



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
WWW.PSTA.NET 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA – JULY 13, 2015; 9:30 AM
PSTA AUDITORIUM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
3. **ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. May 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 - B. Contract Extension/Amendment for Gray Robinson – State Lobbyist
4. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
 - A. 2016 Legislative Agenda
 - B. 2016 Legislative Strategy
5. **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**
 - Central Ave BRT Project-August
 - PSTA/HART Joint Legislative Agenda-August
 - State Lobbyist RFP-August
6. **OTHER BUSINESS**
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

THE NEXT MEETING IS AUGUST 5, 2015 AT 9:30 AM



ACTION ITEM

3A: May 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Action: Approve Meeting Minutes

Staff Resource: Clarissa Keresztes, Administrative Assistant

LEGISLATIVE

-
- Staff recommends approval of the minutes of the May Legislative Committee meeting.
-

Attachments:

1. Minutes



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
WWW.PSTA.NET 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – MAY 6, 2015

The Legislative Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 9:30 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the April 8, 2015 meeting minutes and receive an update from Gray Robinson. The following members were present:

Darden Rice, Committee Chairperson
Doug Bevis
Ben Diamond
Pat Gerard

Absent

Wengay Newton

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Robert Stuart, Gray Robinson (via conference call)
Fred Leonhardt, Gray Robinson (via conference call)
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
PSTA Staff Members

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Rice opened the meeting at 9:31 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

April 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to approve the minutes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

PSTA Legislative Priorities – Gray Robinson – Mr. Leonhardt reported that he had a discussion with the Governor’s General Counsel, Tim Seria, who said they are encouraging the House Speaker and the Senate into agreeing on a game plan. Mr. Stuart added that the Senate has made an offer of a Special Session that would start on June 1st and last for no more than 20 days.

In response to Mr. Miller’s asking for suggestions on what PSTA can do on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, Mr. Stuart responded that it is important to reconnect with the delegation with an updated bulleted document as a reminder that the BRT project is in the Senate budget. He stated that Gray Robinson continues to communicate with Representative Ingram, Chair of the House Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations budget, and is continuing to encourage him to accept the Senate offer. Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, reported that the Lieutenant Governor seemed negative about the BRT and has concerns about funding the operations. Mr. Stuart commented that he could get in contact with the Lieutenant Governor so he has all the information and understands the BRT project. Mr. Miller stated that he will prepare the information sheet for the delegation and Gray Robinson’s use with the Governor’s Office. Committee Chair Rice asked if there are other people that PSTA should send a letter to and Mr. Stuart recommended Chair Ingram and the House Speaker.

Mr. Leonhardt reported that the next Legislative session will be January, February, and early March next year, so the Committees will be meeting much earlier in the fall this year. Mr. Miller suggested the Legislative Agenda development begin much earlier and try to meet with the Legislative delegation by the end of the summer.

Mr. Miller said that PSTA had received correspondence from the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) stating that even though PSTA’s ridership had increased, which typically would generate more income for PSTA, the Commission said that all of the grants distributed to the counties are going to be flat compared to the current grant because of Medicaid funding. Mr. Stuart suggested he and Mr. Miller get together to discuss and report back to the Committee.

2016 Federal & State Legislative Planning/Performance Evaluation – Mr. Miller presented a draft of the annual performance evaluation requirements for the federal lobbyist with five performance criteria:

1. Annual submission of suggested legislative strategy
2. Monthly written reports
3. Minimum three monthly PSTA-related meetings
4. Minimum two annual in-person updates at PSTA in Pinellas County

5. Successful organization and attendance of all PSTA-related meetings in Washington D.C. by individual or multiple PSTA Board members or staff

Mr. Miller stated that when PSTA issues the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the state lobbyist later in the summer, similar criteria will be incorporated as well. The Committee discussed the document and Committee Chair Rice suggested adding to the written reports section that the firm will provide some helpful analysis and recommendation of strategies based on new information. She also suggested that the number of meetings should be five not three.

