



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2019

Committee Chairperson Olden called the August 20, 2019 TRAC meeting to order at 4:03 PM. Members present: Elisabeth Olden, Sue Keating, Edwin Klumpp, Tim Parietti, Camille Soleil, Kenneth Durham, Debra Bjorkquist, Brian Grant, Chelsea Anderson, Jovantee Blair, Teresa Dunphy, Kim Rankine and Renee Graham. Member absent: Duncan Kovar. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; and PSTA staff members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve July 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Bjorkquist made a motion, seconded by Ms. Keating, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Transit Development Plan (TDP) Progress Report – Heather Sobush, Director of Planning, presented the proposed annual TDP progress report that is required by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for future funding of transit projects. Ms. Sobush summarized a list of general accomplishments achieved by PSTA, as well as the Federal and State Grants that have been awarded to the Authority this year. She highlighted PSTA's focus on planned priority projects, such as the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, the Flamingo regional farebox program, and sustainable bus replacement.

The Committee had questions relating to the status of the 22nd Avenue Park and Ride, the projected start of the BRT project, and what constitutes Premium Bus Service on the map legend. Ms. Sobush addressed all the questions from the Committee. Mr. Parietti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Graham, to recommend approval of the TDP Progress Report. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEM

TRAC Term Limits/Application Process – Nicole Dufva, Public Engagement Planner, reviewed term limits for TRAC members, and announced that at the end of 2019, Committee Chair Olden will have served two consecutive two-year terms and will be leaving TRAC. She also informed the following members that their first two-year term is expiring at the end of 2019: Ms. Soleil, Ms. Bjorkquist, Ms. Keating, Ms. Graham and Mr. Parietti. Ms. Dufva explained to the five members that they are either eligible to reapply for a second term on TRAC during the upcoming recruitment period, or inform Maryanne Sobocinski, TRAC Coordinator, that they will be leaving the Committee no later than October 3rd.

Ms. Dufva explained the open application process for PSTA riders to apply to be on TRAC for new terms beginning January 2020. She said interested riders can apply through the PSTA website: www.psta.net/joinTRAC, or mail an application to the PSTA Planning department to the attention of Ms. Sobocinski by the deadline of October 1st. Ms. Dufva also reviewed the marketing and outreach activities being used to promote TRAC recruitment for the campaign for the five-week campaign.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Blair inquired if PSTA policy allows electric bicycles to be stored in the bus. Charles King, PSTA's Safety, Security and Training Supervisor, addressed the question, stating that electric bicycles are only allowed on the front racks outside the bus. He added that gas-powered bicycles are prohibited on the front racks and inside the bus. Mr. King would make sure a refresher notice will be sent to all drivers about the bicycle policy.

There were several positive comments from Committee members including praise for the Ride with Respect campaign, the posting of timepoint signs at designated bus stops, the smooth re-routing of Route 9 from downtown St. Petersburg to Grand Central Station, and a member's daily commute using Routes 18, 66L and the Jolley Trolley.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, informed TRAC that they would be invited to attend two upcoming BRT Open Houses -- on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:00 PM at Pasadena City Hall; and at 5:00 PM at PSTA headquarters lobby before the 6:00 PM Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM. The next TRAC meeting is scheduled for September 17th at 4:00 PM.