



**Public Transit Advisory Committee
Collier Area Transit
Hybrid Meeting
Collier County Government Center Human Resources Building "B"
HR Training Room
3303 Tamiami Trail East Naples, Florida
July 16th, 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
 - b. June 18th, 2025
- 5) Committee Action
 - a. Membership Application – John DiMarco III & Jake Wayne Bates
- 6) Reports and Presentations
- 7) Member Comments
- 8) Public Comments
- 9) Next Meeting Date – August 20th, 2025, Human Resources Building "B" HR Training Room
- 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 _____.

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

JUNE 18, 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 (Virtual)
	Cliff Donenfeld (Virtual)
	Dewey Enderle
	Sonja Lee Samek (Excused)
	Benita Staadecker
	Open Seat

ALSO PRESENT: Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier County PTNE
Alexander Showalter, Senior Planner, Collier County PTNE
Elena Ortiz-Rosado, Events, Sales and Marketing Coordinator, PTNE
Keyla Castro, Operations Support Specialist, Collier County PTNE
Nolan Begley, Fixed Route Manager, MV Transportation
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation

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 was not established.

3. Approval of Agenda

Staff noted that due to absence of a quorum the meeting would be held as an informational meeting in accordance with the Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 19, 2025, Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting will be considered at the July 16, 2025, meeting.

5. Committee Action

a. Membership Application – John DiMarco III & Jake Wayne Bates

Mr. Showalter presented Executive Summary “*Membership Applications*” for John DiMarco III and Jake Bates.

John DiMarco III

The PTNE Staff endorses “*Renewal of Membership to the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC)*” for John DiMarco III noting, as standing Chair, he has been an important contributor to the overall success of CAT over his time on the Committee, providing feedback and advice to staff and vendors on improving transit operations and efficiencies in Collier County.

Jake Wayne Bates

The PTNE Staff submitted for the committee’s consideration an application from Jake Wayne Bates, to join PTAC.

Due to absence of a quorum, the applications will be considered at the July 16, 2025, meeting.

b. FY2025 Program of Projects

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 for FY25-FY26.

Section 5307

- The Public Transit Neighborhood Enhancement (PTNE) Division receives federal grant funds for the management of the Collier Area Transit (CAT) system annually to be used for capital projects and operating assistance as defined by the FTA.
- 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 \$7,119,688 of which \$5,470,056 is awarded to Collier County, \$113,915 to FDOT, and \$1,561,200 distributed to Lee County.

- The FDOT portion of \$113,915 is split between Lee and Collier Counties. Lee County will receive \$25,483 and Collier County will receive \$88,432.
- With the FDOT funds, Collier County will receive \$5,558,488 and Lee County \$1,561,200 of grant funds.
- Projects proposed for the appropriated funding may include, as funding permits:
 1. Transit Improvement Projects which may include Bus Stops Improvements (shelters) and Bus Wraps.
 2. Safety and Security Equipment Badge access and camera system enhancement.
 3. Replacing Intelligent Transportation Equipment.
 4. Provision of operational expenses for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit services.
 5. Funding for the maintenance and operations facility, contingent on availability of funds.
 6. Fleet preventative maintenance.
 7. Fixed Route and Paratransit operational expenses.

Section 5339

- The program provides capital assistance to states and transit agencies to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities.
- Collier County is the designated recipient for the urbanized area.
- \$502,127 is allocated to the Bonita Springs/Naples Urbanized Area for USC Section 5339 for the Maintenance and Operation Facilities Urbanized Area Formula program.

Next Steps

- Public Comment Period – thirty days (completed)
- PTAC Endorsement
- Board of County Commissioners' Approval
- FTA Submission and Approval

In response to Committee member comments Mr. DeLeon noted:

- The Public Comment process focused on funding allocation.
- The proposal is for the FTA application approval. Funding allocation will be submitted to the FTA for finalization on approval.

