



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 FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Committee Chair O'Hara called the February 19, 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, Derek Shavor and Edwin Klumpp. Member absent: Teresa Dunphy. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO, Josh Shulman, PSTA Board member, and PSTA staff members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Clearwater resident, gave public comment urging TRAC to keep in mind that there is currently no member on the Committee representing Demand Response Service (DART) when making decisions regarding the proposed service cuts and Advantage Pinellas bus plan. She stated that DART customers do not have the same flexibility as other riders if there are paratransit cuts in service, and this should be taken into consideration when making key decisions.

CHAIR REPORT

Committee Chair O'Hara briefly reported on the January 18th Transit Funding Workshop which gathered together representatives from PSTA, transit associations, municipalities and community organizations to discuss the need for increased transit funding for PSTA. Chairman O'Hara also informed TRAC members of the two action items approved by the Board at the January 23rd Board meeting, which were the proposed bus and paratransit adjustments that may be necessary to reduce annual spending, and the SR60/Memorial Interchange letter of support for construction improvements. He also mentioned that immediately following next week's Board meeting, there will be an update of the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in the PSTA lobby.

FORWARD PINELLAS REPORT

Mr. Kovar gave an overview of the Forward Pinellas Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and encouraged TRAC members to attend a future meeting to experience the importance

of the organization, and learn the current plans for transit, as well as pedestrian and bicycle friendly community development.

ACTION ITEMS

January 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Parietti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Graham, to approve the amended minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Electric Bus Program – Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, presented an action item to recommend approval of a contract with BYD Motors for the purchase of two 35' all-electric buses and two depot chargers at a cost not to exceed \$1.9 million dollars. Mr. Lukasik discussed the fact that PSTA currently operates two successful all electric buses in downtown St. Petersburg that offset the rising cost of fuel and diesel buses. He demonstrated the software that currently tracks the real time operation and records all analytics of the electric buses. After a brief discussion, Mr. Kovar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blair, to recommend approval of the purchase of two electric buses. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

TRAC STAR Award Nominations – Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, shared the two latest TRAC STAR Award nominations submitted by Ms. Lepik-Corrigan and Committee Chair O'Hara. Ms. Lepik-Corrigan provided public comment in support of her nomination of Pinellas County Public Works for constructing a necessary crosswalk at McMullen Booth Crossing at Mease Countryside Hospital. Committee Chair O'Hara described the improvements that Sembler Corporation built around Bus Stop #2406 on Park Street North that help pedestrians safely access the nearby shopping plaza. Mr. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Graham, to approve both nominations to receive TRAC STAR Awards. There was public comment by Ms. Lepik-Corrigan, Clearwater resident in support of her TRAC STAR Award nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

TRAC 2019 Initiatives – Nicole Dufva, Public Engagement Planner, and Committee Chair O'Hara led the continuing discussion of the major initiatives TRAC wants to focus on in 2019. Ms. Dufva explained the objective is to agree upon one main initiative, in addition to continuing to nominate TRAC STAR Award recipients throughout the year. After a lengthy discussion regarding bike racks, new route maps, adding Direct Connect stops and other areas of interest of TRAC members, it was decided to take a vote at the next TRAC meeting with a recommendation to approve serving as PSTA Ambassadors as the 2019 initiative.

TRAC Outreach Business Cards – Mr. Lasher explained the need and purpose of the new business cards for TRAC members. He suggested all members sign their names to the cards and use them to promote PSTA to their fellow riders or potential riders. Each card explains what TRAC is, and how to contact PSTA if anyone has concerns, issues or ideas to share by emailing engage@psta.net.

TRAC Polo Shirts – Ms. Dufva explained to TRAC members that they will be receiving a TRAC polo shirt to wear at PSTA and community events to help promote PSTA. She reiterated that wearing the shirts support the goal and mission of TRAC to represent the riders and gather important feedback from members of the public to help PSTA increase ridership and services. Ms. Dufva collected member shirt sizes and color choices and will have the polo shirts available at the next TRAC meeting on March 19th.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Graham informed everyone that the on-board bus speakers are very loud to the point of distraction. Mr. Lasher mentioned that the Clever Device contractor recently made some software adjustments that resulted in unusually loud volume on the speakers, as well as short lead time bus stop announcements for the passengers. Mr. Lasher will notify the appropriate PSTA department to correct these issues. Mr. Grant mentioned that the new shelters lack protection from rain and wind, unlike the older model shelters. Mr. Lukasik made note of this issue and informed TRAC that the Maintenance department is working on solutions to the problem.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM. The next TRAC meeting will be held on March 19, 2019 at 4:00 PM.