Mr. Miller reported that on April 30th, he went to Washington D.C. to meet with Congressman Jolly at the request of the head lobbyist for American Public Transportation Association (APTA). He explained that earlier, Congressman Jolly co-sponsored a bill to eliminate the mass transit account in the federal budget. Mr. Miller said that at the Pinellas County Legislative delegation meeting, Congressman Jolly explained that the reason he did that was to start a conversation that might lead to devolution; where the gas tax money would come back to the states, which Congressman Jolly believes would increase funding for all modes of transportation. Mr. Miller reported that he and APTA's head lobbyist had a very good meeting with Congressman Jolly and his Transportation Staffer and he acknowledged that this bill has no chance of passing, but he explained that he wanted to have a conversation about increasing transportation funding. Mr. Miller reported that Congressman Jolly expressed his strong support for mass transit and helping PSTA.

Also while in Washington D.C., Mr. Miller said he had a meeting with a representative from a lobbying firm in D.C. who told him that PSTA does not need a federal lobbyist unless the agency has specific legislative priorities and stated that without earmarks, there is nothing that Congressman Jolly can do directly unless PSTA has a specific project like the BRT project. Mr. Miller explained to the lobbyist that PSTA does have priorities: 1) BRT project, 2) to restore cut bus money within the transportation budget in the House and, 3) establish a better relationship with Congressman Jolly. This is why, Mr. Miller explained, that the RFP needs to be very specific and the Committee needs to have a very specific legislative agenda.

Mr. Diamond suggested adding a few words to the sentence, "The annual evaluation will be based on the firm's ability to meet the performance criteria listed below, and the firm's success in implementing PSTA's Legislative strategy." He believes the evaluation needs to be tied to outcomes. He also spoke about the three meeting requirement and suggested a clause be added stating that "The firm and the CEO determined that the meetings were not necessary." Committee Chair Rice suggested adding that there is an expectation that the firm coordinate with lobbyists for other advocacy agencies and also HART.

Mr. Diamond suggested preparation of a one-page document to explain why PSTA needs to retain a federal lobbyist.

Mr. Miller reported that PSTA is working to put forth the RFP now with a goal to have a recommended firm for approval at the Board meeting in June. He stated that he will send the RFP to the Committee.

Mr. Miller said he believes there should be another Legislative Committee meeting before August 5th to start mapping out the 2016 State Legislative agenda. It was decided that the next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on July 13th at 9:30 AM.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

- 2016 State Legislative Agenda

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Diamond said he is concerned about the \$4 million difference between the House and Senate budgets and the possibility of some projects falling by the wayside. He believes it is important to communicate and reinforce PSTA's position with the delegates, the Chairman, and the House Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on July 13th at 9:30 AM.



ACTION ITEM

3B: Contract Extension/Amendment for Gray Robinson, P.A. – State Lobbyist



Action: Recommend Extending & Amending PSTA's Current Contract with Gray Robinson, P.A. for 10 Additional Months.

Staff Resource: Brad Miller, CEO

LEGISLATIVE

Background

- **Gray Robinson Lobbying Contract** – PSTA awarded a contract for State Lobbying services to Gray Robinson, P.A. on August 24, 2011. The Contract was for a maximum term of up to five years.
- **Current Lobbying Contract Term Ending** – On August 22, 2012, the PSTA Board extended Gray Robinson's Agreement for three additional years until August 1, 2015.

Accelerated 2016 State Legislative Session

- With the 2016 Legislative Session beginning earlier in January 2016, and the associated Committee meetings beginning in September, 2015 it is critical for PSTA to begin planning and communicating its strategies to our Legislative Delegation as soon as possible.
- For this reason it is recommended to extend Gray Robinson's contract through the end of the 2016 Session (until May 31, 2016) to ensure PSTA can have seamless communication throughout this coming session.
- The PSTA Executive Committee recommended extending the contract.

