



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – AUGUST 17, 2016**

The Planning Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 10:15 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the July 20, 2016 meeting minutes and recommend approval of the Transit Development Plan (TDP). The following members were present:

Ken Welch, Committee Chair
Mark Deighton, Committee Vice-Chair
Samantha Fenger
Pat Gerard
Darden Rice

Absent

Patricia Johnson, Alternate

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Welch opened the meeting at 10:32 AM.

PRESENTATION (along with Finance)

FY 2017 Budget/Service Improvements – Mr. Miller said that in June, a first draft summary of the FY 2017 budget was presented to the Board for review. In July, the Board voted to set the Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice at the maximum of .7500. Mr. Miller indicated that staff was tasked with reviewing the budget to determine if savings of \$1.1 million, equal to the fiscal impact of the maximum millage, could be found to pay for the proposed service improvements in lieu of increasing the millage.

Ms. Leous reported that PSTA is the most cost efficient Authority in its benchmarking group and staff was not able to find savings of \$1.1 million. She presented three different five-year budget scenarios: no increased service and no ad valorem change, increased service and no ad valorem change, and increased service and ad valorem change. Ms. Leous pointed out that even with the proposed increased service, 51% of the weekday service has greater than or equal to 60 minutes headways and 58% of service ends before 8:00 PM. She noted that adding service without offsetting revenues requires PSTA to take away from the capital reserves for buses to use for on-going operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Fenger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Deighton to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Transit Development Plan (TDP) – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, presented the progress report on the TDP. She indicated that PSTA approved the ten-year TDP major update last year and is required to submit a progress report by September 1st this year. Ms. Sobush stated that the progress report documents the past year's accomplishments, highlights progress on the 10-year implementation program, updates the financial and implementation plans for the upcoming year, and adds a new 10th year. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice to recommend approval of the TDP. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Regional Fare Collection - Cyndi Raskin-Schmitt, Director of Communications, unveiled the branding and cell phone application for the regional fare collection project called Flamingo. Walt Lenz, PSTA Project Manager, provided background information on this project and introduced Lucien Campillo, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) Project Manager.

Mr. Campillo delivered a presentation explaining the project status, the cost, and the schedule. He indicated that there will be a pilot program from September 5, 2016 to March 4, 2017, which will have available an \$11.00 three-day consecutive pass. Mr. Campillo noted that this pass can be used on all HART and PSTA fixed routes, Express, Flex, the HART TECO Streetcar line, and the Clearwater Jolley Trolley. The

Committee members had questions about the cost, the application, and the pilot program, which Mr. Lenz and Mr. Campillo expanded upon.

Bus Rapid Transit Beach Alternatives - Ms. Sobush indicated that staff has been focused over the past few months on the technical analysis of the three beach alternatives, as well as conducting public outreach workshops. She reviewed the five evaluation criteria for each beach alternative – fit, speed, access, market, and competitive. Ms. Sobush described how each city scored in those areas. Based on the technical results and public outreach, staff is leaning toward the South Pasadena/St. Pete Beach alternative.

She said that the next steps are to continue discussions with the beach communities and in October, the Board will make a decision on which alternative. The project would then move into the environmental analysis phase and initial design work.

Mr. Jonson asked about the ad valorem in St. Pete Beach. Mr. Miller indicated that St. Pete Beach would be asked to approve an agreement before the October Board meeting committing to the full incremental cost of the BRT service or hold a referendum. There was a long discussion about the costs to St. Pete Beach and the ad valorem.

REPORTS

None.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS - AUGUST

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

OTHER BUSINESS

In response to Ms. Gerard question about the Pinellas County Health and Human Services Division (DHHS) UPASS program, Mr. Miller provided an update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM. The next meeting will be held on September 21st at 10:30 AM.