
PSTA Executive Committee Members Present

Mayor Doug Bevis
Councilmember Bill Jonson
Commissioner Janet Long

PSTA Staff Members Present

Cassandra Borchers
Brad Miller
Bob Lasher
Heather Sobush

HART Executive Committee Members Present

Karen Jaroch
Commissioner Sandra Murman
Councilmember Mike Suarez
John Melendez

HART Staff Members Present

Sylvian Berrien
Ruthie Reyes Burckard
Katharine Eagan
Lena Petit
Christina Buchanan
Danielle Arthur
Jeffrey Seward
Alvin Burns
Cesar Hernandez
Kenyatta Lee
Steve Rosenstock

HART Board Members Present

Mickey Jacob
Kathleen Shanahan

Others Present

David L. Smith, HART General Counsel
Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel
Christina Kopp
Mitch Perry, Florida Politics
Gary Cloyd
Whit Blanton
Dave Sobush
Gild Evans

Sign-in sheets are attached.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was opened by HART Board Chair Mike Suarez at 9:09 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up to speak on the agenda items.

Introductions followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Murman, HART Board member, moved and Director Jonson, PSTA Board member, seconded the approval of the minutes from the August 31, 2015 Joint HART/PSTA Executive

Committee Meeting. All Committee members present voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PSTA & HART 2017 Federal & State Legislative Agendas

Brad Miller, PSTA Chief Executive Officer, introduced Ron Pierce, RSA. Mr. Miller explained that PSTA staff has been preparing for the upcoming state and federal year through a deliberative process which included meeting with members of Pinellas County delegation. He reported that the draft list of legislative priorities includes: an express route from Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Airport (TIA); applying the recommendations of a study examining the formula allocation for providing reduced fares for disadvantaged patrons; and building an exclusive bus lane across the causeway to Clearwater Beach.

Mr. Pierce noted that the list is not the final agenda, and he feels that this is an important meeting to add to it. He stated that HART and PSTA need to take advantage of the next six to eight years in Tallahassee as most of the legislature leadership comes from the Tampa Bay area. Mr. Pierce feels that this is a tremendous opportunity to work together on joint initiatives.

Director Shanahan, HART Board member, asked whether there is a ferry service and if it is working.

Mr. Miller explained that there is a ferry service. He reported that during spring break reduced fares were offered, contributing to the success of the ferry service; however, this caused long lines.

Director Jonson explained that there are times when the wait for the ferry is as long as the drive without it. He noted that the ferry has been used for construction workers and the intent was for the hotel and retail workers to also park on the mainland and take the ferry to the beach. Director Jonson added that, at some point, the mainland parking will become restricted.

Director Shanahan inquired whether the bus lane was in the five year plan with FDOT.

Mr. Miller responded negatively.

Director Shanahan advised that the five year plan is what DOT uses to drive their support and determine priorities. She stated that she agreed with Mr. Pierce as it is important to know how to leverage the area as a combined, consolidated area as there is an opportunity to take an active and aggressive role.

Director Murman added that on November 1, a ferry service starts between Tampa and St. Petersburg, which is the area's first venture into premium transit. She stated that anything that is put on either agency's legislative agenda should be a joint request. Director Murman cautioned against any focus on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as it requires designated lanes, otherwise, the community does not view it as express, rapid, or efficient. She advised that, without dedicated lanes people will be hesitant to leave their cars for another mode of transportation. Director

Murman stated that she would like to advocate for those lanes, and that DOT will be helping with getting there by creating the opportunities when planning TBX.

Director Melendez observed that technology is moving rapidly, and he would like to see Tampa Bay as a leader in innovation and mobility. He added that All Aboard Florida is also looking at the region.

Director Jaroch stated that she thinks that the region has come a long way and hopes that the new partnership will be fruitful. She reported that HART recently passed a resolution for TBX and that the community was caught off guard with the guideway. Director Jaroch asked Mr. Pierce whether there has been any further discussion within DOT.

Mr. Pierce reported that FDOT is continuing to move forward. He advised that the resolutions, in addition to the advocacy from the business groups, helped TBX go forward, although there may still be some questions about addition of an extra lane.

Director Jaroch observed that there was a plan in the third draft that included a viaduct option and she would be interested in revisiting that project. She noted that from a transit perspective, it would be a project that would connect the region as a fixed guideway. Committee member Jaroch added that the MetroRapid is a good project. She stated that there are projects on which HART and PSTA can work together.

Mr. Pierce observed that HART and PSTA are leading the charge on innovation and technology. He remarked that if both organizations continue to work together, the region will be a national leader.

