



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 21, 2017**

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 February 14th minutes and to recommend approval of the Clearwater Beach Transit Center Interlocal and Easement Agreements. The following members were present:

Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Chair
Carson Zimmer, Committee Vice-Chair
Teresa Dunphy
David Kovar
Richard McDaniel
Mark O'Hara
Elisabeth Olden
Tanya Pistillo
Kimberly Rankine
David Schneider
Dave Stanton

Absent:

Alejandra Mesa
John Estok
Portia Smith
Christopher Talley
Greg Hackley

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
PSTA Staff Members

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan opened the meeting at 4:06 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Mr. McDaniel made a motion, seconded by Mr. O’Hara to approve the minutes of the February 14th meeting, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Clearwater Beach Transit Center Interlocal and Easement Agreements – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented an Interlocal and Easement Agreement with the City of Clearwater to share the cost of construction of the proposed Clearwater Beach Transit Center. The Committee had seen elements of the Clearwater Beach Transit Center at earlier meetings and all agreed it is a necessary and well planned improvement for transit to Clearwater Beach. Ms. Olden made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunphy to recommend approval of the agreements. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Success of PSTA’s Demand Response Transportation (DART)/Care Ride Program – Mr. Miller informed the Committee that PSTA will be starting off future Board meetings with a positive presentation. Ross Silvers, Mobility Manager, will kick off this new feature at next week’s Board meeting. Ross invited members of TRAC to join him in a short presentation on the DART/Care Ride success story since PSTA changed its service provider from Yellow Cab to Care Ride. Ms. Olden and Mr. Stanton volunteered to assist Ross Silvers.

Summary of TRAC Initiatives – Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan presented a summary of the key issues and initiatives that the TRAC would like to tackle in the coming year. The primary themes will be: Regionalism – to assist in efforts to increase state and federal funding for transit; Safe Access to Bus Stops – to ensure safe design and placement of bus stops; and Public Art - to revitalize transit centers and shelters to increase ridership.

The secondary themes are to be the Voice of the Rider (TRAC will develop “position” papers on key issues), and to be Ambassadors in the Community (promote the use of public transit at local civic, business or neighborhood committee meetings).

PSTA - Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) Coordination Efforts – Ms. Borchers updated the Committee about the regional coordination between Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas transportation agencies including the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PSTA and HART; the efforts of the Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group; the Tampa Bay Regional Transit Feasibility Plan; and the continued development of the FLAMINGO app with PSTA and HART.

TRAC MEMBER COMMENTS

Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan explained that TRAC agendas will now include a TRAC Member Comments feature. This week's comments included: praise for the Breathe Easy Zones at Grand Central Station and a request to expand the zones to more transit terminals; a report from TRAC member Mr. O'Hara who helped 20 of his students at Career Source Pinellas get signed up for the PSTA Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program; and Ms. Pistillo who reported on the fact that the City of Largo Commissioners voted to recommend the removal of seven PSTA bus shelters and an effort is underway to save the shelters. Ms. Pistillo also announced her selection by the state of New York to paint murals on bus shelters in the City this August.

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 5:45 PM. The next meeting will be held on April 18th at 4:00 PM.