



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 26, 2019**

Secretary/Treasurer Pat Gerard called the June 26, 2019 Board meeting to order at 9:01 am. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Allbritton, Dave Eggers, Samantha Fenger, Heather Gracy, Charlie Justice, Darden Rice, and Dan Saracki. Members absent: Joe Barkley, Richard Bennett, Vince Cocks, Gina Driscoll, Patricia Johnson, and Josh Shulman. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

[Chairperson Long entered the meeting at 9:02 am.]

Public Comment:

Tom Rask, unincorporated Pinellas County resident, also speaking for Maureen Zilles, Largo resident, handed out copies of an email he sent to the Board regarding Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding and the Small Starts program for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

Sharon Calvert, Tierra Verde resident, commented on the route alignment, lane elimination, and the FTA grant request for the BRT project.

Dr. Ed Carlson, St. Petersburg resident, spoke about how PSTA could work with St. Petersburg, South Pasadena, and St. Pete Beach to find a solution that is good for everyone.

Dan Harvey, St. Petersburg resident, commented on the regional plan and his belief that there is not a need for the BRT project at this time. He also spoke about the purchase of the CSX line from 5th Avenue North down to Tropicana Field utilizing light rail.

Dr. Lee Davisson, St. Petersburg resident, spoke about the BRT project's impact on the parking along 1st Avenue South.

Leon Smiley, PSTA Bus Operator, thanked Mr. Miller and James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, for the bus barriers.

Barb Haselden, St. Petersburg resident, said she is opposed to the BRT project and commented that St. Pete Beach and South Pasadena have signed formal resolutions against it.

Fran Travison, St. Petersburg resident, stated her belief that there is not a need for the BRT. She said that the buses are not crowded and does not believe St. Pete Beach needs anymore buses.

Tara Homan, St. Petersburg resident, is concerned about parking, increased trash, and pedestrian safety.

Arlene Johnson, Pinellas County resident, said her son is in a wheelchair and spoke about some issues with CareRide and PSTA.

Susanne Ward, St. Pete Beach resident, spoke about the opposition to this project and stated her belief that there is no need for the BRT, especially in residential areas.

Awards and Recognition:

Boley Interns – Trish Collins, Director of Human Resources, introduced the three summer youth interns from the Boley Center along with two alumni interns from Boley that spoke about their experiences after participating in the internship program.

Committee Updates:

TRAC Update – Elisabeth Olden, Committee Chair, provided an update from the June 18th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas Update – Mr. Eggers reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on June 12th.

[Mr. Justice left the meeting at 10:02 am.]

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Chairperson Long reported on the June 21st Board meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Saracki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eggers, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the May 29, 2019 Board meeting minutes, the appointment to TRAC, the employee insurance benefits contracts, the waste removal contract, the State and Federal lobbyist agreements, the settlement approval, and the uniforms contract.

[Mr. Justice returned to the meeting at 10:09 am.]

Action Items:

BRT Preliminary Engineering and Final Design Services Contract – Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management, provided a presentation on the BRT project which outlined the project status and the phases for the preliminary engineering and design services. He also provided information on the \$1,850,000 amendment to the contract with H.W. Lochner. It was noted that this amount is within the project cost. Mr. Eggers added that the Finance Committee had a good discussion about the changes of the engineering design and scope. Tom Stoner, Project Manager from H.W. Lochner, also provided details about the increased amount. Questions were raised about the increased cost, timeline, the BRT open houses, on-street parking, FTA approval, and capital costs.

In response to Chairperson Long's call for public comment, Mr. Rask (also speaking for Dr. Davisson), spoke about FTA's three-year requirement to obtain non-Capital Investment Grant (CIG) funding commitments for Small Starts projects. He believes PSTA has not met the three-year limit for funding. He also spoke about dedicated lanes along the route.

Ms. Calvert said that she is unaware of any regional funding for the project and believes there is huge financial risks with the project. She also mentioned Gulf Boulevard and how narrow the road is.

Ms. Haselden spoke about the FTA grant application in which PSTA stated that it is an Agency in good standing. She also mentioned the Authority's projected deficit.

[Ms. Gerard left the meeting at 10:40 am and did not return.]

Chairperson Long stated her concern about delaying the decision. Don Skelton, H.W. Lochner, spoke about the schedule and the importance of moving forward to meet the requirements of the grant agreement. Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by

Mr. Allbritton, to recommend approval of the contract amendment of the preliminary engineering and final design services contracts with H.W. Lochner for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,850,000. There were no further public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Funding Agreement with St. Petersburg – Mr. Dayal said that the St. Petersburg City Council unanimously voted on a \$4 million agreement for the BRT project. He said staff is looking for approval of a funding agreement with the City of St. Petersburg for \$4 million.

In response to Chairperson Long's call for public comment, Mr. Rask, (also speaking for Ms. Calvert and Dr. Davisson), suggested that the Board reject the funding agreement and vote when there are more Board members present. Ms. Rice stated that the City of St. Petersburg supports the project and views it as an important investment in a regional project. Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Saracki, to approve an interlocal funding agreement with the City of St. Petersburg for the BRT project. There were no further public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Bus Barriers – Mr. Miller briefly spoke about the bus operator protection barriers. Al Burns, Director of Procurement, spoke about the procurement process and said staff is asking for approval of a contract with Aftermarket Parts Co. in an amount not to exceed \$1.2 million. After a few questions regarding air conditioning in the driver's area, the design of the barriers, and the source of the funding, Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton, to approve a contract with Aftermarket Parts Co. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

FY20 Draft Budget – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, presented a summary of the draft FY 2020 PSTA operating budget of \$86 million. Ms. Leous said the Agency's focus in FY 2020 will be on continued collaboration on funding for the future and maintaining the strategy to use only a small portion of built-up reserves. She highlighted the benefits that PSTA's extensive fleet, routes, bus stops, shelters, customer service centers, and paratransit service provide the residents and visitors in Pinellas County. She also reviewed the extensive list of FY 2019 accomplishments that PSTA has achieved. Chairperson Long reminded everyone about the upcoming transportation funding workshop on July 18th.

Reports and Correspondence:

Performance Updates – The information was included in the packet. Mr. Miller reported that ridership was up for the month of May.

Future Meeting Subjects:

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects.

Other Business:

No other business was discussed.

Board Member Comments:

Mr. Saracki said he is overwhelmed with the quickness on the bus barriers and thanked everyone for their support.

Ms. Gracy said it has been a remarkable meeting and the culmination of many years for the BRT process and especially appreciated the financial aspects of it.

Ms. Fenger echoed Mr. Saracki's comments saying the safety of the drivers is the number one priority.

Mr. Eggers requested PSTA staff address the public's questions on the BRT project.

Mr. Allbritton said the BRT is a very complicated project and it is important to keep the energy going and move forward. He also thanked everyone for moving so quickly with the barriers.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 11:46 am. The next meeting is scheduled for July 31st at 9:00 am.

Chairperson