



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 4, 2017

Committee Chair Long called the October 4, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Patricia Johnson, Charlie Justice, Samantha Fenger, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; Bill Jonson, PSTA Board member; Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting; and PSTA staff members. The following participated via telephone: Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

September 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Justice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Bowman, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

2018 Meeting Schedule - The Committee reviewed the 2018 meeting calendar. Ms. Wheeler-Bowman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fenger, to approve the schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Legislative Trips – Mr. Pierce spoke about scheduling a trip to Tallahassee during one of the Committee weeks in November; either the week of the 6th or the 13th. Discussion took place about other meetings being held during that week so Mr. Pierce also suggested the week of December 4th or the second week of January. After more discussion, the Tallahassee trip was tentatively set for January 16-18th. It was decided that Mr. Miller will also try to schedule another Tallahassee trip for beginning of November.

Discussion took place on the federal Legislative trip. Mr. Palmer said early to mid-December would be a good time to schedule a trip to Washington D.C., although he added that he is not sure there will be much to discuss. Mr. Miller indicated that consultants are reviewing PSTA's application for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit

(BRT) project. Mr. Palmer stated that the December trip would be a good opportunity to educate the Congressional delegation about PSTA's needs. Committee Chair Long asked if a meeting could be arranged with Secretary Chao and Mr. Palmer said he will arrange. Mr. Miller indicated that he would invite the entire Board; however, Legislative Committee members would have priority. He also mentioned a meeting with the Tampa Bay Partnership (TBP) relating to the new Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA). Mr. Miller said that the TBP suggested that PSTA provide an update to TBARTA on the Central Avenue BRT project.

The Committee talked about funding options such as the bed tax, which could be used to help with tourist traffic issues in the Tampa Bay area. They also discussed obtaining funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, explained in detail how a project is cut into sections and evaluated and rated based on technical and financial aspects. She said a section with a high rating is more likely to receive federal dollars, especially when funds are matched with local dollars.

Mr. Miller mentioned the joint PSTA-HART Executive Committee meeting that is currently in the process of being scheduled. He said it is important to have this meeting so the agencies can renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jonson talked about an article in a magazine he sent to Mr. Miller. He asked that Mr. Miller share it with the group.

Mr. Miller mentioned the Clearwater Beach Transit Center groundbreaking ceremony on October 5th at 9:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on November 1st at 9:00 AM.