

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

February 21, 2017 Naples, Florida,

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 Administrative Building "F", Suite 501, Collier County Government Complex Naples, Florida with the following members present:

Co Chairman: Arthur Dobberstein
Co Chairman: John DiMarco, II
Vice Chairman: Dylan Michael Vogel
Richard Duggan
Harold Weeks
Chris Gavrelis (Excused)
William Klug, III (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Arnold, Director, Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement
Yousi Cardeso, Operations Analyst
Omar Deleon, Senior Planner
Nathan Reid, General Manager, Medical Transportation Management
Joshua Thomas, Grant Support Specialist
Maylin Hernandez, Mobility Manager

1. Call to Order

Co Chairman DiMarco called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Weeks moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. Dobberstein. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

4. Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Duggan moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 Public Transit Advisory Committee meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Weeks. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

5. Committee Action

a. Membership Renewal

Staff presented the Executive Summary “Request to endorse the Renewal for a Member to the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC)” for consideration. They noted Mr. Gavrelis has applied to be reappointed to the Committee.

Mr. Weeks moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners re-appoint Chris Gavrelis to the Public Transit Advisory Committee. Second by Mr. Dobberstein. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

b. Election of officers

Staff presented the Executive Summary “Election of a Committee Chairperson” for consideration.

Mr. Vogel moved to appoint John DiMarco as Chairman of the Public Transit Advisory Committee. Second by Mr. Dobberstein. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

Chairman DiMarco moved to appoint Arthur Dobberstein as Vice Chairman of the Public Transit Advisory Committee. Second by Mr. Duggan. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

6. Reports and Presentations

a. Friends of Transit

Ms. Arnold presented the Executive Summary “Friends of PTNE” for information purposes. She noted:

- Staff is investigating the feasibility of establishing a “Friends of the PTNE.”
- The organization would be a 501c3 corporation with the ability to raise funds outside of normal Collier Government activities.
- The organization would operate separate from the PTAC and the funds generated could be used for special projects such as development of bus shelters, etc.
- The concept is utilized by other Collier County entities such as the library system, museums, etc.
- Research indicates the Friends of the Library raised approximately \$140,000 last year.

- In addition to fund raising, the organizations raise public awareness of the services provided by the entities.
- In order to implement the concept, a Board of County Commissioners Memorandum of Understanding would need to be executed and the Ordinance governing the PTAC would need to be amended.

Staff queried the Committee if they endorse the concept and wish to have them continue investigating the feasibility of establishing the organization.

Mr. Weeks moved for Staff to continue investigating the concept of establishing the “Friends of PTNE.” Second by Chairman DiMarco. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

b. Performance Measures

Mr. Deleon presented the Executive Summary “*CAT Performance Measures*” for information purposes. He noted Staff is tracking ridership data and in December of 2016 it decreased 2 percent year over year, however in 2015 it decreased by 4 percent year over year. During Committee discussion on avenues to promote increases in ridership, the following items were discussed:

- Although ridership decreased overall in the system, routes 27, 22 and 121 demonstrated an increase (the routes deliver riders from Golden Gate to Creekside, (Immokalee) to Government Center and the Express to Marco Island).
- It may be beneficial to review these routes to determine if any changes in service are required to serve the clientele including any opportunities for Park and Ride facilities.
- Lee Tran may want to be contacted on their route into Creekside to determine if increased service is beneficial for this route given many employees in Collier County travel from Lee County to work. Park and Ride opportunities may want to be investigated for these routes as well.
- The County’s experience in decreased ridership is not limited as national statistics indicate it is down in similar markets mainly due to more affordable car purchases and a decrease in fuel prices.
- One issue for CAT is the County’s policy to continually expand existing roadway capacities to accommodate more vehicles; upon “*build out*” of these roadways, there will be greater demand for public transportation as is the case in established metropolitan areas.
- One area to investigate opportunities to increase service is the tourists who visit the region for leisure vacations or special events such as pickleball tournaments, festivals, etc. *Staff noted one measure undertaken to serve these users is the beach trolley initiating from North Collier Regional Park which began in January 2017 and is in its infancy stages.*
- Other opportunities which may want to be investigated is partnering with organizations such as Uber, Lyft or transit services such as Megabus.

7. Member Comments

Mr. Dobberstein requested a paper copy of the meeting packet be provided to him, or any other Member requesting the information.

8. Public Comments

None

9. Next Meeting Date
March 21, 2017

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 4:00P.M.

Public Transit Advisory Committee

John DiMarco, II, Chairman

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