



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 OCTOBER 3, 2018

Committee Chair Long called the October 3, 2018 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 1:04 PM. Members present: Janet Long, Patricia Johnson, and Charlie Justice. Members absent: Joe Barkley, John Tornga, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; Natalie King and Kaitlyn Bailey, RSA Consulting; PSTA staff members, and members of the public. The following participated via telephone: Harry Glenn and Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc; Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting; and Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve September 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Justice, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

2019 Meeting Schedule – The Committee reviewed the 2019 meeting calendar. Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Justice, to approve the schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve 2019 State and Federal Priorities – The FY 2019 Legislative priorities were handed out for the Committee to discuss and recommend approval to the Board. Mr. Pierce recapped a recent meeting with PSTA staff, RSA Consulting staff, and Mr. Suskey with Senator Brandes relating to the Authority's state priorities and his recommendations for the Agency's proposed priorities. Mr. Pierce indicated that in regards to the Tourist Development Council (TDC) dollars, Senator Brandes believes it would be problematic to add changing the statute as one of PSTA's priorities for FY 2019. Committee Chair Long noted that the County Attorney's Office is asking for clarification of the Legislative's intent of the statute and what the TDC funds can be used for.

A one-page document was handed out which was shared with Senator Brandes outlining PSTA's three Autonomous Vehicle (AV) pilot programs and the challenges that those programs are facing. Mr. Miller noted that Senator Brandes is a great supporter of AV projects, but he believes it is better to wait until later to ask for funding until some of the AV issues have been addressed.

Ms. Johnson asked about Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) programs and Mr. Miller indicated that Senator Brandes is very supportive of PSTA being a leader on TD for the rest of the state. It was noted that the FY 2019 State priority list has TD programs as the number one and two priorities. Mr. Pierce and Ms. King also spoke briefly about Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority's (TBARTA) FY 2019 State Legislative priorities.

The Committee was provided with the FY 2019 Federal Legislative priorities. Mr. Miller noted that the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project is PSTA's number one priority. He said the other four priorities are: Counting integrated Transportation Network Company (TNC) rides as transit; increased transit infrastructure funding; advance National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) approval process of AV technology; and oppose the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) proposed rule changes increasing risk assessment requirements for Small Start projects. Mr. Glenn and Mr. Palmer provided their thoughts and insights on all the priorities. In addition, the Committee requested that staff add another federal priority related to infrastructure tax act re-authorization.

Mr. Justice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to recommend approval of the FY 2019 State and Federal Legislative priorities, as amended. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM. The next Legislative Committee meeting is to be determined.