



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 APRIL 16, 2019

Committee Vice-Chair Olden called the April 16, 2019 TRAC meeting to order at 4:02 PM. Members present: Elisabeth Olden, Sue Keating, Dave Kovar, Edwin Klumpp, Tim Parietti, Camille Soleil, Renee Graham, Debra Bjorkquist, Brian Grant, Chelsea Anderson, Jovantee Blair, Derek Shavor and Teresa Dunphy. Members absent: Mark O'Hara and Kenneth Durham. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO, Joshua Shulman, PSTA Board member, and PSTA staff members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CHAIR REPORT

Committee Vice-Chair Olden read the Chair Report from the March 27th Board Meeting which focused on the proposed service cuts to offset a projected FY 2020 budget deficit of \$1.7 million. She said Board members as well as members of the public, expressed their concerns over eliminating routes that our riders rely on for their jobs, education and everyday transportation needs. Committee Vice-Chair Olden added that Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided clear and concise fiscal information to the Board members that explains where PSTA funding comes from, and how an alternate funding source is vital to the financial stability of PSTA.

FORWARD PINELLAS REPORT

Mr. Kovar was not able to attend the latest Forward Pinellas Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting held on March 28th, but he reported that the CAC sent letters to Pinellas County municipalities and transit agencies urging their support of "Vision Zero" and Complete Streets. He explained that "Vision Zero" is a county-wide initiative to decrease pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit-related deaths to zero in Pinellas County. Additionally, Mr. Kovar invited TRAC members and staff to attend the April 23rd Community Health in All Policies initial workshop at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, which encourages organizations to focus on health initiatives while conducting their business.

ACTION ITEMS

March 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Graham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kovar, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Service Adjustments - Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, presented an action item to recommend either the approval of the service reductions proposed by staff for the June service change, or secure \$5 million in annual operating funds by July 2019 to avoid service reductions in October 2019. Mr. Lasher summarized the proposed service eliminations of Routes 22 and 58, parts of Route 5, 16 and 38, the Safety Harbor and Dunedin Connectors, as well as Demand Response (DART) service along the routes or portion of routes. He also added that PSTA heard from an unprecedented number of riders (over 300), who objected to every route under consideration for elimination. There was a brief discussion and a few questions that were answered by Mr. Lasher. Mr. Kovar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shavor, to recommend securing \$5 million in annual operating funds by July 2019 to avoid the proposed June service reductions. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Dunphy entered the meeting at 4:20 PM.]

INFORMATION ITEMS

Transit App Tutorial – Jacob Labutka, Project Planner, presented an overview of PSTA’s endorsed trip planning app, Transit App, which is available for transit planning in 170 cities worldwide. He reviewed a step-by-step tutorial on the basics of using Transit App, including how to plan a trip, now or future. Mr. Labutka demonstrated upcoming features such as booking a Direct Connect trip and paying for bike share in the app. These features will help Transit App become a more integrated mobile trip planning platform for PSTA. TRAC members, Mr. Shulman and Mr. Miller had technical questions related to pre-setting arrival times, how to use the smiley face icon, and what other Tampa Bay transit agencies use Transit App.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Vice-Chair Olden informed the members that this would be Mr. Shavor’s last TRAC meeting, since he and his wife are moving to West Virginia. She thanked him for his service and wished him well in his new endeavor.

Mr. Kovar announced that he will be attending the 27th Annual Congress for New Urbanism in Louisville, Kentucky.

Juan Luvian, Public Engagement Planner, reminded TRAC members to see him after the meeting to sign up to assist the Public Engagement staff in conducting surveys on the Looper through the month of April.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM. The next TRAC meeting will be held on May 14, 2019 at 4:00 PM.