



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA – MARCH 2, 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. February 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes	CHAIR DIAMOND
4. INFORMATION ITEMS	9:10
A. State Legislative Priorities	20 min BRAD MILLER
B. 2016 Federal TIGER Grant Application	20 min BRAD MILLER
C. APTA Legislative Conference	15 min BRAD MILLER
D. State Government Affairs Procurement	20 min BRAD MILLER
5. FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS	10:25
6. OTHER BUSINESS	10:30
7. ADJOURNMENT	10:30

THE NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 6, 2016 AT 9:00 AM



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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2016

The Legislative Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 9:00 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the January 6, 2016 meeting minutes and receive updates from Van Scoyoc and Gray Robinson. The following members were present:

Ben Diamond, Committee Chair
Doug Bevis
Patricia Johnson
Lisa Wheeler-Brown

Absent

Janet Long, Committee Vice-Chair

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
Alan Zimmet, General Council
Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc Associates (via phone)
Robert Stuart, Gray Robinson (via phone)
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Diamond opened the meeting at 9:00 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

January 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to approve the minutes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2/10-2/11 Tallahassee Trip Coordination – Mr. Miller informed the Committee that February 10th and 11th is the Pinellas Regional Chamber’s trip to Tallahassee. He said that there will be a coordination meeting on February 5th and a reception on February 10th with planned presentations for February 11th. Mr. Miller mentioned that he would like to schedule PSTA-specific meetings as well and Mr. Stuart indicated that he will try to schedule the meetings.

Clearwater Beach – Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express Strategy – Mr. Stuart reported that Senator Latvala has heard from the Governor’s office that putting this item in the budget would be a prime veto target. He said that Senator Latvala’s suggestion is to model PSTA’s success with the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and to work with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) with Senator Latvala taking the lead. Mr. Stuart explained that if this item was vetoed, PSTA would not be eligible to obtain FDOT funds for the fiscal year. Mr. Bevis agreed and also suggested approaching TIA for funding. Committee Chair Diamond suggested having a meeting with the Governor’s office to message this as a means for people to get to and from jobs and also for tourists to get to the beach. Mr. Stuart will arrange for a meeting.

Mr. Jonson said that this item was also on Clearwater’s agenda. Mr. Miller suggested a joint letter of support with the signatures of the entire Pinellas delegation to the FDOT Secretary or Governor. Committee Chair Diamond mentioned the letters of support that PSTA already has and Mr. Stuart requested copies.

Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Study – Mr. Stuart reported that Senator Latvala wants to put his focus on the TD Study to get as much money as possible for a quality study and also re-purpose some of the TD money to fill the gaps. Mr. Miller said that Senator Latvala put \$200,000 in his budget for the TD Study. Ms. Johnson indicated that she met with Senator Latvala and he was very interested in PSTA’s TD ridership numbers and the fact that the Authority works closely with other agencies such as the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) and PARC to provide TD transportation. Committee Chair Diamond asked if there was a Pinellas representative on the TD Commission and Mr. Jonson suggested approaching them for help and possibly collaborating with other areas/counties that are short on TD funds.

Open-Carry Legislation Impacts on PSTA – Mr. Stuart gave a quick update on the open-carry bill and stated his opinion that the full open-carry bill will not pass this year.

Mr. Zimmet indicated that he will craft a memo on the open-carry issue relating to buses in response to Board member Welch’s question. Mr. Miller added that there are signs posted on the buses and the Bus Operators are trained to report anyone displaying a weapon.

2/24 Board Meeting Federal Affairs Presentation – Mr. Palmer reported that Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc, will be attending the February 24th Board meeting. He provided an update on the federal issues and indicated that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is focused on the implementation of the Fast Act, adding that the Formula Funds will continue to flow as usual. Mr. Palmer stated that the President will be submitting his last budget request to Congress on February 9th which does affect PSTA’s projects indirectly with the FTA Small Starts program. He will report back on what the budget proposal contains and how it affects PSTA in the coming year.

Legal Opinion on Government Affairs – Committee Chair Diamond indicated that this issue was brought up at the January Board meeting and Mr. Zimmet gave an update on PSTA’s authority to hire a lobbyist. He spoke about PSTA’s Special Act and also referred to a detailed analysis written by David Smith, General Counsel for HART, and Mr. Zimmet’s answer to a complaint filed by Mr. Rask in 2013. Mr. Miller stated that he will write a cover memo for the Board that would include a copy of Mr. Smith’s HART memo and the 2013 response to Mr. Rask’s suit for the February Board meeting, along with a verbal summary by Mr. Zimmet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

Mr. Miller responded to Committee Chair Diamond’s question on the timeline for the State Government Affairs procurement. There was discussion about Senator Latvala’s wish that HART and PSTA work more closely together as a region, and Mr. Miller suggested more joint meetings with HART and the MPO with the possibility of developing a Tampa Bay region state priority list. The Committee requested copies of the past two merger studies that were conducted.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on March 2nd at 9:00 AM.