



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JULY 14, 2017

Committee Chair Long called the July 14, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 10:34 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Doug Bevis, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Patricia Johnson, Samantha Fenger, and Charlie Justice. Also present was: Brad Miller, CEO; Natalie King, RSA Consulting; Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting; PSTA staff members, and members of the public. The following participated via telephone: Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

June 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Wheeler-Bowman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Federal Legislative Update – Mr. Glenn provided updates on the Federal Legislation. He indicated that Mr. Miller will be in Washington, D.C. on Friday to participate in a Senate Banking Committee roundtable discussion. Senators Rubio and Nelson's staff will also be invited to participate, as well as staff from Congressmen Crist and Bilirakis' office. Mr. Glenn announced that Committee Chair Long and Mr. Justice will be visiting the White House on July 27th for briefings; no agenda has been set. He noted that this would be an excellent opportunity for Committee Chair Long and Mr. Justice to speak about Pinellas County priorities and the Small Starts program for transit projects.

Mr. Glenn said that letters of support for PSTA's LoNo grant application for electric bus funding were signed by Congressman Bilirakis and Senator Nelson and are awaiting letters from Senator Rubio and Congressman Crist. Mr. Glenn reported that the notice of federal funding opportunities for replacement of buses and bus facilities was sent on

Monday. He said he will work with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to see if PSTA can get additional points on its application because of its partnership with Uber and Lyft. Mr. Glenn and Steve Palmer will give a Federal Legislation update at the July Board meeting.

Draft 2018 State Legislative Priorities – Mr. Pierce briefly recapped the 2017 State Legislative priorities and how they fared in the Legislature. He spoke about three draft 2018 State Legislative priorities: Integrated Transit SmartPhone App Development, Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Program in downtown St. Petersburg, and increased Urban Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funds. Mr. Pierce indicated that he will reach out to the Pinellas County delegation to get their thoughts on PSTA's initial draft 2018 State Legislative priority list.

Mr. Pierce also spoke about nine other possible State Legislative priorities. Committee Chair Long expressed her concern that the Clearwater Beach Express to Tampa International Airport (TIA) project was not one of the top three priorities for next year. Mr. Miller explained that this project is very well supported locally, but the chance of this project getting funded through the Legislature is low, and what is needed most, is support and funding through the district Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) office. Mr. Pierce explained that the Clearwater Beach Causeway busway project needs to be supported locally through Forward Pinellas and included in the FDOT work plan. Mr. Miller indicated that Mr. Pierce and Ms. King will also speak in Tallahassee about support for PSTA's Service Development Grant applications.

The final priorities will be brought back for approval at the next meeting in August.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Miller announced that Senator Rouson will attend the end of the next Legislative Committee meeting on August 2nd and take a tour of the Authority.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on August 2nd at 9:00 AM.