



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JUNE 12, 2017

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Committee Chair Long called the June 12, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Members present: Janet Long, Patricia Johnson, Doug Bevis, Charlie Justice, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Samantha Fenger. Also present was: Brad Miller, CEO; Natalie King, RSA Consulting; and PSTA staff members. The following participated via telephone: Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc; Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc; and Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### ACTION ITEMS

May 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Bowman to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

### **[Mr. Justice entered the meeting at 1:05 PM.]**

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) - Mr. Miller reported that the new PSTA appointed TBARTA Board member must be seated by July 1, 2017. He suggested the Chairperson of PSTA be the appointment. It was noted that it has to be a Board member and not a PSTA staff member. He added that Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) is supportive of recommending the appointment of their Chairperson, Les Miller, as HART's representative on the TBARTA Board.

Committee Chair Long indicated that the first TBARTA meeting will be in August and mentioned the transition of PSTA Officers coinciding with that timing. It was noted that the next Legislative session is early; beginning in January 2018. She mentioned that hopefully she will be elected PSTA's Chairperson in January; and therefore, would miss a few meetings if Chairperson Rice were chosen now. Ms. King stated that it is

important to have continuity and have someone there from the beginning all the way through to the Legislative session in January.

After discussion took place about whether PSTA's representative should automatically be the Chairperson, Mr. Justice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to recommend the appointment of Committee Chair Long as PSTA's representative on TBARTA. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

State and Federal Updates – Mr. Suskey provided the State update. He reported that the Governor did not veto the \$1 million for Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for the Clearwater Bridge project. He stated that Senator Latvala was extremely helpful with PSTA's request. Ms. King expanded on the update providing information on what was signed by the Governor.

Mr. Palmer reported on the Federal side. He said the FY2018 appropriations process is moving forward, and briefly spoke about the President's budget plan relating to infrastructure. Committee Chair Long inquired about the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) merge initiative and Mr. Palmer responded that the House and Senate blocked that initiative.

PSTA Zero Emission Bus Plans – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, indicated that last year when PSTA applied to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for a Low-No grant, they had concerns about the Authority's commitment to a zero emission fleet. She gave a presentation on PSTA's planned zero emissions vehicle program; which will be divided into five phases. Ms. Borchers outlined the cost for each phase, how much the Authority is applying for, and what routes will be chosen for this program. Mr. Miller spoke about the VW settlement and how much funds Florida will receive. He explained that PSTA is required to supply how many low emission buses the Authority currently has, as well as plans for future use of these types of vehicles.

### **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

Mr. Miller said the first discussion on the FY2018 State and Federal priorities will be next month. He indicated that a joint PSTA-HART Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled for July or August.

**[Ms. Johnson entered the meeting at 1:45 PM.]**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Miller mentioned that currently, PSTA does not have a Procurement Director and that there is a possibility the Authority could enter into an agreement with HART to utilize their Procurement Director until the Agency fills the vacancy.

Committee Chair Long asked about Paul Steinman leaving the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and how that affects PSTA. Ms. Borchers replied that most of PSTA's projects are being handled by Bill Jones, Director of Transportation, and his department.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 PM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on July 14th at 10:30 AM.