

# MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

NAPLES, FLORIDA

AUGUST 20, 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 Government Center, Human Resources Building B, 3303 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, Florida 34112 with the following members present:

Chair:	John DiMarco, III
Vice Chair:	Peter Berry
	Cliff Donenfeld
	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  
Keyla Castro, Operations Support Specialist, Collier County PTNE  
Nolen Begley, Fixed Route Manager, MV Transportation (Virtual)  
Jacob Stauffer, Transit Planner, MV Transportation  
Leslie Barnes, General Manager, 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 of five was established.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

*Ms. Staadecker moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Vice Chair Berry. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.*

**4. Approval of Minutes**

a. March 19, 2025

b. June 18, 2025

c. July 16, 2025

*Mr. Enderle moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2025, June 18, 2025, and July 16, 2025, Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Donenfeld. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.*

**5. Committee Action**

**a. Membership Application – Jake Wayne Bates & Meghan E. Brown**

Mr. Showalter presented Executive Summary “*Membership Applications*” for Jake Bates and Meghan Brown, noting one seat for a three-year term is available on the Public Transit Advisory Committee.

Jake Wayne Bates

Mr. Showalter reported that Jake Wayne Bates had withdrawn his application for appointment to the Public Transit Advisory Committee.

Meghan E. Brown

The PTNE Staff submitted for the Committee’s consideration an application from Meghan E. Bates, to join PTAC.

Ms. Brown’s application will be considered by the Committee at the next meeting of the PTAC.

**6. Reports and Presentations**

**a. Fare Study Update**

Mr. Showalter presented *Executive Summary Collier Area Transit Fare Study*. He noted:

- The 2015 Major Transit Development Plan determined Collier Area Transit (CAT) should periodically review and evaluate its fare structure to ensure they are equitable and generating the revenue required to operate the services.  
Federal regulations outlined by FTA in Circular 4702.1G require all service modifications be fair and equitable and an analysis of all proposed changes be completed.
- CAT, in partnership with consultants Johnson Engineering and Benesch, is undertaking a study to evaluate its fixed-route and paratransit fare structure.
- CAT last modified its fixed-route and paratransit fare in 2018.

- The major update of the County's Transit Development Plan (TDP), completed in 2015, recommends that CAT's fare structure be evaluated every five years, commencing in 2017.
- This will help Collier County ensure it is maximizing farebox recovery in a fair and equitable manner and passenger fares are consistent with "peer" transit agencies.
- The Paratransit service is operating at a deficit.
- Two public workshops for passengers to evaluate the fare scenarios will be held August 26<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup> at North Collier Regional Park and the Immokalee Community Park. The meetings are advertised on the County's website.

#### Existing Fare Structure

##### ADA Trips

- The fare for this service is \$3 for a one-way trip.
- Reduced fare of \$1 may apply if certain household income guidelines are met.
- Household income information is not required for eligibility of the program. This program does allow/transport a single guest or Personal Care Attendants (PCA).

##### Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Trips

- The fare for TD trips is based on an income scale and varies from \$1, \$3 or \$4 per one-way trip. This program does not allow/transport guests.

#### Conceptual Fare Alternatives

Graphs featuring updated fare scenarios for regular and paratransit passengers were distributed in the Agenda for Member reference.

##### Committee Comments:

- The fare increase could lower ridership.
- Incremental increases should be even dollars (versus cents). This is convenient for drivers and passengers to eliminate making change.
- CAT fares are reasonable compared to the cost of private or ride-share transportation.
- Suggest Staff compare method of payment options with similar out of state, (i.e. use of credit cards).

#### Next Step

**Mr. Showalter** reported the study on completion will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval.

## **7. Member and Staff Comments**

### MV Transportation Contract

**Mr. Showalter** reported:

- The County's five-year contract with MV Transportation expires on September 30, 2025.
- MV Transportation issued WARN notices required so workers have 60 days' advance notice of job losses.
- The BCC will consider an extension from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026.
- The item is on the BCC *Consent Agenda* for August 26, 2025.

August 20, 2025

Alexander Showalter

**Mr. Showalter** announced that he has accepted a position with Collier County's Growth Management Division.

**8. Public Comments**

None

**9. Next Meeting Date**

September 17, 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 1:49 P.M.

**Public Transit Advisory Committee**



**John DiMarco III, Chair**

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on 9/17, 2025 as presented X or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.