



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
WWW.PSTA.NET 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 15, 2017

Committee Vice Chair Mark O'Hara called the August 15, 2017 TRAC meeting to order at 4:10 PM. Members present: C. David Schneider, Dave Kovar, Kimberly Rankine, Elisabeth Olden, Richard McDaniel, Mark O'Hara, Dave Stanton and Portia Smith. Members absent: Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Alexandra Mesa, Teresa Dunphy, John Estok, and Louis Romero, Jr. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CHAIR REPORT

Committee Vice Chair O'Hara gave a report of July's PSTA Board meeting, which included a presentation by James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, on the success of the Breathe Easy Zones, and the opening of the third Breathe Easy Zone at the PSTA Layby. Committee Vice Chair O'Hara briefly mentioned the consent agenda items that were approved by the Board and the Legislative update to Mr. Miller who informed members that Senator Jeff Brandes will no longer be Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development. Senator Rob Bradley of Orange Park, Florida will now lead that subcommittee.

FORWARD PINELLAS REPORT

Mr. Kovar said there was no Forward Pinellas meeting in July.

ACTION ITEMS

July 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Schneider made a motion, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, to approve the July 18th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Development Plan (TDP) Progress Report – Jacob Labutka, Transit Planner, summarized the TDP Progress Report and asked for approval to move forward for Board approval next week. Mr. McDaniel expressed his opinion against the expressway plan, while Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, explained that PSTA receives funds for express routes. Brian Beaty, FDOT Government Liaison, gave an overview of the Tampa Bay NEXT “reset” and assured the committee that transit was a prominent component of the discussion. After further discussion regarding multimodal solutions to regional transit issues, Mr. Kovar made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rankine, to recommend approval of the TDP Progress Report. There were no public comments. Motion passed (7:1), with Mr. McDaniel dissenting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

How to Ride Guide – Juan Luvian, Community Engagement Liaison, presented a brief overview of the latest draft of the How to Ride Guide. The guide includes step by step instructions on how to plan, ride and pay for public transit, and includes a handy pocket which can be used to hold palm cards, schedules, and fare cards. Members made a few editing suggestions and were encouraged to send additional comments to Mr. Luvian before August 21st.

Grant Discretionary Application Plan and Successes – Ms. Borchers updated the Committee on the types of grants that PSTA has been awarded for specific projects. Grants can be funded by the Federal government, the State of Florida, or locally by the Department of Transportation district office, partnering cities, or Pinellas County government. Ms. Borchers also shared a chart detailing the awarded grants, pending grants and grants that PSTA will apply for in the future.

TRAC Term Limits and Application Cycle – Maryanne Sobocinski, TRAC Coordinator, thanked the Committee members for their dedication and service to PSTA and their fellow riders. She reviewed the annual TRAC application period which is August 15th through September 29th. Ms. Sobocinski informed the Committee that interested riders can apply on the website by visiting PSTA.net/TRAC and must ride transit at least twice a week to qualify. Two hundred behind the driver flyers were placed in the buses for the next month and half to advertise the opportunity to join TRAC. Recruitment cards with application information were given out to all Committee members to hand out to the public in an attempt to draw in new applicants. Ms. Sobocinski provided applications to the following four TRAC members whose terms expire at the end of this year: Mr. Stanton, Ms. Olden, Ms. Mesa, and Mr. Kovar. They have the option to re-

apply for another two year term. Committee Vice Chair O'Hara suggested PSTA advertise the TRAC openings on the PSTA Facebook page.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Committee Vice Chair O'Hara mentioned he attended a meeting in the Kenwood section of St. Petersburg, where Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, presented information about the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Mr. Miller mentioned details of a successful meeting with the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce where he shared that the City of St. Petersburg Council approved a resolution to commit up to \$4 million in funding for the Central Avenue BRT project. Mr. Miller also praised the efforts of TRAC this year, with Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan spearheading the safety and regionalism initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM. The next TRAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19th at 4:00 PM.