



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 1, 2017

Committee Chair Long called the November 1, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Patricia Johnson, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Charlie Justice and Samantha Fenger. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; Bill Jonson, PSTA Board member; Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting; and PSTA staff members. The following participated via telephone: Natalie King, RSA Consulting; Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc; Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc; and Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

October 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Wheeler-Bowman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Legislative Trips – Mr. Miller spoke about the upcoming Legislative trip to Tallahassee on November 6th and 7th. He indicated that Board members John Tornga, Joe Barkley, and Ms. Johnson will join him on this trip. He said that another Tallahassee trip is scheduled for January 16th and 17th and Committee Chair Long and Board member Pat Gerard expressed interest in attending. Mr. Pierce reported that he has scheduled meetings with Philip Miller, Transportation Committee; Representative Wengay Newton, Senator Jack Latvala, Senator Darryl Rousan, Representative Brad Drake, Chair of the House Transportation Committee; Representative Kathleen Peters, and Representative Ben Diamond. Mr. Pierce reported that the appropriation asks is being finalized and Representative Latvala will champion the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the House and he is working with Senator Brandes' office for him to be the champion in the Senate. Mr. Miller added that Representative Peters has also offered her support of the

BRT project. He asked that a meeting be scheduled with Steve Holmes to speak about the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program.

Mr. Miller said that there have been discussions with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART), and a call scheduled for tomorrow with Uber, regarding PSTA's number one priority - integrated transit SmartPhone app development. This would be for the development of one Tampa Bay transportation app through a private partner called the Transit App.

Mr. Miller indicated that there are two Federal Legislative trips scheduled for Washington D.C. – November 28th – 29th with Chairperson Darden Rice and Committee Chair Long. He said the focus of this trip will be the Central Avenue BRT project and getting it into the President's budget for 2018. Mr. Miller reported that the second trip will be on March 18th – 20th which is during the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Legislative Conference.

Mr. Palmer spoke about the decision makers in Washington on the Small Starts program. He indicated that meetings will be scheduled with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the DOT, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Mr. Glenn stated that an update meeting will be scheduled with the local delegation during the November trip. Committee Chair Long reported that there was discussion about Rick Homans, Tampa Bay Partnership (TBP) and Jimmy Holton, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA), joining the trip to advocate on regional transit issues. Mr. Miller will contact Mr. Homans. Ms. Johnson spoke about the TD program and Mr. Miller suggested Ms. Johnson be introduced to Senator Audrey Gibson to discuss the TD program and Pinellas County.

The Committee received updates from both the State and Federal Legislative teams. Brief discussions took place on the President's budget and possible funding from the Bed Tax for transit options for tourists.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Miller indicated that there will be a PSTA-HART Executive Committee meeting on December 4th to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held in January – date to be determined.