



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 1, 2017

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 30, 2017 meeting minutes and receive updates on the state and federal Legislative priorities. The following members were present:

Janet Long, Committee Chair
Patricia Johnson – Committee Vice-Chair
Doug Bevis
Samantha Fenger
Charlie Justice - Alternate
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
Natalie King, RSA Consulting Group
Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting (via telephone)
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Vice-Chair Johnson opened the meeting at 9:02 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

January 30, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Bowman to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Clearwater Beach – Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express Funding – Mr. Miller said that the strategy for securing the necessary funds for the Express project is to have Legislators call the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to request that this project be included in their work plan. Mr. Miller stated that if FDOT does not pay the full amount, PSTA may seek a local match or possibly request funds from the Tourist Development Council (TDC). Mr. Suskey indicated that this project could be implemented as a two or three year pilot program. Mr. Justice pointed out that this project may not meet the TDC's criteria to receive funds.

[Ms. Long entered the meeting at 9:11 AM.]

Ms. Long said she does not believe this is the year to apply for TDC funds. Mr. Bevis suggested that Alan Zimmet, PSTA's General Counsel, meet with TDC staff regarding clarification of the statute.

Clearwater Beach Bridge Dedicated Lane Design – Mr. Miller said this is a capital project for a dedicated bus lane on the bridge between downtown Clearwater and Clearwater Beach. Ms. King said this project has delegation commitments in both the House and Senate for \$1 million to update the design and cost estimates.

Increase Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Funding – Mr. Suskey reported that the Director of the TD Commission has not yet publicly released the TD study. The Legislature may be briefed on the study on March 15th. Ms. Johnson pointed out that PSTA serves less than 10% of the TD population. She also brought up the fact that Medicaid-funded trips are now being handled by a managed care program.

Regional Planning Support – Mr. Miller indicated that the PSTA – Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by both Agencies. Ms. King reported that no decision has been made on the possible consolidation of the regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) was also discussed.

Mr. Miller indicated that the Pinellas County joint Chamber trip has been cancelled. He said that the St. Petersburg Chamber is going to go to Tallahassee at the end of March with the Leadership St. Petersburg group. The Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber and Clearwater Chamber are also welcome to attend.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Funding – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, reported that staff will meet with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in two weeks regarding the Central Avenue BRT. She said staff is finalizing technical reports on what has been completed so far for the FTA to review and provide feedback before staff submits the application for Small Starts funding in August 2017. Ms. Borchers indicated that there will be some public meetings on the BRT in April.

Counting Uber Rides Towards Formulas – Ms. Borchers said staff talked to FTA staff about the new programs PSTA offers. She said the national transit database does not have the reporting criteria for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). PSTA is leading the discussion on how to use TNC ridership numbers to receive formula funds.

Support Grant Programs – Mr. Miller said PSTA will be speaking with the delegation about supporting the existing transportation programs in the Transportation Budget. He indicated that the Notice of Funding has not yet been issued for the LoNo, Sandbox, State of Good Repair (SOGR), and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants.

Mr. Miller noted that Ms. Borchers and Joe Barkley, PSTA Board member, will be joining him on a trip to Washington D.C. in two weeks for the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference. He said the focus will be meeting with FTA and Uber staff to discuss formula funding. On April 3-4, he will be joined by Ms. Long and Pat Gerard, PSTA Board member, on another trip to Washington D.C. They will meet with the Congressional delegation and with key leaders of the Transportation Committee.

Infrastructure Proposals Update – Mr. Miller mentioned President Trump's infrastructure proposal, adding that PSTA supports the inclusion of transportation in his proposal.

[Ms. Long left the meeting at 10:17 AM and did not return.]

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was brief discussion about the Suncoast League of Cities' proposed Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG) Tampa Bay Regional Compact.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM. The April 5th Legislative Committee meeting will be rescheduled due to the Legislative trip to Washington D.C.