



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716  
[WWW.PSTA.NET](http://WWW.PSTA.NET) 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

## **TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

---

Committee Chair Gloria Lepik-Corrigan called the September 19, 2017 TRAC meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Members present: C. David Schneider, John Estok, Teresa Dunphy, Dave Kovar, Kimberly Rankine, Elisabeth Olden, Richard McDaniel, Mark O'Hara, Dave Stanton, and Gloria Lepik-Corrigan. Members absent: Louis Romero, Jr. and Portia Smith. Also present: Joshua Shulman, PSTA Board Member, PSTA Staff and members of the public.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, gave an overview of the PSTA Board meeting held August 23rd, in Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan's absence. There was a presentation on the proposed FY2018 budget and the maximum millage of .7500. Ms. Borchers asked for input from Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, on the budget. Ms. Leous added that it is a good budget with funding for passenger amenities and hybrid buses.

### **FORWARD PINELLAS REPORT**

Mr. Estok attended the meeting, which featured discussion of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program and the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Mr. Estok said the TRAC initiative on safety letter was widely praised, and Forward Pinellas asked their Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to brainstorm and come up with three initiatives to spearhead.

## ACTION ITEMS

August 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Schneider made a motion, seconded by Ms. Olden, to approve the August 15th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

Service Promotion Updates - Ms. Borchers shared PSTA's plan to support community events with Park and Ride options for the upcoming Hispanic celebration on October 15th, and Clearwater Jazz Holiday on October 22nd. Participants can park at the Joe DiMaggio lot on Drew Street and take a bus to the events. PSTA has been asked by Board members to offer extended service hours for New Year's Eve and other large community events in 2018. PSTA will once again join with the City of Clearwater to extend transportation hours for Spring Break on the Beach and the Clearwater Sugar Sand Festival.

Tampa Bay NEXT – Chris Speese, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 7, gave a presentation on Tampa Bay NEXT. It is FDOT's regional program to modernize Tampa Bay's transportation infrastructure and prepare for the future. The priorities of the program are to move people and goods safely and efficiently, build a comprehensive regional transportation system, create meaningful opportunities for public input, balance regional needs with community concerns, and commit to sustainable infrastructure decisions. Mr. Speese reiterated that the program encourages public input either through comments to the website at [www.tampabaynext.com](http://www.tampabaynext.com) or by attending one of many workshops that will be held in the near future. Interested groups can request guest speakers from Tampa Bay NEXT or participate in the Citizen's Transportation Academy (a weekly webinar series on Fridays).

Hurricane Irma – James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, described the meetings held before, during and after the storm to ensure that proper precautions were taken at every level to protect PSTA headquarters, the bus fleet and the safety of all employees. With the leadership of Mike Gloss, Safety Superintendent, Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, and Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation, PSTA helped transport evacuated people from low lying areas to shelters, secured the fleet of over 230 vehicles to high ground, and protected the buildings, equipment and staff of PSTA from damage and injury. Mr. Bradford noted that PSTA managed to conduct service through most of the pre- and post-storm days with little service interruptions. He said for safety purposes, PSTA operated buses from dawn until dusk, to avoid dark evening driving

hazards. Despite a loss of the computer server which prevented emails and PSTA's website from operating during the power outages, communication to our riders continued via social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Mr. Bradford said as in most natural disasters, there are things an organization can do better and the Agency will focus on those improvements for the future.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM. The next TRAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17th at 4:00 PM.