Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Advisory Committee presentation.
- April 22, 2025: Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Responses to Committee Member Comments:

- The estimated life span for vehicle batteries is twelve years or a useful life of a bus.
- Two charging stations will be located at the CAT Administration Building.
- AI technology is not being utilized currently.
- Diesel vehicles should be available for use during emergencies/extreme weather conditions.

- Public input in the process included workshops and digital surveys.

Recommendation

Vice Chair Berry motioned to approve the Collier Area Transit Zero Emissions Vehicle Transition Plan to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board and the Board of County Commissioner for approval. Second by Mr. Dewey. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.

6. Reports and Presentations

a. Paradise Beach Trolley

Mr. Showalter presented the Executive Summary “*Collier Area Transit Paradise Beach Trolley*” to the Committee. He noted:

- Service commenced on President’s Day weekend, February 14th – 17th, and will last until April 27, 2025.
- The service consists of a free trolley traveling in a loop from Delnor-Wiggins Pass state Park to Vanderbilt Beach stopping at Conner Park in between.
- Operational hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., then again from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday with a twenty-minute frequency.
- Additionally, Paradise Beach Trolley service will run the week of spring break (March 10th – 14th) and the week leading up to Easter (April 14th – 18th).
- CAT plans to continue to provide this successful service annually.

Committee Comment Responses

- The first weekend of service was one of the biggest opening weekends.
- Spring break ridership declined 2025 over 2024 due to poor weather conditions.
- The 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. service break provides an opportunity for personnel to have lunch. Typically, there is a lull in passengers at this time.

b. Major TDP Update

Mr. Showalter presented the Executive Summary “*Update on Transit Development Plan (TDP) Process*” to the Committee. He noted:

- The TDP process identifies recommendations and implementation strategies to achieve the goals and objectives of Collier Area Transit.
- 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.
- The TDP is a ten (10) year plan for transit needs, cost and revenue projections, community transit goals, objectives, and policies.
- The TDP serves as a planning, development and operational, guidance document.
- TDP Components include:
 - Mission, Goals, and Objectives – Overall purpose, specific, achievable targets, and actions to reach the goals.
 - Situational Appraisal – Identifying and addressing concerns.
 - Recommended Network Changes – Service Improvements and New Service.
 - Financial Element – Alternative funding sources required to implement initiatives.
 - Public Outreach – Public Surveys and Workshops, and Stakeholder interviews.
- The major update is developed in coordination with the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO) long range transportation plan.

- Collier Area Transit staff have been working with the Consulting Team of Stantec and MPO Staff to update the plan.
- The consultant produced consistent updates to each section of the TDP and completed public engagement workshops and presentations.
- MPO and CAT Staff's feedback and comments have been incorporated into the documents.

Approval Process Key Dates 2025

- June 1 - Final Proposed TDP
- June 13 - Submission to MPO Board
- June/July - Submission to the Collier Board of County Commissioners

Comments

Mr. Showalter responded to queries:

- Venues to inform the public about proposed system changes include the County website, the County Commissioner newsletter, and Public Workshops. Additional Social Media venues will be researched.
- Suggested roadway network improvements such as integration of HOV lanes and lane restriction access for commercial trucks will be submitted to the MPO for evaluation.
- A light rail system (LRT) has not been considered for County transportation.

7. Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Showalter introduced Leslie Barnes, General Manager of MV Transportation. Ms. Barnes shared her credentials with the Committee.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date

April 16, 2025 - 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 the chair at 1:33 P.M.

Public Transit Advisory Committee

John DiMarco III, Chair

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on _____, 2025 as presented _____ or as amended _____.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Committee Action
Item 5a
Endorsement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Section 5307 and Section 5339.

Objective:

To inform the PTAC of the Program of Projects for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 & 5339 grant application submittals.

Considerations:

Each year the Public Transit & NBHD Enhancement (PTNE) Division receives federal grant funds for the management of the Collier Area Transit (CAT) system under the Urbanized Area Formula Program (49 U.S.C. § 5307) to be used for transit capital projects and operating assistance as defined by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Collier County is located within the Bonita Springs/Naples Census Urbanized Area; therefore, a portion of the Section 5307 funding received is shared with Lee County. The amount allocated to the Bonita Springs/Naples Urbanized Area for USC Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program is \$7,119,688. The portion of the grant funds awarded to Collier County is \$5,470,056, \$113,915 to FDOT, and the remainder of \$1,535,717 would be distributed to Lec County.

Projects proposed for the appropriated funding may include, as funding permits: (1) transit improvement projects which include the improvement of bus stops; (2) security and safety enhancement; (3) replacing Intelligent Transportation Equipment; (4) provision of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit services; (5) funding for the maintenance and operations facility; (6) preventative maintenance; (7) and Fixed Route and Paratransit operational expenses.

Section 5339 program provides capital assistance for new and replacement buses, related equipment, and facilities. For urbanized areas with populations of 200,000 and over, funds are apportioned and flow directly to a designated recipient. Collier County is the designated recipient for the urbanized area. The amount allocated to the Bonita Springs/Naples Urbanized Area for USC Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Urbanized Area Formula program would be \$502,127.

