



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

TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAC) MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan called the September 18, 2018 TRAC meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Members present: Richard McDaniel, Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Kim Rankine, Debra Bjorkquist, C. David Schneider, Camille Soleil, Elisabeth Olden, Sue Keating, Teresa Dunphy, Mark O'Hara and Dave Kovar. Members absent: Tim Parietti, Derek Shavor and Renee Graham. Also present Brad Miller, CEO, and PSTA staff members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CHAIR REPORT

Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan reported on the topics that were discussed at the August 22nd Board meeting, including the Community Bus Plan's (referred to as Advantage Pinellas) proposed public outreach. Mr. Miller said that PSTA is coordinating its efforts on the Advantage Pinellas update with Forward Pinellas. Both agencies are planning a workshop in January to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners to demonstrate the need for increased funding from the County for the bus plan. Mr. Miller also mentioned a special presentation featuring a Direct Connect success story of a visually impaired rider who uses the first-mile, last-mile program to increase his mobility, and safely connect him to and from work.

Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan described the efforts both she and Public Engagement staff are undertaking to promote the TRAC Superior Transit Access Recognition (STAR) Award program. She encouraged members who represent Mid-County and South County regions to look for potential nominees, since North County is well represented with her upcoming applications.

FORWARD PINELLAS REPORT

Although Mr. Kovar was not able to attend the August 23rd Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, he did attend the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) CAC meeting in Tampa on August 15th. It was there he learned of the collaborative effort

of the Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) called It's Time Tampa Bay (<http://itstimetampabay.org>). Their goal is to create the first tri-county Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the tri-county region. Mr. Kovar recommended Committee members take the survey and asked Maryanne Sobocinski, TRAC Coordinator, to forward the survey to TRAC members.

ACTION ITEMS

August 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Schneider made a motion, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Looper Agreement – Mr. Miller presented an action item to approve a three year agreement with Looper, Inc., to operate two vehicles on the Downtown Circulator route with a FY2019 cost not to exceed \$653,538, with a maximum of 3% annual escalation. Mr. Miller explained that PSTA, working in conjunction with the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, the City of St. Petersburg, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), is recommending an increased operating span of service, and an expanded route on the Looper to include the Vinoy Basin, the Dali Museum and the Innovation District. Mr. Miller was pleased to announce that in order to maintain a 15-minute frequency, the service will use three vehicles – two Looper Trolleys and the first PSTA electric bus in Pinellas County. He invited TRAC members to join PSTA, its partners, and downtown St. Petersburg community leaders at the October 3rd unveiling of the first PSTA electric bus across from St. Petersburg City Hall. TRAC members raised questions about the demographics of Looper riders, if the new Looper schedule will be integrated into the Transit App, and if PSTA expects downtown residents and employees to begin using the Looper on a daily basis. Mr. O'Hara made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovar, to recommend approval of the Looper agreement. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

TRAC Bylaws – Ms. Sobocinski presented the action item of the staff recommendation to approve four changes to the TRAC bylaws. She summarized the four amendments relating to membership, terms, quorum emails, and meeting agendas. There were a few questions related to the TRAC bylaws, which were addressed, and she reminded TRAC that once approved, the item will be on the consent agenda for the September 26th PSTA Board meeting. Ms. Keating made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunphy, to approve the amended TRAC bylaws. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Shelter Deployment Plan – Bonnie Epstein, Senior Planner, presented an update on the shelter deployment plan which initially began in 2015. She informed TRAC there are currently 650 shelters in the PSTA transit system, and staff is currently installing Phase 3 shelters in the following regions: the Skyway Marina district, Enterprise Road, high minority communities, and areas funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). TRAC members complemented the proposed expansion of new shelters throughout Pinellas County, and asked questions related to the criteria used to select locations for new shelters, the type of shelter built, and the removal of bus stops and shelters from under-utilized locations. Ms. Epstein also explained how the Shelter Match program works by having PSTA partner with local municipalities, organizations and businesses to share the cost of shelter installation.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. O'Hara reported on his experiences using public transit in Buffalo. He said the buses regularly run up to ten minutes late, and like PSTA, they use the Transit App and are also in the process of implementing a mobile ticketing app similar to Flamingo. He was surprised by the fact that unlike Pinellas County, the public school transportation system in Buffalo uses 100 Metro buses, not school buses, to transport students. Mr. O'Hara also shared that they use a special fleet of buses that are designated express to the suburbs. Once he returned to Tampa, he shared that Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) has implemented on board announcements on some routes that announce transfers at designated stops.

Mr. McDaniel raised a safety issue with a recent bus stop removal near Boca Ciega. He said it forced students to cross busy roads and wait in an unsafe area. Mr. Miller made note of the location and is following up with the appropriate PSTA departments. Mr. Kovar suggested PSTA develop a logo for TRAC, either with or without the PSTA logo.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM. The next TRAC meeting will be held on October 16th at 4:00 PM.