



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Committee Chairperson Gerard called the November 20, 2019 Planning Committee meeting to order at 10:35 am. Members present: Pat Gerard, Joe Barkley, Josh Shulman, Dave Allbritton and Vince Cocks. Members absent: Samantha Fenger. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Presentation:

Tampa Bay's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Future – Professor Taryn Sabia of the Florida Center for Community Design and Research at the University of South Florida, presented thought-provoking research on TOD, and the value it generates to fund future transit infrastructure in Tampa Bay. She explained TOD is development which creates walkable, compact, dense, mixed use communities near transit where people can easily access jobs, services and amenities. Professor Sabia summarized the best practices, performance-based goals, and value capture methods used in eight case studies of various cities and transit agencies across the United States.

Professor Sabia cited recent Bureau of Labor statistics that the average household spends 51% of income on housing and transportation combined, and both costs are increasing. She stressed the importance of TOD planning when the average household spends 19% on transportation, and households with good transit access spend only 9%. She said the three best areas to conceptualize TOD in Tampa Bay are the Gateway/Carillon area of Pinellas County, and Midtown Tampa and Westshore in Hillsborough County. The Committee had questions related to property values and affordable housing near transit centers, how to define 21st century transit, and how important increasing the frequency of transit routes is to reducing the dependency on cars in Tampa Bay.

Action Items:

October 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Allbritton made a motion, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Barkley, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Forward Pinellas Planning Agreement – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, recommended approval of the annual funding agreement between PSTA and Forward Pinellas. She said since 2005, Forward Pinellas has granted \$80,000 annually to PSTA. Ms. Leous explained the funds come from a Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Planning Grant through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Forward Pinellas, then passed on to PSTA for eligible transit planning projects. Mr. Cocks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to recommend approval of the Forward Pinellas Planning Agreement and to accept the funds. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

Great American Teach-In – Nicole Dufva, Public Engagement Planner, reviewed PSTA's successful agency-wide participation in the Great American Teach-In, held throughout Pinellas County schools on November 13, 2019. She explained that over 25 administrative and operations staff volunteered to educate students about PSTA services and job opportunities to nine elementary schools, six middle schools and five high schools, reaching over 1,500 students. Ms. Dufva highlighted the fact that PSTA also arranged for three buses to visit select schools, where elementary students had their first experience onboard a PSTA bus, and high school vocational students examined a bus engine. She added that PSTA plans to further expand its participation next year in this rewarding county-wide educational day of learning.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2020 at 10:30 am.