



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 – FEBRUARY 3, 2016; 9:00 AM
 PSTA AUDITORIUM

			<u>TIME</u>
1.	CALL TO ORDER		9:00
2.	PUBLIC COMMENT		9:00
3.	ACTION ITEMS		9:05
	A. January 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes	CHAIR DIAMOND	
4.	DISCUSSION ITEMS		9:10
	A. 2/24 Board Meeting Federal Affairs Presentation	10 min VAN SCOYOC	
	B. 2/10-2/11 Tallahassee Trip Coordination	10 min BRAD MILLER	
	C. Clearwater Beach – TIA Express Strategy	20 min GRAY ROBINSON/SUSKEY	
	D. Transportation Disadvantaged Study	15 min GRAY ROBINSON/SUSKEY	
	E. Open-Carry Legislation Impacts on PSTA	10 min GRAY/ROBINSON/SUSKEY	
	F. Legal Opinion on Government Affairs	10 min ALAN ZIMMET	
5.	FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS		10:25
	• 3/12-3/15 Washington DC Coordination		
	• State Government Affairs Procurement		
6.	OTHER BUSINESS		10:25
7.	ADJOURNMENT		10:30

THE NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 2, 2016 AT 9:00 AM



ACTION ITEM

3A: January 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Action: Approve Meeting Minutes

Staff Resource: Clarissa Affeld, Administrative Assistant

LEGISLATIVE

-
- Staff recommends approval of the minutes of the January 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 – JANUARY 6, 2016

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 November 17, 2015 meeting minutes, appoint new Committee officers, and recommend the state and federal legislative agendas. The following members were present:

Ben Diamond, Committee Vice-Chair
Doug Bevis
Patricia Johnson
Janet Long

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc Associates
Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc Associates
Chris Dawson, Gray Robinson
Robert Stuart, Gray Robinson (via phone)
Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Vice-Chair Diamond opened the meeting at 9:34 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Travis Norton, St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, congratulated PSTA on behalf of the Chamber Board on the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) grant for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. He indicated that this project was also the Chamber's top Legislative priority for transportation.

[Ms. Long entered the meeting at 9:35 AM.]

ACTION ITEMS

November 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the minutes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Appoint New Committee Officers – Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to appoint Committee Vice-Chair Diamond as Committee Chair. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to appoint Ms. Long as Committee Vice-Chair. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

2016 State Legislative Agenda – Mr. Miller presented the State Legislative priorities that were adopted by the Board in August 2015 indicating that the funds for the Central Avenue BRT had been received. The remaining priorities are the Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express Route pilot, increased Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funding for urban counties, and the regional priority; the Tampa Bay Regional Transit Fare Collection.

Mr. Stuart noted that the Legislature will be in session next week and provided a review on what to expect in the weeks to come. Mr. Suskey gave an overview on Pinellas politics and provided information on how PSTA's priorities are doing and which local delegation member is supporting each priority. He indicated that he received confirmation that the TIA project has been submitted to the Appropriations Committee.

After a lengthy question and answer session between the Committee and the State Legislative team, Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to support the updates to the State Legislative priorities. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

2016 Federal Legislative Agenda – Mr. Palmer provided a summary of the five-year surface transportation bill; Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. He also spoke about the Appropriations Bill, along with an overview of how this affects PSTA.

Mr. Glenn spoke about PSTA's and Van Scoyoc's 2015 Federal Legislative achievements and activities. In addition, he reviewed three items for the 2016 Federal Legislative agenda which are to support funding for Small Starts projects under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grant program, support funding for the federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, and continue to monitor implementation of the FAST Act.

Ms. Long commented on the importance that projects have a broad community and regional support. Mr. Glenn concurred and expanded on her comment. Mr. Palmer added that the money received from FDOT for the Central Avenue BRT signals to the FTA that this project is important not only locally but also statewide. Ms. Johnson reiterated her concern about the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program funding. It was suggested that this program also be discussed at the federal level in Washington D.C.

Mr. Miller explained that the amended 2016 Federal Legislative priorities would be the FTA Small Starts application for the Central Avenue BRT, support for TIGER grant funding, and continue to monitor implementation of the FAST Act. Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to recommend approval of the updated 2016 Federal Legislative priorities as amended. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Miller suggested the federal and state advocacy teams attend the February Board meeting and provide an update.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2016 State and Federal Legislative Trips – Mr. Miller indicated that there will be three trips to Tallahassee in January and February and at least one trip to Washington D.C. in March.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Committee was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Vice-Chair Diamond mentioned that when the Federal Legislative priorities are brought before the Board, to make it clear that the initial priorities which were adopted in August have been updated to reflect the accomplishments made by the advocacy teams.

The Committee agreed to change the start time of the Legislative Committee meetings to 9:00 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on February 3rd at 9:00 AM.



4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Committee will Discuss Progress with PSTA's Adopted Legislative Priorities with PSTA's Government Affairs Teams in Washington, DC and Tallahassee.

Action: None

Staff Resource: Brad Miller

LEGISLATIVE

-
- A. **2/24 Board Meeting Federal Affairs Presentation** – Van Scoyoc & Associates officials will be on the phone to plan for their presentation to the PSTA Board on February 24 , 2016.
 - B. **2/10-2/11 Tallahassee Trip Coordination** – The Committee and its Tallahassee Affairs team will plan for a successful trip to the State Capitol next week.
 - C. **Clearwater Beach – TIA Express Strategy** – As of January 29, 2016 PSTA's top request was not included in the initial draft House or Senate Transportation, Tourism & Economic Development budgets just released yesterday. But our Government Affairs Team will discuss their strategy for working with the Legislature and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to secure funding for this important project.
 - D. **Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Study** – As of January 29, 2016, PSTA's #2 priority was included in the Senate TED Committee draft program with a \$200,000 statewide study of TD funding and reallocation of more than \$7M in prior-year TD Funds to high demand areas of the state. The Government Affairs team will discuss these proposals and our upcoming strategy for success.
 - E. **Open-Carry Legislation Impacts on PSTA** – PSTA's Legal Counsel will discuss PSTA's current policies and compliance with current law (Concealed weapons). Our Tallahassee team will provide insight to how the proposed bills for "Open Carry" in Florida affect public transit facilities and vehicles.
 - F. **Legal Opinion on Government Affairs** – PSTA's Legal Counsel will outline his and HART's counsel's opinions and analysis confirming PSTA's ability to contract with Government Affairs firms.
-

Attachments:

1. 03-13-13 Motion to Dismiss (PSTA's Prior Opinion on Use of Govt. Affairs Firms)
2. HART's Legal Counsel Opinion 01-2016