Project proposed for the appropriated funding may include, as funding permits: (1) funding for the maintenance and operations facility.

Recommendation:

Endorsement of the 5307 & 5339 POP

Attachment: FTA Section 5307, Section 5339 Program of Projects

Prepared by: Alex Showalter
Alexander Showalter, Planner II

Date: 5/16/2025

Approved by: Brian Wells
Brian Wells, PTNE Division Director

Date: 05/15/2025

Collier Area Transit
5307 FY25 - 26 Program of Project

Apportionment	\$ 7,119,688.00	
Lee County distribution	\$ 1,535,717	21.570%
FDOT	\$ 113,915	1.600%
Collier County (5307 apportionment)	\$ 5,470,056	
<u>FDOT Portion to be split</u>	<u>\$ 113,915</u>	
Lee (FDOT Portion)	\$ 25,483	
Collier County (FDOT Portion)	\$ 88,432	
 Lee County distribution	 \$ 1,561,200	
Collier County	\$ 5,558,488	

ALI	Description	Amount	Match
1% Enhancement (exceeds requirement)	Bus Stop Improvements (shelters) / Bus Wrap (\$30k)	\$159,931	
1% Security / Safety (exceeds requirement)	Safety and Security Equipment Badge access and camera system	\$55,585	
ITS	ITS Support and Warranty	\$156,330	
20% ADA	Operational Expenses	\$1,111,698	
Facility	Maintenance and Operations Facility	\$497,873	
Preventive Maintenance	Fleet Preventative Maintenance	\$2,597,700	
Operating	Fixed Route and Paratransit Operational Expenses	\$ 979,371	\$ 979,371
Total Amount		\$5,558,488	\$979,371

5339 Bonita Springs-Estero, FL

Total apportionment **\$502,127**

Collier County Total **\$502,127**

5339 FY24 -25 Program of Project		
ALI	Description	Amount
Facility	Maintenance and Operations Facility	\$502,127
Total Amount		\$502,127.00

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Committee Action
Item 5b
Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal FY23 to FY25

Objective:

The endorsement of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal for Collier Area Transit (CAT).

Considerations:

The Collier County Board of County Commissioners (Board) receives Federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Board must comply with Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), part 26. The Board is required to have a DBE program in accordance with regulations of the United States Department of Transportation, as provided in Title 49 of the C.F.R. A DBE Program ensures that DBE's have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in FTA and DOT assisted contracts by ensuring non-discrimination in award and administration of those State and Federal contracts.

As part of CAT's DBE Program and a requirement of Title 49 CFR part 26, every three years a goal is to be established. It is time for Collier Area Transit (CAT) to re-establish its goal which will be in effect for FY26, FY27, and FY28. CAT utilized a goal setting method, which included Census data and the DBE directory, approved by United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to establish the goal.

As part of the outreach process, CAT will host a workshop to discuss the DBE Program, the methodology for establishing the goal, and information on the solicitation process, including how to register and bid on projects. The goal will also be published and available for public comment for 30 days.

Recommendation:

That the PTAC endorse the established DBE Goal for FY 25 through FY 28.

Attachment:

Prepared by:  Date: 5/16/2025
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner

Approved by:  Date: 05/16/2025
Brian Wells, PTNE Division Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Reports and Presentations
Item 6a
November Route Changes

Objective:

To update the committee on the service modifications implemented with the off-season schedule changes in effect since April 27th, 2025.

Considerations:

As traffic and travel patterns change, we have implemented changes across multiple Collier Area Transit routes. As part of the process and to ensure public is properly notified in advance of the changes, the proposed schedule modifications were distributed throughout the community and posted on social media as well as on RideCAT.com.

Many of the changes being implemented this off-season are an effort to improve the On-Time Performance of our fixed route service. With many changes implemented over the past few years, we have collected data on the run times and asked drivers for their input, resulting in adjustments to the timepoints to give riders a more accurate estimation of when the busses will be at their stop and provide adequate time to drivers to remain on schedule.

The only significant route changes, outside of timepoint adjustments, are related to the Route 24 and Route 27. Route 24 has removed the farthest western portion of the route and will now turn around at Charlee Estates rather than travelling out to Six L's Farm. This change allows more frequency along US-41. For route 27, we have removed the Livingston Park and Ride location from the path, as very low ridership deemed the time taken to serve the stop unnecessary.

Changes have been published with our updated paper schedule, on RideCAT.com, and have been updated through the app.

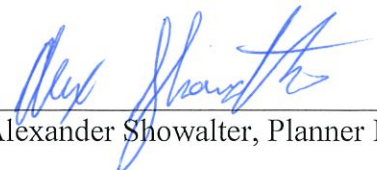
Recommendation:

None.

Attachment:

2025 Off-Seasonal Schedule


Prepared by:


Alexander Showalter, Planner II

Date:

5/16/2025

Approved by:


Brian Wells, PTNE Division Director

Date:

05/15/2025

ALL COLLIER AREA TRANSIT ROUTES

