



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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**TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAC) MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 14, 2019**

Committee Vice-Chair Olden called the May 14, 2019 TRAC meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Members present: Elisabeth Olden, Sue Keating, Dave Kovar, Edwin Klumpp, Tim Parietti, Camille Soleil, Renee Graham, Debra Bjorkquist, Brian Grant, Chelsea Anderson, Jovantee Blair, and Teresa Dunphy. Members absent: Mark O'Hara and Kenneth Durham. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO, and PSTA staff members.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Chair Report:**

Committee Vice-Chair Olden gave a report from the April 24th Board meeting, which was attended by Committee Chair O'Hara. TRAC Chair O'Hara, along with 15 fellow transit riders, spoke at the public hearing against proposed service reductions. Immediately after the hearing, the Board voted unanimously against the service cuts, and will continue to work towards securing much needed funding for PSTA. Committee Vice-Chair Olden added there was an update on the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, specifically with respect to working out an agreement with St. Pete Beach, and adjusting some project details for South Pasadena so the project can move forward.

**Forward Pinellas Report:**

Mr. Kovar informed the Committee of the subjects covered at the April 25th Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), including the Gulf Boulevard Drainage Sidewalk project at Walsingham Road in Indian Rocks Beach. The busy area will be under construction for the next two years and affect pedestrian, bicycle, automobile and PSTA trolley service. Mr. Kovar also mentioned a presentation on the new application and criteria for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program, which is a competitive grant funding program administered by Forward Pinellas. Mr. Kovar informed the Committee there is a Sierra Club environmental protest of the proposed toll highway from Northwest Florida into Georgia tonight at Williams Park, if anyone was interested in attending. The CAC went on the record against this project.

**Action Items:**

**April 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Bjorkquist made a motion, seconded by Mr. Parietti, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Information Items:**

**Capital Plan and Reserves** – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation on PSTA's capital needs and reserve use. She indicated that the Authority is one of the most cost-effective transit agencies in the country, and one of the lowest funded. Ms. Leous reported on the capital needs versus funds over the next five years. She said by FY 2021, there will be less than \$1 million in available reserves for capital and operating costs. She also reviewed what is currently being funded and what capital is not being funded. Ms. Leous noted that within five years, an estimated \$18 million of local funding is needed with a total need of up to \$26 million over ten years to maintain a state of good repair. There was a suggestion for PSTA to partner with Duke Energy to help fund electric bus infrastructure needs, which Ms. Leous said PSTA is pursuing.

**TRAC STAR Award Update** – Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, announced two TRAC STAR Awards: 1) to the Sembler Company presented at the Seminole City Council meeting on May 14th for the pedestrian walkway leading to the bus shelter at Park Boulevard and 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue; and 2) to Pinellas County Public Works presented at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on May 21st for the new crosswalk on McMullen Booth Road at Mease Countryside Hospital. Mr. Lasher encouraged all Committee members to be on the lookout for areas that need improvement and/or qualify for improved transit access recognition.

**Outreach Ambassador Opportunities** – Nicole Dufva, Public Engagement Planner, thanked the Committee members who volunteered as PSTA ambassadors to conduct surveys during the busy Spring Break Park-n-Ride promotion at Clearwater Beach. Ms. Dufva presented a gift to recognize Mr. Klumpp, who volunteered four times to help PSTA staff, as well as helped at a tabling event at St. Petersburg College (SPC) in downtown St. Petersburg. She encouraged all Committee members to sign up to volunteer with the Downtown St. Petersburg Looper surveys being conducted throughout the month of May into June.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm. The next TRAC meeting will be held on June 18, 2019 at 4:00 pm.