



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2019

Committee Chair Olden called the October 15, 2019 TRAC meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Members present: Elisabeth Olden, Sue Keating, Duncan Kovar, Kenneth Durham, Debra Bjorkquist, Brian Grant, Chelsea Anderson, Jovantee Blair, Ed Klumpp, Kim Rankine and Renee Graham. Members absent: Tim Parietti, Teresa Dunphy and Camille Soleil. Also present: PSTA staff members.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Chair Report:

Committee Chair Olden gave an overview of last month's Board meeting which included a public hearing on the proposed FY2020 millage rate and budget, followed by a majority vote by the Board to approve both items. She also shared that the Board heard two presentations; one to recognize Jeffrey Underhill as Florida Technician of the Year, and another to report positive results from the Community Sentiment and Customer Satisfaction surveys to support PSTA's performance scorecard process. The Board also approved a five-year contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) strategic services to support the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

Forward Pinellas Report:

Mr. Kovar gave an overview of the September 26th Forward Pinellas Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, which included an Advantage Pinellas update, a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presentation on their Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) which defines goals, objectives and strategies for Florida's transportation system. He said FDOT is encouraging all residents to fill out three surveys (general, technology trends and resiliency trends) to help shape the FTP. Mr. Kovar is forwarding all three surveys to TRAC.

Action Items:

Approve September 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Keating made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bjorkquist, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

October Service Change Outreach - Nicole Dufva, Public Engagement Planner, reminded Committee members of the upcoming October service changes which will take effect October 20, 2019. Ms. Dufva thanked Ms. Dunphy for volunteering on the Central Avenue Trolley (CAT) to spread the word about the route ending just south of the Don Cesar Resort, with no service to Pass-a-Grille at the request of the City of St. Pete Beach. Ms. Dufva encouraged other TRAC members to assist with public outreach of the service change by volunteering to ride the CAT, or at the Park Street and Grand Central Transit Centers from October 16th through October 23rd. She demonstrated how easy it is to volunteer with the Sign-Up Genius link. Ms. Dufva also invited TRAC members to attend or volunteer at the Open Streets St. Pete event on October 20th from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm at Albert Whitted Park in downtown St. Petersburg.

Leadership PSTA Applied Learning Projects – Two members of the Leadership Pinellas Class of 2019 shared their applied learning project presentations with TRAC. Angeli Baker, Purchasing Agent II, presented her project which resulted in the implementation of a healthy food vending machine for staff. Kessia Eugene, Maintenance Operations Data Analyst, shared her project which made improvements to the inspection of buses. Ms. Eugene's efforts resulted in a new pre-trip inspection card, improved communication between maintenance staff and operators, and the implementation of pre-trip/post-trip refresher training for operators.

Member Comments:

Ms. Bjorkquist, who recently fractured her ankle, expressed her thanks for receiving great customer service from bus operators who ensured easy boarding and alighting for her condition. Mr. Klumpp praised the new timepoint signs displayed throughout the system for helping bus operators maintain their schedule, as well as ensure riders catch their bus on time. Mr. Grant notified us of an over-turned bench at the North Frontage Road and US 19 bus stop.

Other Business:

Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, encouraged TRAC members to be on the look-out for potential TRAC STAR Award nominations.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm. The next TRAC meeting is scheduled for November 19th at 4:00 pm.