



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 7, 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 August 3, 2016 meeting minutes and recommend approval of the Forward Pinellas 2017 transportation priority list. The following members were present:

Janet Long, Committee Vice-Chair
Doug Bevis
Patricia Johnson
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Absent

Ben Diamond, Committee Chair

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas
Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting
Natalie King, RSA Consulting
Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc (via telephone)
Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc (via telephone)
Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting (via telephone)
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Vice-Chair Long opened the meeting at 9:09 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESENTATION

Regional - Proposed Regional Coordination Action Plan - Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas, provided information on the Regional Governance issue. He talked about a rulemaking decision to push Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to merge or create a single set of plans if remaining separate. A study will be led by an independent entity to focus on the three counties: Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco. The goal is to implement one Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) instead of three separate ones. This plan is due in 2019. The question is how the funding could be calculated if the MPOs are consolidated into one agency.

Discussion took place regarding the joint PSTA/HART Executive Committee meeting currently being scheduled for the end of October 2016, as well as the Legislative priorities for FY 2017. Ms. Long suggested inviting the Tampa Bay Partnership to the joint meeting and Mr. Miller indicated that the MPOs from all three counties should also attend this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

August 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Forward Pinellas (MPO) 2017 Transportation Priority List Endorsement – Mr. Blanton briefly discussed the multimodal transportation priority projects and funding. He indicated that Forward Pinellas will vote on the priority list on September 13th. Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to recommend approval of the draft multimodal transportation priority projects list and to send a letter of support. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Federal - Update on Grant Opportunities & Federal Transportation Appropriations – Mr. Glenn reported on Congressman Bilirakis' visit to PSTA and said the Congressman wrote a strong letter of support to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) about PSTA's Sandbox application. He also spoke about a conference call between PSTA, Congressman Jolly, and Carolyn Flowers, acting Administrator of the FTA, regarding the Sandbox grant.

State - Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Study Update – Mr. Miller noted that at the last Legislative session, PSTA led the charge on behalf of urban areas to ask the

Legislature to approve funding for a study by the Commission for TD on the formula for the allocation of TD funds. He reported that the study was issued and given to the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). Mr. Miller pointed out that there was no input by the Community Transportation Coordinators (CTC) across the state. Mr. Suskey stated that CUTR completed a similar study years ago and it is his opinion that this is the same study that had been updated with new information. He indicated that the draft report is due November 15th and the final report is due by January 15th. Ms. Long suggested that the County get involved with the study. Ms. Johnson offered to travel to Tallahassee to discuss the TD needs.

State - Legislative Delegation Meetings Update - Draft Agenda – Mr. Miller said that there will be meetings scheduled with the local delegation this month, a discussion at the October Legislative Committee meeting, a meeting with HART in the fall, and ultimately present the Legislative priorities to the Board in December. He listed the three continuing priorities and explained eight potentially new Legislative priorities.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

Regional MPO Discussion - October
Finalized Priority List - October

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5th at 9:00 AM.