Performance Measures Added

- The proposed Gray Robinson extension includes the same performance metrics included in PSTA's newly hired Federal Lobbyist contract to ensure PSTA receives continual communication from our representatives in Tallahassee.

Additional Resources Added

- The team of professional representatives for Gray Robinson has been supplemented by adding Alan Suskey, President of Suskey Consulting as a sub-consultant to their team. Mr. Suskey provides strong local representation for PSTA with the Pinellas delegation of state representatives. Gray Robinson's monthly fee will increase from \$5,000 per month to \$9,000 per month for the 10 month extension.
-

Attachments:

1. Proposed Contract Extension

Agreement

BETWEEN PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND GRAY ROBINSON, P.A.

This Agreement is made this 23rd day of July, 2015, by and between Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, with its principal place of business located at 3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg, Florida 33716, hereinafter referred to as "PSTA", and Gray Robinson, P.A. with its principal place of business at 201 North Franklin Street, Suite 2200 Tampa, FL 33602, hereinafter referred to as the "Consultant", collectively referred to as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, the PSTA awarded RFP 11-020P (the RFP) to Consultant on August 24, 2011 and have extended it since August 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Parties now wish to exercise the option for a fifth renewal under the terms stated in this Agreement on the terms and conditions stated herein.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, hereby do agree to the following:

1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are hereby incorporated by reference.
2. **Contract Documents.** This Agreement shall mean and refer to this Agreement, the RFP together with all exhibits attached thereto including all duly executed and issued addenda (attached hereto as Exhibit A), and Consultant's Response (attached hereto as Exhibit B). All of the foregoing are incorporated herein by reference and are made a part of this Agreement. In interpreting this Agreement and resolving any ambiguities or conflicts between this Agreement and the Exhibits, this Agreement takes precedence over the Exhibits and any inconsistency between exhibits will be resolved in the following order:

Exhibit A	RFP
Exhibit B	Consultant's Response

3. **Renewal.** The Parties agree to exercise the option to extend the award of the RFP, commencing on September 1, 2015 and terminating on June 30, 2016 to coincide with the 2016 Florida Legislative Session and associated Committee meetings.
4. **Subconsultant.** The Parties agree that the Consultant will subcontract with Suskey Consulting (Subconsultant) to provide services under this Agreement. The Parties recognize that the Subconsultant will provide PSTA with intense local (Pinellas County/Tampa Bay) focused lobbying services. The Subconsultant will work at the direction of the Consultant, but PSTA may work directly with and provide direction to the Subconsultant. The Consultant shall remain solely responsible for ensuring that Subconsultant fully comply with all requirements of the RFP and shall remain wholly and directly responsible for any non-compliance by Subconsultant.
5. **Additional Services.** The Parties agree that, in addition to the duties prescribed in the RFO, the following performance requirements will be placed on both the Consultant and Subconsultant. The PSTA Legislative Committee will provide a written performance evaluation of Consultant and Subconsultant at the conclusion of the 2016 Florida Legislative Session. The evaluation will be based on the Consultant's ability to meet the additional performance criteria listed below:

Performance Criteria:

