



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2019**

Committee Chair Gerard called the June 19, 2019 Planning Committee meeting to order at 10:46 am. Members present: Pat Gerard, Joe Barkley, David Allbritton, Vince Cocks and Joshua Shulman. Member absent: Samantha Fenger. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO, PSTA staff, and members of the public.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

May 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Cocks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Funding Agreement with City of St. Petersburg – Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management Office, gave a project status report for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, which is at 30% design completed. He informed the Committee that the design should be completed in the Fall of 2019, and he expects the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) grant agreement for the remaining funding of the project by the end of year.

Mr. Dayal is recommending Committee approval of the City of St. Petersburg's interlocal funding agreement of \$4 million towards the BRT project, which the City Council voted to approve on June 13th. In addition, he mentioned the \$750,000 funding that the City of St. Petersburg agreed to fund towards public art on BRT stations. Mr. Dayal and Mr. Miller answered several questions and concerns from Committee members that were raised about the reconfigured plans for the BRT terminus to be located at the Pinellas County Beach Park instead of the Don Cesar, when the project will be formally named, and if the lack of support from St. Pete Beach will negatively affect funding of the BRT project. After a lengthy discussion, Vice-Chair Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton, to recommend approval of the interlocal funding agreement with the City

of St. Petersburg for \$4 million for the BRT project. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

FY20 Draft Budget – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, presented a summary of a draft FY 2020 PSTA operating budget of \$86 million, which will be finalized next month and presented to the PSTA Board for approval at the August 28th Board meeting. Ms. Leous said PSTA’s focus in FY 2020 will be on continued collaboration and 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.

Ms. Leous was pleased to report that over the course of FY 19 each PSTA division has focused on tightening the budget and reducing spending, which resulted in significant savings. She summarized the itemized areas that make up the \$86 million in operating expenses, the largest of which are union wages and purchased transportation. Mr. Allbritton asked how PSTA is doing with securing additional funding to reduce our budget deficit, to which Ms. Leous informed the Committee of a funding workshop with the Board of County Commissioners to be held on July 18th.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on July 17, 2019 at 10:30 am.