



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JUNE 5, 2019

Committee Chair Long called the June 5, 2019 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Charlie Justice, Patricia Johnson, and Gina Driscoll. Members absent: Joe Barkley and Heather Gracy. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; Ron Pierce and Kaitlyn Bailey, RSA Consulting; RJ Myers, Suskey Consulting, and PSTA staff members. The following participated via telephone: Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc, and Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Mr. Palmer gave an update on the Federal Legislative activities. He spoke about the appropriation bills, the infrastructure fund, driver safety, and the Homeland Security bill. Chairperson Long mentioned the HR 1139 (Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act), and asked Mr. Palmer to research which delegates from the Tampa Bay area have yet to co-sponsor the bill. Ms. Johnson talked about the reduced Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funds, adding that Pinellas County needs more money for these programs because of its aging population. Mr. Miller expanded on the Homeland Security funds, stating that the definition of safety versus security needs to be explored since Bus Operator safety measures, such as barriers, were not approved under this grant.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve March 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Justice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Driscoll, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

State and Federal Lobbyist Contracts – Al Burns, Director of Procurement, outlined the contract, services, and procurement process, stating that this will be for a one-year extension. He noted that the Board members requested that the CEO not exercise the option years so the group can review each year before approval. Mr. Burns noted that

the fee per month is \$7,000 for the Federal lobbyist contract with Van Scoyoc Associates. Discussion took place regarding the extension of the existing Federal and State contracts.

Mr. Justice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to recommend extending the contract with Van Scoyoc for the second option year. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Burns indicated that the fee per month is \$8,000 for the State lobbyist contract with RSA Consulting Group. Committee Chair Long asked the State and Federal teams to provide the full Board a list of actions and accomplishments each group has achieved on behalf of PSTA. Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Justice, to recommend extending the contract with RSA Consulting for the second option year. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Justice suggested the Federal and State teams each give a Legislative 101 presentation to new Board members to inform them on how transportation funds are allocated.

STATE UPDATE

Mr. Pierce outlined the State Legislative activities. He said since the session starts early next year, he recommends that the 2020 Legislative priorities be approved by the Board in September. Mr. Pierce and Mr. Suskey also talked about TD funding and how the formula changed to benefit Miami/Dade counties causing a lower amount of funds for the rest of Florida. There was a brief discussion on the Uber/Lyft TD Late Shift programs. Committee Chair Long indicated that the Tampa Bay Legislative Day scheduled for January 15, 2020 in Tallahassee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Johnson mentioned the cities that do not contribute to the ad valorem and Committee Chair Long and Mr. Miller pointed out that there will be a County transportation workshop on July 18th. There was a discussion on the St. Pete Beach issue with regard to the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Whitney Fox, Public Relations Manager, mentioned upcoming meetings related to the project. There was also discussion about the rebranding/renaming of the BRT project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for August 7th at 10:00 AM.