Ms. Eagan noted that dedicated lanes will have a high value when discussing the future of autonomous vehicles. She explained that BRT corridors can also be used for autonomous vehicles. Ms. Eagan added that in other countries there are lanes designated for each mode of transportation including cars, buses, pedestrians, and bicycles.

Director Shanahan advised that staff should reexamine what technological innovations have arisen over the last four years since the farebox project was first discussed as there may be other opportunities that may be the most technologically forward processes.

Committee member Suarez, HART Board Chair, reported that Tampa had applied for the Smart City grant. He stated that, although the city did not receive the grant, he felt that applying for the grant was helpful. Committee member Suarez observed that there are not many transit agencies across the country that are implementing innovative programs similar to those of HART and PSTA.

Cesar Hernandez, HART Government Relations Specialist, reported that HART Legislative and Strategic Planning Committee met to discuss potential legislative priorities. He reported that one focus will be the AirPorter, a premium transit service connecting downtown Tampa and St. Petersburg with Tampa International Airport. Mr. Hernandez stated that it is important to ensure that the policy objectives are diverse and bring more resources to the region as a whole.

Ms. Eagan referred the Committee to a handout with information about the AirPorter service. She reported that it will be premium nonstop service, using vehicles with innovative technology including the ability to check flight information and signal for a ride. Ms. Eagan added that the service will travel a route connecting downtown Tampa, TIA, downtown St. Petersburg, and the Carillon area. She stated that this is a step towards supporting the transit study and the cross-county route will qualify for Urban Corridor funding. Ms. Eagan advised that all the entities would work together and TIA has a successful record of leveraging funding from FDOT. She added that this is an opportunity for the community to think differently about transit.

Committee member Murman stated that she rode in the prototype vehicle and was impressed. She stated that the ride from downtown Tampa to TIA was 17 minutes. Committee member Murman noted that this is a great start for the region.

Committee member Suarez observed that if FDOT allows a dedicated lane, the travel time will likely be less than 17 minutes.

Director Shanahan asked Mr. Hernandez whether there are any other legislative priorities.

Mr. Hernandez stated that HART has identified two priorities as the AirPorter and regional farecard. He advised that Ms. Eagan has been reaching out to other organizations to see what they are doing and all the contacts reported that they are waiting until after the election.

Committee member Jonson stated that he is very interested in the AirPorter as it sounds similar to the express route to Clearwater Beach. He indicated that the two agencies should try to fit both services together as it might be more successful.

Ms. Eagan reported that the proposed vehicle is small to make the trip more comfortable, convenient, and cost efficient. She explained that there is room to accommodate luggage as well as reclining seats and is significantly less expensive to operate than a bus.

Committee member Jonson asked what stops are planned and whether there will be one stop for the hotels to bring their shuttles.

Ms. Eagan advised that the stops are being planned to begin near MTC and then a loop that will be convenient to most downtown hotels before continuing on to TIA. She stated that more planning needs to occur for the Carillon and downtown St. Petersburg stops.

Mr. Jonson reported that the discussion for Clearwater Beach is to drop patrons off at a single point and the hotel shuttles can come at certain times on the beach, it would take as long to make a full circle as to go to the airport. He added that he is very interested in the service and thinks it is potentially a project that can be shared.

Committee member Jaroch asked whether the project would qualify for federal funding.

Ms. Eagan advised that federal grants are affiliated with capital funding and the service would not qualify beyond buying vehicles; however, this project can qualify for state urban corridor funding.

She recommended starting with a contractor as it offers the ability to move more quickly and with more flexibility.

Committee member Jaroch inquired if HART has explored any partnerships.

Ms. Eagan indicated that partnerships are being explored.

Committee member Jaroch asked if the app would include pushing data from the airport.

Ms. Eagan explained that this is not a skill of HART IT staff, but other parties could support it. Ms. Eagan also noted that the Legislative and Strategic Planning Committee had asked that the St. Petersburg Airport be included in the route, if possible.

Committee member Bevis stated that he is interested in the service and asked how many vehicles the service would use.

Ms. Eagan reported that there will be multiple vehicles throughout the day, depending on traffic.

Committee member Bevis inquired whether those vehicles would run the full route or only back and forth between the downtown areas.

Ms. Eagan responded that the vehicles are anticipated to go the full route.

Committee member Murman commented that she has mentioned the service to the hotels and Visit Tampa Bay as there are many ways to get the service funded. She advised that it is an on-going process to develop partnerships. Committee member Murman added that she requested that HART withhold finalizing the legislative agenda until after this meeting.

Ms. Eagan added that she spoke to Santiago Corrada with Visit Tampa Bay and that the organizations will be working closely together.

Committee member Long stated that she is intrigued by the idea and is more than happy to continue discussing how HART and PSTA can partner. She added that she is poised to become chair for the County Commission which means she will also be chair of the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and that this is a great opportunity to define financial partners. Committee member Long asked whether HART has considered the sustainability of the funding.

Ms. Eagan explained that urban corridor grants do not have a set expiration date. She reported that it would be included in the 2018 budget to start running in the end of 2017 with a 2023 expiration. Ms. Eagan added that FDOT has asked HART for the amount of money needed to go from downtown to TIA. She noted that this is the region's best opportunity to get something new and premium.

Committee member Long stated that PSTA's legislative team reports that congress anticipates a large infrastructure package next year, regardless of the presidential elections. She observed that the new funding will provide many new opportunities.

Committee member Melendez suggested incorporating retailers in the app to allow business travelers to plan everything, including meals.

B. Commissioner Janet Long's Regional Council of Governments/MPOs Proposal

Commissioner Janet Long provided a presentation on a Regional Council of Governments and MPOs. A full copy of the presentation is available upon request from the Clerk of the Board at petitl@gohart.org.

Director Shanahan stated that she appreciates the effort that Committee member Long is making at regionalizing. She observed that an interlocal agreement is a small, but necessary step. Director Shanahan noted that both presidential nominees have visited the region over nine times this cycle and that politicians do not go places unnecessarily. She advised that it is more difficult to obtain funding for regional efforts if there is not already a practice of regionalism, and there will be a great loss of opportunity if the area does not try to pursue a regionalized structure. Director Shanahan added that this is an opportunity to cover the region and get rid of redundancies.

Committee member Jaroch noted that the airports and aviation are included in the presentation and asked whether the intention is for them to be overseen or merged.

Committee member Long responded that she has not had the opportunity to fully discuss that aspect; however, she researched how their transportation authority operated. She advised that it is included as part of the big picture of regionalization and the various aspects that could be combined.

Committee member Jaroch clarified that the intention is to speak with one regional voice.

Committee member Long explained that it is to get rid of redundancies by collapsing and collaborating the entities that are working on the same goals and objectives.

Committee member Jaroch noted examples of the eight county region working together. She explained that her concern is the possibility of adding another layer of government to oversee three diverse counties. Committee member Jaroch expressed an interest in having more frequent regional meetings to facilitate the discussion of connectivity. She added that if the oversight is over too large of an area, the ability to represent the individual communities' needs dwindles. Committee member Jaroch stated that the way that HART and PSTA were able to become transit leaders is because the individual agencies were able to meet the needs of the people in their communities. She expressed concern about other areas that have tried a Council of Governments who have gone bankrupt and cautioned against using an unsustainable model. Committee member Jaroch referenced a previous study that showed there would be little to no cost savings for HART and PSTA to merge and suggested that there needs to be more discussions.

Committee member Long thanked Committee member Jaroch for the issues she raised and asked if Committee member Jaroch would be willing to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposal one on one. She advised that she is not advocating for another big government agency as the Council of Governments is a different model. Committee member Long noted that there are many people who commute from Pinellas County into Hillsborough County and vice versa and she feels that the respective leadership has an obligation to consider how to make the infrastructure work. She added that she understands Committee member Jaroch's concerns about representing the local voice and that there are ways to approach regionalization that address everyone's concerns.

Committee member Jonson observed that the area has already been cooperating on some projects and asked if there is an interim step to implement an interlocal agreement.

Ms. Eagan suggested that the respective general counsels look at an agreement. She added that HART and PSTA procurement staff already work together on existing contracts and purchasing agreements, but there may be opportunities to improve efforts in those areas. Ms. Eagan reported that HART's Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer will discuss partnerships with their counterparts as there is some level of backlog on shareable projects.

Mr. Miller added that, when Committee member Long suggested that she would make a calling for an interlocal agreement, he thought it made sense. He observed that there have been many meetings in regards to merging and the issue is still pending, although HART and PSTA already work together on numerous projects. Mr. Miller noted that an interlocal agreement will tangibly demonstrate the agencies' partnership to the legislature and the community. He stated that Committee member Long's higher-level view of regionalism opens up the venue for discussions on working together.

Committee member Murman noted that the MPOs for Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco counties have been meeting through the TMA committee to work on the consolidation issue. She reported that the prevailing discussion is how to change these separate groups operate as the communities want to see progress and results. Committee member Murman observed that Miami and Orlando's roadway networks are more mature than Tampa Bay's. She confirmed with David Smith, HART General Counsel, that the Executive Committee cannot take votes.

Mr. Smith answered that motions would not be binding acts for the respective Boards.

Committee member Murman asked whether there should be a recommendation to continue the discussion at either the Board meeting or Legislative Committee meeting to work towards a formalized agreement with PSTA. She commented that the agencies need to take action or the decisions will be made in Tallahassee.

Committee member Suarez suggested that the recommendation be made at the next Board meeting on November 7.

Committee member Murman asked PSTA to consider taking the same action and having staff research the areas outlined on Committee member Long's presentation as well.

Committee member Melendez agreed with the idea of consolidating to make better requests for the region.

Committee member Long added that this is not about her or her plan; it is a compilation of the input she has received from community leaders and appreciates Committee member Murman's comments. She suggested that the agencies consider having both Boards meet together.

Director Shanahan observed that both transit agencies are at their maximum millage rates and that an interlocal agreement does not relinquish authority. She stated she would be in favor of doing a motion to record the sentiment of the group.

Committee member Suarez stated that it would be more appropriate to address the discussion at the Board meeting. He asked Committee member Long whether this has already been presented to PSTA and, if so, what the sentiment is.

Committee member Long reported that she presented the idea to the Pinellas County Commission and the Florida League of Cities where it was well received, and Mr. Miller asked her to present at the Committee meeting. She added that it is a great model with both agencies at the table.

Committee member Suarez asked when the next PSTA Board meeting is.

Mr. Miller stated it is in December.

Committee member Suarez noted that the HART Committee members will likely make the recommendation at the Board meeting the following week. He added that he thinks there are already three or four of the items listed in the presentation that HART and PSTA already do.

Committee member Long stated that the list is not comprehensive and there may be other partnerships that HART and PSTA engage in that are not listed, or there may be other areas that were not noted that HART and PSTA can explore.

Committee member Suarez agreed and recognized that the increased partnerships are a testament to Ms. Eagan and Mr. Miller's leadership. He feels that this discussion is an opportunity to move forward.

Committee member Murman indicated that the discussion should be referred back to the Legislative and Strategic Planning Committee so that they can work with PSTA's respective committee.

Committee member Suarez suggested that the legislative portion should go to LSP; however, all other things can be directed to Ms. Eagan and staff.

Committee member Murman agreed. She added that it is important to differentiate between merging and an interlocal agreement.

C. Bus Rapid Transit Initiatives

Mr. Miller invited Heather Sobush, PSTA Planning Manager, to discuss the Central Avenue BRT project.

Ms. Sobush explained the project is currently in the federal project development phase. She indicated the route would connect downtown St. Petersburg with the Pinellas beaches. Ms. Sobush reported that they have received letters of commitment for exclusive lanes and there is one more year of the study. She stated the intent is to submit next fall to get the project in the budget for FY2019.

Committee member Suarez noted that there is an issue with South Pasadena.

Ms. Sobush explained that St. Petersburg Beach is the preferred corridor and they currently contract with PSTA to get the trolley service.

Committee member Suarez asked if it is a \$50,000 difference.

Mr. Miller responded that it is a \$500,000 difference.

Committee member Shanahan inquired whether tourism organizations participate in funding these services.

Mr. Miller explained that transportation projects that serve a tourist oriented service would be eligible for TDC dollars. Mr. Miller stated that the model used is of the HART MetroRapid; however, the proposed BRT would have a dedicated lane during peak periods.

Committee member Suarez asked whether the proposed vehicles are on the handout.

Mr. Miller responded affirmatively.

Committee member Suarez asked if the BRT will include a requirement for fare purchase prior to loading.

Mr. Miller responded that fares would need to be purchased before boarding.

D. Innovative Partnerships – TNCs & Taxis

Brad Miller gave presentation on Innovative Partnerships. A full copy of the presentation is available upon request from the Clerk of the Board at petitl@gohart.org.

Ms. Eagan noted that, if necessity is the mother of invention, PSTA is doing an outstanding job. She added that HART is launching HyperLINK in two weeks and the Innovation Alliance is funding Teslas for HyperLINK. Ms. Eagan reported that next year, HART is anticipated to launch a prototype, autonomous vehicle bus service downtown. She stated that the program for Yellow Cab vouchers has been successful. Ms. Eagan stated that HART and PSTA are well-suited to partnering when it comes to using taxpayer money in innovative and efficient ways.

Committee member Jonson asked which service is partnered with TransDev.

Ms. Eagan explained that an international transit company, TransDev, operates Yellow Cab in Pinellas and several SuperShuttle locations nationwide. She added that they have an establish call center and customer service representatives and conduct level two background checks for all staff.

Committee member Jonson inquired when the group would meet again.

Committee member Suarez suggested that staff can coordinate scheduling a meeting for the beginning of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

AMENDED