

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 States 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 August 20, 2025 as presented X or as amended _____.