1. **Submission of Suggested Legislative Strategy** – The Consultant will provide a proposed written legislative strategy for PSTA to consider and approve prior to the end of the calendar year. The strategy should be based on pending legislative actions, trends, political activities, etc. related to the 2016 Florida Legislative session. The strategy will incorporate PSTA’s state Legislative priorities which the Consultant and Subconsultant will assist in developing. The Strategy shall have specific objectives for key meetings to arrange, activities to monitor, and other actions that will occur over the coming year.
2. **Monthly Written Reports** – The Consultant and Subconsultant must each provide monthly written summaries of all activities performed in support of the PSTA representation.
3. **Minimum 3 Monthly PSTA-Related Meetings** – The Consultant and Subconsultant must together or separately conduct at least 3 documented meetings each month of the Contract Extension related to its representation of PSTA with Florida elected officials, their staffs, executive branch staff, Florida Department of Transportation officials, or other related officials. These meetings will be documented in the monthly report to PSTA. In-person meetings including PSTA officials may count towards meeting this monthly objective.
4. **Minimum 2 In-Person Updates at PSTA in Pinellas County** – The Consultant’s principal representative to PSTA will be required to make a minimum of two visits to PSTA (anticipated to have one prior to the 2016 Legislative Session and one immediately following the session) to present state legislative activities in person to the PSTA Board or Committees.
5. **Successful organization and attendance of all PSTA-related meetings in Tallahassee, FL by individual or multiple PSTA Board members or PSTA staff.** – Provided there is appropriate advanced notice, the Consultant and Subconsultant will be expected to work together to organize and support in-person, legislative visits in Tallahassee between State Legislative members, staffs, executive branch members and PSTA Board and staff officials.
6. **Retainer.** The Parties agree due to the increase in service requirements, the monthly retainer shall be increased by \$4,000 per month to a total not to exceed \$9,000 per month. This retainer shall include compensation for all work of the Subconsultant.
7. If the Consultant is determined to not be performing satisfactorily, PSTA reserves the right to terminate the relationship in accordance with the termination provisions set forth in the RFP.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as of the last date written below.

Gray Robinson, P.A.

PSTA

By: _____
Signature

By: _____
Signature

Name Title

Name Title

Date: _____

Date: _____

Witness

By: _____

Name Title

Date: _____

Witness

By: _____

Name Title

Date: _____



INFORMATION ITEM

4A: 2016 Legislative Agenda



Action: Information Item

Staff Resource: Brad Miller, CEO

LEGISLATIVE

Background

- With the first State legislative committees meeting in mid-September, it is critical that PSTA develop its priorities much earlier to ensure we have time to communicate our priorities to the Pinellas Delegation well in advance of the January 2016 start of Session.
- PSTA Staff and Board Member Long met with PSTA State Lobbyist representatives in early July to review the recently completed 2015 session and plan for the coming 2016 session.

Last Year's (2015) Approved Priorities

1. Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Pilot Project

Regional Priority

2. Tampa Bay Regional Transit Fare Collection

Other Positions

- A. PSTA Bus Replacement Funds
- B. Increased "Urban Corridor" Funds to FDOT District 7
- C. Express Lanes to Downtown St. Petersburg or Shoulders for Buses
- D. Statewide Regulations to Encourage Uber/Lyft-type transportation options to be available in Pinellas County.
- E. Permit Community College Student Fees for Transportation
- F. Multi-Modal Howard Frankland Bridge/SR60 Interchange Funding
- G. Increased Funding for Community Transportation Coordinators like PSTA.
- H. Increase State Transit Block Grant Funding.

DRAFT 2016 Priorities

- 1. Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Pilot Project**
- 2. Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Express Route Pilot**

Regional Priority

- 1. Tampa Bay Regional Transit Fare Collection**

Other Positions

- A. PSTA Bus Replacement Funds
- B. Increased “Urban Corridor” Funds to FDOT District 7
- C. Express Lanes to Downtown St. Petersburg or Shoulders for Buses
- D. Statewide Regulations to Encourage Uber/Lyft-type transportation options to be available in Pinellas County.
- E. Permit Community College Student Fees for Transportation
- F. Multi-Modal Howard Frankland Bridge/SR60 Interchange Funding
- G. Increased Funding for Community Transportation Coordinators like PSTA.
- H. Increase State Transit Block Grant Funding.

Attachments: None



INFORMATION ITEM

4B: 2016 Legislative Strategy



Action: Information Item

Staff Resource: Brad Miller, CEO

LEGISLATIVE

-
- The committee will review recommendations and discuss how PSTA can coordinate with other entities to support transportation priorities collaboratively.
-

Attachments: None