



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
PSTA.NET 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2020

This meeting was conducted by means of Communications Media Technology.

Committee Chairperson Duncan Kovar called the June 20, 2020 TRAC meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Members present: Duncan Kovar, Debra Bjorkquist, Edwin Klumpp, Chelsea Anderson, Kim Rankine, Mary Young, Roman Shurubalko, Jayson James, Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Teresa Dunphy, and Jovantee Blair. Members absent: Andrea Baron, Renee Graham, Brian Grant, Kenneth Durham, and Laurie Humpel. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; PSTA Board member Vince Cocks, and PSTA staff members.

Call to Order – Committee Chairperson Kovar read the required opening statement relating to the use of Communications Media Technology and how the public can view the meeting and make comments.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Chair Report:

Committee Chairperson Kovar did not attend the May PSTA Board meeting, but talked about a charette he attended for the Regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. He mentioned that public comments are being collected for this project and he will share a link to do that.

Forward Pinellas Report:

Ms. Lepik-Corrigan provided an update on the May Forward Pinellas Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. She said the next meeting is scheduled for August and expressed her concerns about the possibility of live meetings at this time.

[Ms. Dunphy joined the meeting at 4:12 pm.]

Action Items:

Approve March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Shurubalko made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Blair joined the meeting at 4:17 pm.]

Information Items:

COVID-19: PSTA Actions and Service Restoration Plans – Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, provided a presentation on PSTA's efforts during the pandemic. He also provided the recent survey results that the riders participated in regarding the bus service and transportation options during the COVID-19. There was a brief discussion regarding the requirement for all riders to wear face coverings.

CareRide and New Mobility Eligibility Process – Mr. Miller and Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided background information regarding the Demand Response (DART) program and the need for the CareRide contract amendment. Questions and concerns were raised regarding the transition period to a new provider, if the users of the DART service would be included in the selection process for a new provider, and the possibility of bringing this service in-house.

PSTA Mobility Program – Mr. Miller and Bonnie Epstein, Director of Mobility, gave a presentation on the new mobility and eligibility program which is scheduled to begin in July. They also provided a brief role play scenario of how the new eligibility interview process would take place.

Mobility on Demand Service Contracts – Ms. Epstein talked about the Mobility on Demand program and stated that PSTA currently works with several transportation network companies, taxi providers, and wheelchair transport companies in six types of pilot programs to provide on-demand trips to better connect disadvantaged riders to their destination and to connect all riders to PSTA's fixed route bus network.

State and Federal Grant Approvals – Ms. Epstein said that this a routine action item every year and provided information on the state grant approvals to receive funds for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) programs.

Project Updates – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, provided a presentation on some of the projects that PSTA is working on such as the BRT project, the charging stations for the electric buses, and social media initiatives. She also informed

the Committee that Mr. Miller will be holding a virtual Town Hall on June 17th at 1:00 pm.

Member Comments:

Mr. Shurubalko spoke about the charette that he and Committee Chairperson Kovar attended and believes it would be helpful to network with other groups with similar interests like the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on the Regional Rapid Transit project and the Smart Cities initiative. Ms. Borchers suggested inviting the organizations leading these projects to make a presentation to the TRAC Committee such as the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) and the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).

Other Business:

No other business was discussed.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 pm. The next TRAC meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2020 at 4:00 pm.