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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 2, 2017

Committee Chair Long called the August 2, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Doug Bevis, Patricia Johnson, Charlie Justice, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Samantha Fenger. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member; Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting; Kaitlyn Bailey, RSA Consulting; Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc; and PSTA staff members. The following participated via telephone: Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc; and Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

July 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Bowman to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

FY 2018 State Legislative Priorities – Mr. Pierce reviewed the top five draft State Legislative priorities. He reported that he had spoken with Senator Brandes and key staff members about PSTA's priorities and the feeling was to cut the top five priorities down to four. Mr. Pierce noted that Senator Brandes does not think that the autonomous vehicle pilot program in downtown St. Petersburg should be a priority this year, however; he does believe the integrated transit SmartPhone app development was a great idea and could potentially be used as a pilot program statewide.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to the following priorities for Board approval: integrated transit SmartPhone app development; increased urban Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funds; Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express Service; and Clearwater Beach Causeway busway construction funding. Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to recommend approval of the four priorities. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pierce said that the TD Task Force was meeting today to discuss the funding formula and Ross Silvers, PSTA's Mobility Manager, will be the Authority's representative at the table. Committee Chair Long asked about the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA), and Mr. Pierce explained that the Governor has not yet named his four appointments.

Mr. Suskey suggested that Senator Latvala be invited to PSTA for a tour and to meet with Mr. Miller regarding the Authority's priorities. Committee Chair Long suggested that there should be a Legislative policy written regarding candidate visits.

INFORMATION ITEMS

FY 2018 Federal Legislative Priorities – Mr. Glenn reported that a decision may be made next week on the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding. He reviewed PSTA's six FY 2018 draft Federal Legislative priorities which will be brought back for approval in September.

Mr. Glenn also spoke about the FY 2018 federal affairs strategy and timeline from fall 2017 through September 2018. Mr. Palmer provided an update on the FY 2018 Small Starts funding and noted that both the House and Senate funded the Smart Starts program. It was suggested the Board send a thank you letter to Senator Rubio for his support of the Small Starts program, and to Congressman Diaz-Balart for his support of PSTA's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

Approve FY 2018 Federal Legislative priorities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Chair Long requested an outline of the various programs/grants such as the Sandbox grant, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Formula Funds, and the Low-No program, to which Mr. Miller explained. Discussion also took place about collaboration efforts with the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART). Mr. Justice suggested a cheat sheet on the various terms/grants be placed on the dais in the Board room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on September 6th at 9:00 AM.