



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 15, 2018

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Committee Chair Gerard called the August 15, 2018 Planning Committee meeting to order at 10:40 AM. Members present: Pat Gerard, Joe Barkley, Joshua Shulman, and John Tornga. Members absent: Charlie Justice and Samantha Fenger. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO, PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### ACTION ITEMS

July 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Tornga made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shulman, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Transit Development Plan (TDP) Progress Report – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, recommended the Planning Committee approve the 2018 TDP Progress Report for submittal to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Ms. Borchers summarized PSTA's priority projects, the FY2018 accomplishments, and an updated ten-year financial plan that will be included in the TDP Progress Report. She emphasized that the TDP progress report has a significant impact in PSTA's future budget as it enables PSTA to be eligible to request funding from FDOT. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tornga, to recommend that the 2018 TDP Progress Report to be submitted to FDOT. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

October Service Changes – Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, presented a detailed summary of the recommended PSTA service changes to be implemented on October 7, 2018. Mr. Lasher 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. Mr. Lasher was pleased to report that there were very positive public comments received at the required Public Hearing on the service changes held on August 14th. Mr. Lasher added that PSTA also plans to launch Route 52 LX which offers 15 minute

frequency during peak service. Mr. Lasher noted that there is no fiscal impact as a result of this proposed change. The Committee had questions related to any anticipated negative feedback from the riders of Routes 97 & 98, and if Route 52 riders will have to pay additional fares to get to downtown St. Petersburg. Mr. Shulman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to recommend approval of the October service changes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

2018 Community Bus Plan – Mr. Miller and Heather Sobush, Director of Planning, co-presented a summary of the purpose and content for the update to PSTA’s Community Bus Plan. They recommended approval to present these changes to the public through community outreach. Mr. Miller explained 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 included recommendations designed to maximize the return on investment in PSTA’s transit “mobility” network. Mr. Miller emphasized that PSTA is co-branding our Community Bus Plan with Forward Pinellas, and the adopted 2018 Community Bus Plan will be incorporated into the PSTA Transit Development Plan (TDP) and the Forward Pinellas Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), both of which will be adopted in late 2019. Mr. Miller said since the LRTP includes all modes of transportation, Forward Pinellas and PSTA partnered to co-brand their public outreach efforts as Advantage Pinellas.

Ms. Sobush summarized PSTA’s plan which 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 stressed that PSTA staff is actively developing an outreach schedule to review these preliminary recommendations with the public over a period of two months. Ms. Sobush stated that staff recommends the authorization for PSTA to begin public outreach for the 2018 Community Bus Plan.

There was a brief discussion about reinforcing the core routes, and the benefits this strategy has had on a few successful transit agencies in the United States, such as Houston, Jacksonville and Seattle. Whit Blanton, Executive Director of Forward Pinellas, also addressed Committee members reinforcing their commitment to work with PSTA to not only help the Authority increase revenue, but to help make the communities more pedestrian, bicycle and transit friendly. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tornga, to recommend approval for PSTA to begin public outreach for the Community Bus Plan. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

Shelter Deployment Plan – Bonnie Epstein, Senior Planner, presented an update on the Shelter Deployment Plan, which outlines how and where PSTA will add or replace shelters in the bus system. She explained the first two phases of deployment are near completion, and are focused on replacing shelters at the highest ridership stops while taking into account surrounding land use, demographics, and geographic equity.

Ms. Epstein informed Committee members that there are 650 shelters in the PSTA system. She provided an update to phase 3 of the Shelter Deployment Plan, which focuses on adding shelters to high minority population neighborhoods, areas of the county where there are currently no shelters, and shelter match projects. Ms. Epstein said the phase 3 shelters have been delivered to PSTA and are in the process of being installed. Committee members had a few questions related to how shelters are funded and if any state or federal funds are used to pay for shelters. Ms. Epstein and staff answered all questions raised and added that between FY2016 and FY2018, PSTA has allocated \$1,281,795 to the Authority's shelter program from federal formula dollars, FDOT roadway project funding and municipal partnerships.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Miller reminded Committee members of a few upcoming meetings, including the TBARTA Regional Workshop at the EpiCenter on Monday, August 27th and the October 3rd Ribbon Cutting event for the Electric Buses in downtown St. Petersburg.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on September 19th at 10:30 AM.