



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAC) MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 15, 2019

Committee Chair O'Hara called the January 15, 2019 TRAC meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Members present: Camille Soleil, Mark O'Hara, Elisabeth Olden, Debra Bjorkquist, Sue Keating, Dave Kovar, Tim Parietti, Renee Graham, Brian Grant, Chelsea Anderson, Jovantee Blair, Kenneth Durham and Edwin Klumpp. Members absent: Teresa Dunphy and Derek Shavor. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO and PSTA staff members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CHAIR REPORT

Committee Chair O'Hara briefly reported on the topics that were discussed at the December 5th Board meeting, including the new Healthy Hop Tarpon Springs transit service to medical appointments for Seniors, the PSTA and Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) renewal of the annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and the PSTA Metric Scorecard.

FORWARD PINELLAS REPORT

Mr. Kovar gave an overview of the Forward Pinellas Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and reported that the CAC meeting focused on the Lealman community and the Complete Streets program, as well as appointments of new Officers.

ACTION ITEMS

November 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Parietti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keating, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

FY2019 Bus and Paratransit Adjustments – Heather Sobush, Planning Director, discussed the fact that PSTA is facing a \$1.7 million dollar deficit and must take action if the Authority does not secure additional funding. She explained that the Advantage Pinellas

bus plan was going to implement service cuts of lower performing routes and invest in the higher performing routes. However, if PSTA cannot secure additional funding, there are three options to consider implementing. Option one: stay the course and for the next two years and have enough in reserves to continue current operations; option two: if the Authority receives at least \$5 - \$15 million dollars in funds through a gas tax, this will allow some service improvements; and option three: if PSTA secured \$50 - \$80 million dollars in funding, this would allow for substantial improvements such as increased frequency and evening and weekend service.

Ms. Sobush reviewed the potential routes that would be cut should funding not be secured in the next few months: Routes 5, 16, 22, 58 and 814. She is requesting approval from the Committee for staff to begin conducting public hearings on the service cuts. Several Committee members had comments regarding the service cuts and suggested they could help PSTA implement a letter writing, outreach and marketing campaign to reverse the service cut plan. In lieu of getting the necessary funds, Ms. Olden made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to recommend approval for staff to begin holding public hearings about the service cuts. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

State Road 60/Memorial Interchange Letter of Support – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, outlined the extensive traffic problem that exists in Hillsborough County at the SR 60 interchange with the Memorial Causeway. To date, there are no construction improvements planned by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to alleviate the bottleneck, which has a negative effect on regional commuters trying to travel to the Westshore business core. Ms. Borchers is requesting Committee approval for staff to send a letter of support to FDOT to address the issue and improve the State Road 60/Memorial Interchange. Mr. Kovar made a motion, seconded by Ms. Graham, to approve the letter of support. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no member comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM. The next TRAC meeting will be held on February 19, 2019 at 4:00 PM.