



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2019**

Committee Vice Chair Barkley called the January 16, 2019 Planning Committee meeting to order at 10:31 am. Members present: Joe Barkley, Joshua Shulman and David Allbritton. Members absent: Pat Gerard and Charlie Justice. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO, PSTA staff members, and a member of the public.

Public Comment:

Danny Dinicolantonio of St. Petersburg, would like PSTA to start a campaign for funding support through non-ad valorem tax in Pinellas County. He stressed that PSTA needs the funding to increase the frequency of current routes and add new routes to serve the growing needs in Pinellas County.

Action Items:

November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Shulman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

State Road 60/Memorial Interchange Letter of Support – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, outlined the extensive traffic problem that exists in Hillsborough County at the SR 60 interchange with the Memorial Causeway. To date, there are no construction improvements planned by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to alleviate the bottleneck, which has a negative effect on regional commuters trying to travel to the Westshore business core. Ms. Borchers is requesting Committee approval for staff to send a letter of support to FDOT to address the issue and improve the State Road 60/Memorial Interchange. Mr. Allbritton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shulman, to approve the letter of support. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

FY2019 Bus and Paratransit Adjustments – Heather Sobush, Planning Director, discussed the fact that PSTA is facing a \$1.7 million dollar deficit and must take action if we do not secure additional funding. Ideally, the Advantage Pinellas bus plan was going to

implement service cuts of lower performing routes and invest in the higher performing routes. However, if PSTA cannot secure additional funding, there are three options to consider implementing. Option one: stay the course and for the next two years and have enough in reserves to continue current operations; option two: if the Authority receives at least \$5 - \$15 million dollars in funds through a gas tax, this will allow some service improvements; and option three: if PSTA secured \$50 - \$80 million dollars in funding, this would allow for substantial improvements such as increased frequency and evening and weekend service.

Ms. Sobush reviewed the potential routes that would be cut should funding not be secured in the next few months: Routes 5, 16, 22, 58 and 814. She is requesting approval from the Committee for staff to begin conducting public hearings on the service cuts. Several Committee members had comments regarding the service cuts and suggested they could help PSTA implement a letter writing, outreach and marketing campaign to reverse the service cut plan. In lieu of getting the necessary funds, Mr. Shulman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton, to recommend approval for staff to begin holding public hearings about the service cuts. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Future Meeting Subjects:

Mr. Miller mentioned a few subjects: the Clearwater Intermodal Center, updates on the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, and the Autonomous Vehicle pilot programs.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on February 20, 2019 at 10:30 am.