



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2019

Committee Chair Gerard called the April 17, 2019 Planning Committee meeting to order at 10:30 am. Members present: Pat Gerard, David Allbritton, and Joshua Shulman. Members absent: Joe Barkley, Charlie Justice, and Samantha Fenger. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO, and PSTA staff members.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

February 20 and March 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Allbritton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shulman, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously

Service Adjustments – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented an action item to recommend one of two options for Board approval: 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. She also added that PSTA heard from over 300 riders through surveys, phone calls, texts and social media, who objected to every route under consideration for elimination. There was a lengthy discussion about the challenges of securing the necessary funds to delay future service cuts, but there was consensus that PSTA, partner Cities and Pinellas County should do all they can to retain current service for PSTA riders. Mr. Allbritton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shulman, to approve securing \$5 million in operating funds by July 2019 to avoid service reductions in October 2019. There was no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shulman added that there are public misconceptions about how PSTA is funded and suggested PSTA take steps to educate our riders similar to a Citizen's Academy. This effort will get the public on the side of PSTA with respect to the essential need for additional funding to retain and expand necessary transit service.

Information Items:

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Funding Plan – Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management, updated Committee members on the status of the Central Avenue BRT Transit project. He stated PSTA continues to work with our partners and local municipalities on the details of the project, as well as work to secure local funding sources. Mr. Dayal and Mr. Miller brought the Committee up to speed on the issue of the St. Pete Beach City Commission’s unwillingness to be a funding partner. They assured the Committee that PSTA is working with the new City Manager, Alex Rey, on service alternatives to Pass-A-Grille, which may include additional transfer locations and/or smaller vehicles. Mr. Shulman inquired whether Tourism Development Council (TDC) funds can be used to supplement the local share.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on May 22, 2019 at 10:30 am.