



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
WWW.PSTA.NET 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

BOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 22, 2018

Chairperson Janet Long called the August 22, 2018 Board meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; David Banther, Richard Bennett, Doreen Caudell, Dave Eggers, Samantha Fenger, Patricia Johnson, Charlie Justice, Darden Rice, Brian Scott, Josh Shulman, and John Tornga. Members absent: Joe Barkley and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Direct Connect Passenger – Bonnie Epstein, Senior Planner, gave a presentation on PSTA's Direct Connect program. She outlined the program and explained how helpful this service is to the riders. She then introduced Robert Richardson, a rider of Direct Connect, along with Karli Kitzmiller from the Lighthouse of Pinellas, and Kelle March from Freedom Scientific, where Mr. Richardson is employed. Mr. Richardson said a few words thanking PSTA for this very important service.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) Update – Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan provided an update from the August 14th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas Update – Chairperson Long said that Forward Pinellas did not meet in August, but provided some information about upcoming meetings.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Chairperson Long reported on the Board meeting that was held on August 3rd.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tornga, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the July 25, 2018 Board meeting minutes, the audit services renewal, the settlement authority, the annual Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) funding grants, the performance brake tester contract, and the Transit Development Plan (TDP) progress report.

ACTION ITEMS

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Design Contract – Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management, gave a presentation on the Central Avenue BRT project. He noted that this is the first Tampa Bay project in the federal process with funding through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Small Starts program, along with contributions from local agencies. Mr. Dayal outlined the recent studies that were conducted as well as maps, costs, and design. He indicated that in June, the Agency issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Preliminary Engineering and Final Design Services. He said that three Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) were received and after technical review, presentations, and interviews, staff is recommending awarding the contract to H.W. Lochner. Mr. Scott added that the Finance Committee had a very good discussion and unanimously recommended approval of the contract with H.W. Lochner.

Questions were raised about the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study, public input, and strategies with FDOT and FTA. After Mr. Dayal answered the Board's questions, Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to award the Central Avenue BRT Preliminary Engineering and Final Design Services contract to H.W. Lochner not to exceed \$1.7 million. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

October Service Changes – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented a summary of the recommended service changes to be implemented in October. She explained that after route analysis and ridership data were examined, staff is recommending combining Routes 97 and 98 with the Route 52 as a way to boost service frequency of the Route 52, and streamlining the redundancy of routes. Ms. Borchers noted that PSTA also plans to launch a new Route 52LX, which will offer 15-minute frequencies during peak service times. She indicated that there is no fiscal impact as a result of this proposed change. Ms. Gerard indicated that the Planning Committee reviewed the changes and given the enthusiastic reaction from the Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC), the Committee unanimously recommended approval of

the changes. The Board had questions regarding public reaction to the changes and capital/operating requirements. After Ms. Borchers answered their questions, Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice, to approve the merging of Routes 97 and 98 into the Route 52. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

2018 Community Bus Plan – Whit Blanton, Executive Director of Forward Pinellas, explained Advantage Pinellas – a co-branding partnership between Forward Pinellas and PSTA to improve mobility and incentivize redevelopment using the Community Bus Plan and Forward Pinellas’ Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He indicated that the partnership with PSTA through Advantage Pinellas concentrates redevelopment through core routes and station framework. Mr. Blanton noted that there will be an Advantage Pinellas workshop held in January or February.

Mr. Miller then presented a summary of the purpose and content for the update to PSTA’s Community Bus Plan. Mr. Miller explained that the budget for the Community Bus Plan is \$550,000 and is funded through federal formula funds in the adopted PSTA 2018 Capital Budget. He said improvements in the update include recommendations designed to maximize the return on investment in PSTA’s transit network. Mr. Miller indicated that the adopted 2018 Community Bus Plan will be incorporated into the Authority’s TDP and the Forward Pinellas’ LRTP, both of which will be adopted in late 2019.

Heather Sobush, Director of Planning, summarized the keys to improving public transit service: fast, frequent, and convenient. She said PSTA’s plan will include reductions in service on the lowest performing routes, segments of routes, or time of day so that resources can be reallocated to improve the core and frequent local networks. She indicated that staff is developing an outreach schedule to review these preliminary recommendations with the public. Ms. Sobush said that staff is requesting authorization to begin public outreach for the 2018 Community Bus Plan. Ms. Gerard stated that the Planning Committee unanimously recommended approval of staff recommendation to move ahead with public outreach.

After comments and questions relating to North County, how the elimination of routes will affect people, sustainability, the elderly and Transportation Disadvantaged (TD), as well as education, Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Caudell, to authorize staff to begin public outreach on the 2018 Community Bus Plan preliminary recommendations. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Fenger left the meeting at 10:24 AM and did not return.]

INFORMATION ITEMS

FY2018 Performance Scorecard Update – Trish Collins, Director of Human Resources, presented the Performance Scorecard results for the 3rd Quarter, 2018. Questions were raised and answered by Ms. Collins relating to environmental sustainability indicators, refining the metrics, and the budget score.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Performance Updates – Mr. Miller outlined the reports that were included in the packet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Scott stated that it was a very good meeting with some important decisions being made. He asked when PSTA will have another monthly pass sale and Mr. Miller replied after the implementation of the Flamingo program.

Mr. Banther thanked Ms. Borchers for visiting Tarpon Springs twice regarding the Jolley Trolley. He also requested the Community Bus Plan information so he can forward to his cities of Oldsmar and Safety Harbor.

Mr. Tornga said he appreciates what staff is doing on the Community Bus Plan changes and encouraged staff to continue getting the word out to the elderly.

Ms. Johnson commented that this was a great meeting.

Ms. Rice welcomed Mr. Dayal to PSTA.

Chairperson Long reminded everyone that the Committee assignments nomination process is coming up as well as for the Board officers. Mr. Miller added that the Nomination Committee will meet in October with Board approval in December. Chairperson Long asked about the autonomous vehicle event. Ms. Borchers and

Mr. Miller responded that the pilot is expected to begin November 1st in downtown St. Petersburg and FDOT has approved \$100,000 for this demonstration project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 10:48 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26th at 6:00 PM.

Chairperson