



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MARCH 11, 2020**

Committee Chair Shulman called the March 11, 2020 Planning Committee meeting to order at 10:30 am. Members present: Joe Barkley, Josh Shulman, Vince Cocks, Darden Rice and Keith Sabiel. Members absent: Dave Allbritton. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; and PSTA staff members.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Action Items:**

**January 22, 2020 Minutes** – Mr. Cocks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Advantage Pinellas Transit Plan** – Heather Sobush, Director of Planning, presented the Advantage Pinellas 2021-2030 Transit Development Plan (TDP) annual update, which upon PSTA Board approval, is to be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Office. She explained a major update is required every five years and an annual update/progress report is required for all other years. She stressed the progress report has a significant impact on our future budget, as it allows PSTA to request funding from the State for a variety of transit programs.

**[Ms. Rice entered the meeting at 10:45 am.]**

The Committee had the following suggestions to the plan, such as adding the installation of covered shelters where possible, expanding the shelter match and deployment plans, and including light rail, ferry, gondola and aerial transportation options for the long-range plan. Ms. Sobush and Mr. Miller answered questions about how to prioritize the

transit projects, how to get the necessary funding for the most important projects, and which projects have the best shot in the short and long term to receive grants.

Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks, to recommend approval for the 2021-2030 Advantage Pinellas/TDP Progress Report to be submitted to FDOT. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Information Item:**

**FY21 Budget Assumptions** – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, and Michael Hanson, Director of Finance, co-presented the overview of the budget process, which involves looking at the forecast for the current year as the basis for following years along with historic trends. Ms. Leous said the first draft of the budget will be presented to the Board in June, and after the ad valorem tax is adopted by the Pinellas County Commission, and public hearings are held, the final budget is presented to the Board in September for approval.

Mr. Hanson explained the primary revenue assumptions for the fiscal years 2021 through 2025. Ms. Leous reviewed the expenditure assumptions of a 3% increase for personnel salaries and fringe benefits for administrative staff, union and non-union operators, and other transportation non-supervisory positions. She was pleased to report the recent reduction in diesel fuel prices will result in future cost savings for the agency, and our supply costs should be going down since the consumer price index (CPI) is down at 2.2%. Ms. Leous informed the committee that Demand Area Rapid Transit (DART) continues to be a huge expense for the agency, and she is assuming a 4% increase next year, but it can go higher.

Questions/comments were raised about locking in prices from Duke Energy, best-case worst-case budget scenario, and revenues vs. expenditures.

### **Future Meeting Subjects:**

Mr. Miller said there will be a Shelter Deployment Plan presentation at the next Committee meeting.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2020 at 10:30 am.