Recommendation

The Committee endorsed the Collier Area Transit 5307 FY25-26 Program of Projects in the amount of \$5,558,488.00, financed by Federal Grant Funds, and 5339 FY25-26 Program of Projects in the amount of \$502,127.00 for transit capital projects and operating assistance to the Collier Area Transit (CAT) system.

c. DBE Goal Update FY26 to FY28

Mr. Showalter presented the Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal for Collier Area Transit (CAT). He noted:

- The Collier County Board of Commissioners (BCC) receives Federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

- The Board must comply with Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), part 26, to qualify for assistance.
- The Board is required to have a DBE program in accordance with regulations of the United State Department of Transportation, as provided in Title 49 of the C.F.R.
- The 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 the State and Federal contracts.
- Every three years a goal is established as part of CAT's DBE Program, a requirement of Title 49 C.F.R., part 26.
- Collier Area Transit is re-establishing its goal effective for FY26, FY27, and FY28.
- The goal setting method included Census data and the DBE directory (businesses in the area), approved by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).
- The DBE FY 2026-2027-2028 Goal Worksheet totals \$12,096,983.00 (\$4,032,328.00 per year).

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 be published and available for public comments for thirty days.

Committee Discussion

Mr. Showalter noted that businesses are not precluded from reapplying to the program based on previous participation.

Recommendation

The Committee endorsed the established Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal for Fiscal Year 2026 through Fiscal Year 2028 for the Collier Area Transit (CAT).

6. Reports and Presentations

a. Off-Season Schedule Change

Mr. Stauffer presented the Executive Summary "*November Route Changes*" to update the Committee on service modifications implemented with the off-season schedule changes in effect since April 27, 2025. He noted:

- Changes across multiple Collier Area Transit (CAT) routes were implemented due to changes in traffic and travel patterns.
- The proposed schedule modifications were distributed throughout the community and posted on social media, and the RideCAT.com websites.
- Many off-season changes aim to improve the On-Time Performance of the fixed route service.
- Data collected on the run times and feedback from the drivers resulted in adjustments to the timepoint providing riders with a more accurate estimation of bus arrival at their stop. The data also enables time for the driver to remain on schedule.
- The only significant route changes are related to Route 24 and Route 27.
- Route 24 now terminates at Charlee Estates allowing more frequency along US-41.
- The Livingston Park and Ride location was removed from Route 27 due to extremely low ridership.

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

Committee Comment Responses

- Ridership has declined by approximately two thousand per month.

7. Member and Staff Comments

Mr. Showalter informed the Committee the Museum Lecture Hall meeting location is not available for future meetings.

The new meeting location effective July 2025 will be:

Collier County Government Center
Human Resources Building “B”
HR Training Room
3303 Tamiami Trail E.
Naples, FL 34112

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date

July 16, 2025 - 1:00 P.M.
Collier County Government Center
Human Resources Building “B”
3303 Tamiami Trail E
Naples, FL. 34112

10. Adjournment

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the chair at 1:39 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
Membership Applications – John DiMarco III, Jake Bates

Objective:

To obtain recommendation of renewal for John DiMarco and recommendation for Jake Wayne Bates to join the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC).

Considerations:

PTNE staff submits for the Public Transit Advisory Committee consideration, an application from John DiMarco III, to renew membership on PTAC. Mr. DiMarco has previously served on PTAC and looks to continue his tenure on the board.

This applicant has been evaluated based on the potential and previous contributions to the PTAC and are recommended on those criteria to be eligible for the committee.

Based on John DiMarco's experience with the Fixed Route and Paratransit services, he has been, and will continue to be an asset to this committee by providing feedback and advice to staff and vendors on improving transit operations and efficiencies in Collier County.

PTNE staff also submits for the committee's consideration, an application from Jake Wayne Bates, to join PTAC. Mr. Bates is a UCF graduate with a bachelor's in both economics and anthropology. Mr. Bates has a history of community service, positioned as the Community Service Chair for 3 years for Alpha Tau Omega Eta Rho Chapter at UCF.


Applicant	Affiliation	Term	Status
Jake Wayne Bates	None Specified	3 years	Resident
John DiMarco III	System Rider	3 years	Resident

Recommendation:


That the PTAC recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve the renewal of membership for John DiMarco to the PTAC and recommend membership of Jake Wayne Bates to PTAC at their next available Board meeting.

Attachments:

PTAC Applications

Prepared by: 
Alexander Showalter, Planner II

Date: 6/13/25

Approved by: 
Omar DeLeon, PTNE Transit Manager

Date: 6/13/25