



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 25, 2017**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 9:00 AM on this date with the following members present:

Darden Rice, Chairperson
Janet Long, Vice-Chairperson
Joseph Barkley, Secretary/Treasurer
Doug Bevis
Mark Deighton
Dave Eggers
Samantha Fenger
Bill Jonson
Charlie Justice
Brian Scott
John Tornga
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Absent:

Pat Gerard
Patricia Johnson

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Rice called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and the Board was led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Recognize Incoming Board Member – Chairperson Rice introduced Commissioner John Tornga from Dunedin who replaced former Board member, Julie Bujalski. His term will be October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019.

Recognize PSTA Employee – Bobby Faris – Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, explained the Florida Public Transit Association (FPTA) Bus Technician of the Year award and announced that PSTA Master Mechanic, Bobby Faris, was selected by the FPTA and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as the 2016 Florida Bus Technician of the Year. Mr. Lukasik introduced Mr. Faris and said a few words about his background.

[Mr. Eggers entered the meeting at 9:07 AM.]

Tribute to Passing PSTA Employees – Mr. Lukasik announced the passing of Jeff Poust, a recently retired Facility Maintenance Technician with 24 years of service with the Authority. Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation, spoke about the passing of Daniel McSweeney, Bus Operator who was a 15-year veteran of the Authority and Shirley Howard, recently retired Customer Service Manager who also had 24 years of service with PSTA.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Cloyd, transportation advocate in Tampa, commented on the 100X.

Vivian Peters, Largo resident, spoke about the lack of schedules on the buses.

Tom Rask, unincorporated Pinellas County resident, talked about the decline of ridership and stated that routes have not been cut. He also mentioned the decline in press releases relating to ridership. Mr. Rask stated his opinion that the Direct Connect program will be abused by riders.

Judy Schneider, Safety Harbor resident, handed out a petition containing more than a hundred signatures to return Route 62 to Safety Harbor. She spoke about the current Connector service and explained the issues and concerns with that service. She also indicated that there are no direct route buses running north and south from Safety Harbor. Chairperson Rice asked staff to speak with Ms. Schneider regarding her concerns.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) – Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Chair, provided an update from the January 15th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas – Mr. Jonson reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on January 11th.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda, which included the approval of the October 26, 2016 and December 7, 2016 Board meeting minutes as well as the November 16, 2016 Public Hearing minutes. The Board also approved the farebox rebuild project and the transit bus filters contracts. Mr. Miller spoke briefly about the farebox rebuild and the \$2.6 million savings from this project.

ACTION ITEMS

PSTA-HART Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Mr. Miller said the MOU has been recommended by PSTA’s Legislative, Executive, and Planning Committees and it was also discussed at the Board workshop on January 13th. He noted that on January 23rd, the HART Legislative Committee met and voted to recommend it to their Board on February 6th. He indicated that HART made two minor revisions. They would like to change the MOU title from “Partnership Opportunities” to “Collaboration Opportunities,” and change from a two-year agreement to a one-year agreement requiring both PSTA and HART Boards to renew the agreements annually. Staff is to report on initiatives each December. Mr. Miller indicated that the goal is to have both Boards approve the MOU then take the document to State representatives in Tallahassee.

Mr. Deighton reported that the Planning Committee did not have a problem with the term of the agreement. Mr. Barkley indicated that the Finance Committee had a long discussion and is recommending approval. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve the PSTA-HART MOU. In response to Chairperson Rice’s call for public comment, Mr. Rask spoke against the MOU, expressing his opinion that this is a backdoor merger. He talked about the X routes and the fact that there is poor ridership on those routes. He also had comments about a couple sections in the draft agreement. There were no further public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Flamingo Fare MOU – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided some background information on the project and outlined the benefits to collaborating with HART on the Regional Flamingo Fare. She stated that this is a \$12.1 million project for the entire region and PSTA's portion is \$4.5 million. Ms. Leous noted that this project is on budget and on schedule.

Mr. Barkley stated that the Finance Committee is recommending approval. Mr. Eggers asked where the \$4.5 million is coming from and Ms. Leous answered that in large part, the money will be coming from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Mr. Jonson pointed out that this is not an effort to merge, but as a way to save money. Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley to approve the Regional Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility Project MOU with HART. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Alignment – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, said staff recently met with the FTA and discussed what the Authority must do in order to stay on schedule and receive project funding. She reviewed the current timeline, the project goals, the BRT terminus alternatives (S. Pasadena/St. Pete Beach, Treasure Island, and Madeira Beach), and the recommended alignment.

Mr. Jonson mentioned the fact that St. Pete Beach is not a participating PSTA ad valorem member; however, the Clearwater Council is authorizing him to vote for this action. Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scott to approve a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) alignment from downtown St. Petersburg to 75th Avenue and Gulf Boulevard on St. Pete Beach with an option to extend south to the Don Cesar Hotel pending local funding commitments. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

FY 2017 FDOT Grant Approval – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, explained the Service Development Grant. She indicated that FDOT has recently approved transferring \$980,000 originally approved for partial funding of the Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express service, to be used immediately to support the February 2017 county-wide service enhancements. She added that using the grant for this purpose allows the funds to be used prior to expiration. Mr. Barkley reported that the Finance Committee is recommending approval.

Mr. Eggers said his biggest concern is how important it is to have conversations with FDOT to make sure PSTA covers all the bases. He believes that PSTA did not need to raise the millage rate. He does not want to cause mistrust by the citizens; therefore, will not support this item. Mr. Scott echoed Mr. Eggers' concerns; however, he stated he is

recommending approval because PSTA could lose the funds if they are not used. Mr. Barkley said he understands, but the Authority needs more funds for buses. Mr. Bevis agreed with Mr. Eggers' comments and pointed out that he also did not vote for a millage rate increase. Chairperson Rice stated her belief that staff is doing the best they can with the situation.

Mr. Zimmet read Resolution #17-01 by title. Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley to approve the revised Joint Participation Agreement (JPA). There were no public comments. Motion passed (11:1) with Mr. Eggers dissenting.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

PSTA Performance Report/Updates – The reports were supplied in the Board packet. Mr. Miller highlighted a new section on the Operating Statistics report entitled Ridership Trend Analysis that will appear each month. Mr. Justice asked for a more detailed report on ridership. Mr. Miller said that staff can provide a ridership report by route.

PSTA Contracts – A list of contracts was included in the Board packet.

HVAC Replacement – The presentation that was given to the Finance Committee was included in the Board packet.

Direct Connect Expansion – The presentation that was given to the TRAC, Finance, and Planning Committees was included in the Board packet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

Mr. Miller provided information on upcoming meetings and conferences he and other staff will be participating in.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Jonson highlighted the farebox rebuild savings of \$2.6 million and thanked staff. He thanked the public for speaking today at the meeting and mentioned a comment made by a member of the public regarding facts.

Mr. Bevis talked about the public comments and concerns that were brought up today and questioned whether staff resolved their issue. He would like feedback on how the issues were resolved.

Mr. Eggers thanked the families of the PSTA employees who had passed for the time they had served PSTA. He thanked staff for the cost cutting savings. He said he hopes PSTA does a good job of marketing and monitoring the new service expansion effort. He would like reaffirmation that PSTA will focus on all three aspects of sustainability: financial, social, and environmental.

Ms. Long said she is proud to be serving on a Board with so many thoughtful people who take time to be deliberative about the important issues. She reiterated Mr. Jonson's comments that it is important to have correct data and facts.

Chairperson Rice agreed that PSTA's Board is strong and diverse.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Rice adjourned the meeting at 10:39 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22nd at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson