



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 29, 2018

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Chairperson Janet Long called the January 29, 2018 Board meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Joe Barkley, Vice-Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; David Banther, Dave Eggers, Samantha Fenger, Bill Jonson, Charlie Justice, Darden Rice, Brian Scott, Josh Shulman, and John Tornga. Members absent: Richard Bennett, Patricia Johnson, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Rask, unincorporated Pinellas County, talked about an incident where an employee made comments to Mr. Rask on social media. He handed out a document that he distributed at the Transportation Management Area (TMA) and Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) meetings. He also mentioned the C-Pass contracts and believes the cost is low.

**[Ms. Fenger joined the meeting at 9:05 AM.]**

### PRESENTATION

C-Pass Success Stories – Mande Oglesby, Business Development and Corporate Partnerships, provided an overview of PSTA's C-Pass program. She said that the Authority has three new corporate partners – TradeWinds Grand Resort on St. Pete Beach, Sheraton Sand Key on Clearwater Beach, and the Marriott Suites Sand Key on Clearwater Beach. Ms. Oglesby introduced Russ Kimball, CEO of the Sheraton Sand Key, and Michael Miraglia, General Manager of the Marriott Suites Sand Key. They both said a few words in support of the C-Pass program.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) Update – Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Chair, provided an update from the January 16th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas – Mr. Jonson reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meetings that took place on December 13th and January 10th. He also distributed a summary sheet on the January 19th TMA meeting.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Chairperson Long provided some highlights from the December 8th and the January 26th meetings.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Miller requested that the Security Guard Services contract and the Voice of the Customer survey contract (items 5.B and 5.G) be pulled from the Consent Agenda for a brief discussion. Mr. Banther made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonson, to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the remaining Consent Agenda items which included the approval of the December 6, 2017 Board meeting minutes, the 2018 Title VI Program update, the Drug and Alcohol Policy, the claim settlement, and the transit planning software contract.

Al Burns, Director of Procurement, provided clarification on the five-year term for the Security Guard Services and the Voice of the Customer contracts and the authorization of the CEO to exercise the option for years four and five of the contracts. Mr. Zimmet also made some additional comments for clarification. In response to Chairperson Long's call for public comment, Mr. Rask made comments about the current security guards not engaging the public and hopes this contract addresses that issue. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to approve items 5.B and 5.G. Motion passed unanimously.

## ACTION ITEMS

Community Bus Plan – Heather Sobush, Director of Planning, delivered a presentation on the 2018 Community Bus Plan Update. She said staff is recommending approval of a task work order for the Community Bus Plan update to WSP USA for an amount not to exceed \$550,000. She explained that the Community Bus Plan prepared in 2013 cost \$700,000; there is a savings with this update in part because PSTA is partnering with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Forward Pinellas on the outreach components of the plan. Ms. Rice had questions regarding how this plan overlaps with

the ongoing Regional Transit Feasibility Plan and core services versus coverage scenarios. Mr. Jonson spoke about the Access to Transit study and the need for more transit in concentrated areas. Ms. Sobush addressed their questions. In response to Chairperson Long's call for public comment, Mr. Rask shared his opinion that this item has been misrepresented. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice, to approve a task work order for \$550,000 to WSP USA. Motion passed (10:2) with Mr. Eggers and Mr. Scott dissenting.

Autonomous Vehicle Grants – Jacob Labutka, Transit Planner, explained that PSTA has been approached by two engineering firms that are interested in accessing the feasibility of Autonomous Vehicles (AV) for PSTA. He said that AECOM has been working with the Authority to develop an AV pilot program in downtown St. Petersburg and the matching funds required would be \$100,000. Mr. Labutka said PSTA has also been working with Stantec to develop an AV feasibility study and concept plan in northern Pinellas County; the matching funds required are \$50,000.

The Board had questions relating to information about the type of vehicles and capacity, the source of the funds, who owns the vehicles, and liability. Mr. Eggers stated his belief that this should go through the procurement process and made a motion to deny. There was no second. Ms. Rice wondered how PSTA can be assured from these companies that the same problems that HART experienced can be avoided. Mr. Labutka, Mr. Miller, and Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, answered all the questions.

In response to Chairperson Long's call for public comment, Mr. Rask shared his concerns about the AV contracts and declining ridership. He believes this should go to an RFP. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice to approve the AV feasibility study and the demonstration project not to exceed \$150,000. Motion passed (7:5) with Mr. Scott, Mr. Justice, Mr. Eggers, Mr. Banther, and Mr. Shulman dissenting.

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Supervisory Labor Agreement – James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, outlined the SEIU agreement and the benefits of the new contract for both union members and PSTA management. He noted that this agreement is for the Maintenance and Transportation Supervisors. Mr. Bradford explained that the larger union contract expires later this year. Mr. Eggers asked for clarification on the pay categories and Mr. Bradford responded. Mr. Scott indicated that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the contract. Mr. Bradford introduced Rick Smith, SEIU, Chief of Staff, who said a few words about the contract.

## **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Performance Updates – The information was included in the packet.

## **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects. Mr. Miller reminded everyone that there is a Personnel Committee meeting on January 31st at 10:00 AM, immediately followed by a Nominating Committee meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Banther mentioned that Mr. Miller will be speaking at the Tarpon Springs Council meeting regarding PSTA's innovative programs.

Mr. Tornga thanked staff for today's presentations and all the Committees that meet each month.

Ms. Fenger talked about the Largo work session where there were a couple of transit presentations given to the Council.

Mr. Jonson talked about various meetings, a trip to Tallahassee, the cost savings by procuring items jointly with HART, and the Regional Transportation Plan.

Ms. Rice said congratulations to staff for the successful SEIU negotiations and approval of the new agreement. She mentioned the St Petersburg Council drafting a resolution to support the Regional Feasibility Plan.

Mr. Shulman suggested tracking C-Pass and U-Pass riders. He also mentioned a new bill relating to school transportation. He congratulated Chairperson Long on her successful first meeting.

Mr. Eggers talked about the future of transportation and the importance of messaging, especially to the community, as well as transparency.

Mr. Barkley thanked staff for the successful SEIU agreement and for the advertising award PSTA received. He mentioned a post that listed the top 20 choices for Amazon's second location; Pinellas County was not chosen.

Chairperson Long agreed about how important it is to have the right messaging for transit. She suggested inviting Scott Pringle from Jacob Engineering to a Board meeting to provide a brief summary of the Transit Feasibility study.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28th at 9:00 AM.

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Chairperson