



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MAY 22, 2017

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Committee Chair Long called the May 22, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Patricia Johnson, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Doug Bevis, Charlie Justice, and Samantha Fenger. Also present was: Brad Miller, CEO, and Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting. The following participated via telephone: Natalie King, RSA Consulting; Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc; Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc; Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting; and Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### ACTION ITEMS

April 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Wheeler-Bowman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

State and Federal Updates – Mr. Pierce gave an update on the State budget. He indicated that the Governor does not have the budget yet, but once he does, he will have 14 days to review it. He also spoke about the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) saying that the Governor should have the proposed TBARTA legislation within the week. Mr. Pierce noted that the new TBARTA Board takes affect July 1st and all the appointments should be made by then. He noted that Sarasota and Citrus Counties will not be part of TBARTA. The PSTA appointment to the TBARTA Board should take place at the June 28th PSTA Board meeting. Mr. Pierce explained that the new TBARTA Board will be comprised of 13 members: one County Commissioner from each of the five counties, two mayors (Tampa and St. Petersburg), one representative each from PSTA and Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART), and four appointments from the Governor's office of non-elected officials.

Mr. Pierce updated the Committee on the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study for the Clearwater Causeway bridge project. He also spoke of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funding. He indicated that there will be another TD study conducted and PSTA will have a seat on that Committee. Mr. Suskey expanded on the topic.

Mr. Pierce reported that the Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express bus project was unsuccessful. However, the number one priority is the Clearwater bridge project and having that project complete, may help secure funding for the Clearwater Beach to TIA Express.

Mr. Pierce spoke briefly about Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) insurance issue saying legislation did pass, which could impact PSTA's partnerships with those companies in the future.

Mr. Pierce talked about the timing of the 2018 session which starts in early January. He indicated that PSTA should start talking about priorities in June to bring back to the Legislative Committee in July, with full Board approval in August.

Mr. Pierce also reported that the ad valorem homestead exemption passed with a slight change – from \$100,000 to \$125,000, which will be on the ballot in 2018. He stated that it will take a 60% vote to pass. It was noted that many entities are at their ad valorem cap; such as PSTA & HART.

Mr. Palmer and Mr. Glenn updated the Committee on the Federal side. Mr. Glenn reported that the appropriations process is three and a half months behind schedule. Mr. Palmer said the President's budget comes out tomorrow. He indicated that the Skinny budget included many cuts for transportation, but Congress has the final say. He reported that a leaked document had President Trump's budget showing the elimination of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants and no new Small Starts funding.

Mr. Glenn spoke about the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project and Mr. Miller noted that So. Pasadena will write a letter of support. He said the package will go to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by the end of August. There was discussion about a possible trip to Washington, D.C. in June or July in support of this effort.

Letter Supporting Federal Congressionally Designated Transportation Investments – Mr. Miller spoke about the PSTA letter to Congressman Rooney included in the packet. Mr. Glenn outlined the letter and explained the earmark process and the importance

that earmarks are kept in place. Committee Chair Long suggested the County Commission write a letter of support as well.

### **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

Mr. Pierce questioned whether the June Legislative Committee meeting should be cancelled. Committee Chair Long suggested leaving it scheduled for now and that we can cancel later, if necessary. It was decided that Mr. Pierce will present a post-session update at the June Board meeting and possibly Van Scoyoc on the Federal side as well.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on June 12th at 1:00 PM.