



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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Committee Chair Long called the September 5, 2018 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Patricia Johnson, Charlie Justice, and John Tornga. Members absent: Joe Barkley and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting; RJ Myers, Suskey Consulting, and PSTA staff members. The following participated via telephone: Channon Hanna, Van Scoyoc.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve June 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Justice, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

FY2019 State Legislative Priorities – Mr. Pierce spoke about the proposed priorities for PSTA as well as the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority's (TBARTA). There were several questions and discussion regarding the use of the Tourist Development Bed Tax and the need for clarification to the language to possibly allow funding to be used for vehicles and operating expenses. The other priorities discussed were Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funding, the Clearwater Beach Causeway Busway project, increased Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Transit Urban Corridor funding to District 7 for the Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express service, as well as innovative project funding supported by Senator Brandes.

Mr. Pierce also briefly spoke about the proposed TBARTA state Legislative priorities which include: \$1.5 million recurring annual funding for operations, necessary funding to implement the 41-mile Regional Premium Transit project, and clarifying language regarding the mayoral TBARTA Board members and their ability to appoint alternates, as well as exemption from physical presence for quorum requirements.

FY2019 Federal Legislative Priorities – Ms. Hanna reviewed the proposed federal legislative priorities: Small Starts funding maintained and distributed on time for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, counting integrated Transportation Network Companies (TNC) rides as “transit,” increased transit infrastructure funding for LoNo, Bus & Bus Facility, and Mobility on Demand services, advance the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) approval process on autonomous vehicles, as well as opposing the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) proposed rule changes increasing Risk Assessment requirements for Small Starts projects. After a brief discussion, Ms. Hanna indicated that she will provide dates for the annual trips to Washington, D.C. to further discuss these issues. Mr. Pierce said that the State legislative trips will be scheduled for the second week of January and one in March.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for October 3rd at 1:00 PM.