



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Committee Chair Gerard called the November 13, 2017 Planning Committee meeting to order at 10:35 AM. Members present: Pat Gerard, Bill Jonson and John Tornga. Absent were: Darden Rice, Patricia Johnson and Joe Barkley. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

**PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD)
LATE SHIFT PROGRAM FARE ADJUSTMENT**

Staff Statement – Mr. Miller read the Staff Statement for the record.

Staff Presentation – Heather Sobush, Director of Planning presented a brief background on the successful first year of the TD Late Shift Pilot Program. The program is now providing 4,000 trips per month to riders who work outside of regular fixed route service hours. PSTA's innovative partnership with Uber, United Taxi, and CareRide to provide on-demand service is attracting nationwide attention in the transit industry. Ms. Sobush explained the initial funding came from a Mobility Enhancement Grant from the Florida Commission on TD. Although PSTA received an additional grant from the State FY2018 for \$507,000, staff is recommending an action item to approve a fare adjustment whereby TD customers would pay \$20 for a package that includes 25 late shift trips, one urgent TD trip and a monthly TD Bus pass. Ms. Sobush reiterated that this fare adjustment would ensure the future funding and continuation of this important service.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tornga to recommend approval of the fare adjustment. Motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the public hearing portion of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

October 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tornga, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

February 2018 Service Changes – Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, presented an action item to recommend approval to remove and replace service on the 444 beginning February 4, 2018. Mr. Lasher reiterated that Route 444 has historically been the least productive and most expensive route for PSTA. Through surveys, training sessions, on-board notices and a public hearing on February 28th, the few riders of the 444 will be offered an alternative such as Direct Connect, DART, and Neighborly Care Network for their commute. Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tornga to recommend approval of the service change. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEM

Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Grant – Jacob Labutka, Transit Planner, informed the Committee that PSTA has been approached by several engineering firms to assess the feasibility of conducting an autonomous vehicle pilot program for St. Petersburg. He explained the firms are willing to provide their services as a matching grant funding arrangement. Mr. Miller stated that staff would like to use \$50,000 from the bus purchase surplus to be a match for an autonomous vehicle pilot. Mr. Labutka presented a quick overview of the two main types of autonomous vehicles being tested and approximate cost to PSTA to conduct a pilot program. Mr. Labutka was confident that an autonomous vehicle demonstration project could be launched within the next 12 to 18 months.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on January 18th at 10:30 AM.