



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Committee Chair Long called the February 6, 2019 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 9:00 am. Members present: Janet Long and Charlie Justice. Members absent: Patricia Johnson and Joe Barkley. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; Heather Gracy, Board Member, PSTA staff members, and members of the public. The following participated via telephone: Ron Pierce and Kaitlyn Bailey, RSA Consulting; Steve Palmer and Channon Hanna, Van Scoyoc; and Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting.

**Action Items:**

**Approve January 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes** – No quorum was present. Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

**Information Items:**

**State/Federal Updates** – Committee Chair Long asked about House Bill 385. Mr. Pierce and Mr. Suskey said that this bill would impact the Miami-Dade Expressway, and added how it relates to the recent Hillsborough referendum. There was discussion about the Tourist Development Council's (TDC) bed tax bill and the interpretation and intent of the language. Committee Chair Long indicated that she has had conversations with Senator Brandes regarding this and mentioned concerns with the County Attorney on this issue. Mr. Justice spoke about the funding split for the bed tax dollars. Mr. Suskey talked about the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority's (TBARTA) appropriations of \$1.5 million and the possibility of \$500,000 to \$1 million recurring funding.

Mr. Pierce spoke about the upcoming trip to Tallahassee on February 11-12th. Ms. Bailey briefly mentioned the meetings that have been confirmed for the trip.

Mr. Palmer reported that the government is open at least until February 15th. He spoke about the Appropriations Bill and the new Committee Chairs. He also mentioned the Infrastructure Bill and the uncertainty of it. Mr. Palmer reported that President Trump

re-nominated Thelma Drake to be the Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Representative Charlie Crist is on the Appropriations Committee.

There was discussion about the Washington, D.C. trip in March and another in the summer. Mr. Miller spoke about PSTA's partnerships with Lyft and Uber and the fact that those rides are not counted.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Federal Shutdown Impacts** – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation on the impact to PSTA from the Federal shutdown. She spoke about the Agency's strong cash position as well as the Federal grant programs that are reimbursement-based resulting in \$3,200 of lost interest income. Ms. Leous also talked about PSTA's strong governance and the allocation of funds. She indicated that staff recommendations are to increase diversification of operating revenue and continue to advocate and educate that public transit is a key element to meet the mobility needs of the community and a strong Federal partner is essential to maintaining the service. Mr. Miller mentioned that if there is another Federal shutdown, that would likely delay the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Committee Chair Long brought up the subject of rebranding that project, possibly with a regional name.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Miller talked about his meeting with Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas Executive Director, and Barry Burton, County Administrator, about land use, affordable housing, and workforce training, as well as funding for transit. The Committee also had a brief discussion about student transportation.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 am. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 9:00 am.