



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 21, 2018

Committee Vice Chair Barkley called the February 21, 2018 Planning Committee meeting to order at 10:39 AM. Members present: Joe Barkley, Bill Jonson, Patricia Johnson and Richard Bennett. Absent were: Pat Gerard, Josh Shulman. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO, PSTA staff members, and Sarah Caper, Forward Pinellas staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

January 18 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonson, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Transit Feasibility Plan Resolution (RTFP) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Mr. Miller announced that Mr. Scott Pringle from Jacobs Engineering will be presenting an abbreviated version of the RTFP Catalyst project to the PSTA Board next Wednesday. He explained the Premium Transit Express Bus Service proposed by RTFP will travel from downtown St. Petersburg, to Gateway, to Westshore, downtown Tampa, University of South Florida to Tampa, and to Wesley Chapel.

Mr. Miller proposed two actions items for the Committee's recommendation to the Board. One is to recommend approval of a resolution of support for the proposed Catalyst project. He explained the resolution is based on the City of St. Petersburg's resolution of support that was passed last week. Mr. Miller stated the resolution supports the Catalyst project advance to the Public Comment phase over the next 6-8 months. He stressed it is not an endorsement of the entire project. Ms. Caper of Forward Pinellas clarified that Forward Pinellas is close to approving this next phase, while Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) has not approved the next step.

The second item is to recommend approval of a MOU naming Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) as the implementer, not operator, of the recommended Catalyst Project. Mr. Miller explained PSTA's legal department made the Executive Committee's recommended changes to the MOU to better define "implement" and to exclude operation's from TBARTA's responsibilities. There was a lengthy discussion about the responsibilities and role of TBARTA in implementing the RTFP Catalyst project, and Mr. Tornga's recommended clarification to leave project operations open in the future.

Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tornga to approve both the resolution and the "amended" MOU (Amended section Item 1. d. adding: "Operations of the RTFP Catalyst project will be decided at a later date"). Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Spring Break Service Promotion – Ms. Cyndi Raskin-Schmitt, Director of Marketing & Communications presented PSTA's partnership with the Jolley Trolley, the City of Clearwater and the Clearwater Regional Chamber to provide a free Park and Ride to and from Clearwater Beach for Spring Break. Beachgoers can park for free at Clearwater City Hall or the Harborview Center lower lot to catch a bus or trolley every 15 minutes to the beach. All riders will be given a complimentary day pass for their return trip. Ms. Raskin-Schmitt added the promotion began February 19 and will last through April 29. She described the advertisements, social media gift card giveaway, signage, and outreach efforts that will support this special service. There were questions about where to board the service on the Clearwater Beach side of the causeway, and suggestions to increase signage for the Park and Ride locations. Ms. Raskin-Schmitt addressed all questions, and TRAC members were given Spring Break palm cards to help spread the word about this promotion.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on February 21st at 10:30 AM.