



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

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – MAY 18, 2016**

The Planning Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Maintenance Training Room at PSTA Headquarters at 10:40 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the April 20, 2016 meeting minutes and receive information on the sustainable Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the 2017 budget personnel assumptions, and the June/October service improvements. The following members were present:

Ken Welch, Committee Chair
Mark Deighton, Committee Vice-Chair
Patricia Johnson, Alternate

Absent

Samantha Fenger
Pat Gerard
Darden Rice

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
Dave Eggers, PSTA Board Member
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas (Metropolitan Planning Organization - MPO)
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Welch opened the meeting at 10:40 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew Kramp, Seminole resident, stated that he owns, operates, and has built electric vehicles. He said that electric vehicles have an initial high cost, but over time, there is a savings.

Phil Compton, Sierra Club (also speaking for Howard Johnston), stated his belief that PSTA's sustainability analysis is skewed against electric buses. He talked about the cost of the Proterra buses and asked PSTA to do its due diligence.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Deighton to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Sustainable Capital Improvement Program – Mr. Miller delivered a presentation on sustainability as it relates to bus purchases. He explained that his recommendation is to focus on a fleet-wide fuel economy average and not only on the technology of the vehicles. He pointed out that if fuel economy goes up, then emissions go down. Mr. Miller noted that PSTA must be both environmentally sustainable as well as financially sustainable and cannot afford to commit to a single vehicle technology. Mr. Miller presented a life cycle analysis of each bus type including fuel costs and maintenance costs.

Mr. Miller said staff is recommending Board approval to adopt a goal of improving the fuel economy of PSTA's fleet every year to maximize the net emissions savings, approve buying diesel buses and maintain the BAE and other buses in the fleet, and continue to apply for every possible grant available. He also suggested a comprehensive annual CIP vote rather than separate bus purchases each year. The Committee had many questions and a lengthy discussion relating to costs, emission levels, and the comparisons of all the bus types. This item was informational and no action took place.

2017 Budget Personnel Assumptions – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, said that personnel costs are 62% of PSTA's total costs which include salaries and fringe benefits. She spoke about the new SEIU labor agreement and the 2017 budget assumptions. Ms. Leous also talked about fringe benefits and indicated that the largest components of the fringe benefit costs are the employer contribution to the Florida pension system and health insurance. She noted that fringe benefits are forecast to increase 7% in FY 2017 primarily due to health insurance. In summary, she indicated that staff expects to be within the budget assumptions.

June/October Service Improvements – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, said that some minor service changes would occur in June and followed by more extensive changes in October. Christine McFadden, Manager of Scheduling, presented

the June service changes for Routes 11, 444, and 52. Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, spoke about the public outreach for these service changes. Ms. Borchers presented the October system-wide service changes. Mr. Lasher spoke about the early public engagement for these changes and also the feedback received coming out of the public workshops to date. In addition, he outlined the final public outreach planned for July through October 4th leading up to the service changes.

REPORTS

Projects and Partner Updates – Ms. Borchers gave a brief report on the advancement of partner projects of interest to the Board and smaller PSTA projects. She spoke about the meetings with each of the local jurisdictions that contribute funding to the Jolley Trolley services to discuss new Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) and revised service plans for FY 2017. Ms. Borchers also spoke about discussions with the City of Clearwater about improving beach connections and bus stop locations on Clearwater Beach.

Mr. Blanton said that PSTA, the MPO, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) staff meet monthly to ensure ongoing coordination. He indicated that the scoping will begin on July 1st for the SR 60 Multimodal Study. There was also discussion about a new express bus route from downtown St. Petersburg to downtown Tampa. Mr. Blanton announced that the MPO will be hiring a Communications Specialist.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PM. The next meeting will be held on June 15th at 10:30 AM.