



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – JULY 19, 2016**

The Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 4:00 PM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the June 14, 2016 meeting minutes and recommend approval of the Demand Response (DART) paratransit services contract, the millage rate/FY 2017 service improvements, and the proposed Dunedin service changes. The following members were present:

Elaine Mann, Committee Chair
Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Vice-Chair
Julie DiPietrantonio
Richard McDaniel
Alejandra Mesa
Elisabeth Olden
Kimberly Rankine
Dave Stanton
Carson Zimmer

Absent:

David Kovar
Vivian Peters
Robyn Pierce
G.W. Rolle
David Schneider
William Vincent

Also Present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Mann opened the meeting at 4:02 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Forward Pinellas: PSTA Transfer Area Analysis – Brett Burks, Forward Pinellas, explained the four main objectives of the Transfer Access Analysis which are to improve accessibility for PSTA's bus transfer locations, support redevelopment in Pinellas County, provide multimodal options for residents, and increase the overall safety of transfer areas. Mr. Burks indicated that the analysis is expected to take a year and will include a screening phase, site analysis and coordination, as well as the development of priority projects. Ms. Olden expressed her concern about crossing Belcher Road by the Long Center and mentioned the need for a button to stop traffic. Ms. Lepik-Corrigan spoke about the need for safer access at the Countryside Mall.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Stanton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Olden to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

DART Paratransit Services Contract – Ross Silvers, Mobility Manager, provided a brief background of the DART program and the current paratransit contract with TransDev/Yellow Cab and Care Ride. In response to Mr. Silvers' call for comments, a few Committee members relayed their positive experiences with Care Ride.

James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, explained that the current contract will expire on September 30, 2016, and in April 2016, PSTA released a Request for Proposal (RFP). He presented the enhanced performance requirements that were included in the RFP as well as the penalty and incentive program details.

Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, reported that in response to the RFP, PSTA received four responders for the wheelchair service and three for the ambulatory service. She said that all but one company made in-person presentations to the Selection Evaluation Committee, which was comprised of PSTA staff. Care Ride, LLC is being recommended as the sole service provider for both accessible and ambulatory

services. Ms. Leous noted that Care Ride was the highest ranked provider in both service categories.

The Committee had questions regarding vehicle types and Uber. Ms. Rankine made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lepik-Corrigan to recommend approval of a contract with Care Ride, LLC for a total cost not to exceed \$36 million over the maximum five-year period. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

FY 2017 Millage Rate/Proposed Service Improvements – Ms. Leous provided the FY 2016 forecast summary and noted that there is a projected surplus of \$767,921 that will be added to the reserves. She said this is PSTA's fifth straight year of substantial savings. Ms. Leous reviewed several accomplishments over the past year and indicated that outreach is a focus area for the upcoming year. She also spoke about results from the American Bus Benchmarking Group (ABBG) and pointed out that PSTA will focus on areas such as employee training, capital investment, and service frequency.

Ms. Leous reviewed the FY 2016 forecast to the FY 2017 budget and stated that the FY 2017 budget without an ad valorem change is balanced by \$78,495. She added that an ad valorem adjustment to the maximum millage would provide \$1.1 million that can be used for increased service to customers.

Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented staff's recommendations for incremental expansion of bus service if the ad valorem were raised to 0.7500. She explained that the adjusted ad valorem would allow for extended weekday hours on heavily used routes and improved weekend frequencies and service span.

[Ms. Lepik-Corrigan left the meeting at 4:58 PM and did not return.]

The Committee discussed the ad valorem and asked for clarification on the cap.

[Ms. Mesa left the meeting at 5:00 PM and did not return.]

There was not a quorum for a vote on this action item; therefore, a roll call was taken with the remaining seven Committee members and there was consensus to recommend approval of the FY 2017 millage rate/proposed service improvements.

Dunedin Service Changes – Ms. Borchers presented the proposed route changes affecting Dunedin. She noted that the Jolley Trolley would become a seven-day service with a deviation for the spring training period to the Blue Jays stadium. Ms. Borchers indicated that the Route 61 would travel from downtown Clearwater on Douglas

Avenue to Union Street and travel on Patricia Avenue to the recreation center and the Dunedin High School. She said that the proposal for Route 78 would be to re-route it from Milwaukee Avenue and move it to Douglas Avenue. She noted that staff is recommending the extension of the Dunedin/Palm Harbor Connector past the Countryside Mall to service Safety Harbor and move the Route 62 out of Safety Harbor.

Committee Chair Mann thanked staff for their hard work on the revised proposed changes for Dunedin. There was not a quorum for a vote on this action item; therefore, a roll call was taken with the remaining seven Committee members and there was consensus to recommend approval of the proposed routes changes in Dunedin.

Committee Chair Mann reminded the Committee members about the TRAC attendance policy.

Mr. Jonson stated that it is his belief that the Board will vote for the millage increase in July and encouraged the TRAC members to attend the public hearings in September to show their support for the increase.

[Ms. Olden left the meeting at 5:11 PM and did not return.]

[Ms. DiPietrantonio left the meeting at 5:12 PM and did not return.]

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS - AUGUST

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

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM. The next meeting will be held on August 16th at 4:00 PM.