



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PROGRAM OF PROJECTS (POP) PUBLIC HEARING/
FINANCE/PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2020**

This meeting was conducted by means of Communications Media Technology.

Staff Conducted Public Hearing:

Program of Projects (POP) - Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, called the June 17, 2020 staff public hearing to order at 9:03 am and read the following statement: This public hearing has been scheduled so that the general public may be given the opportunity to comment on the proposed Federal Fiscal Year 2020 (FFY2020) Program of Projects, which will be part of PSTA's FY 2021 Budget. A final decision will be made at the June 24, 2020 Board Meeting.

This public hearing will meet by means of Communication Media Technology. The meeting will be live steamed and can be viewed on the PSTA's website at PSTA.net. Public can listen to the meeting or make comments during the meeting by calling: 1-408-418-9388; Meeting ID: 713 909 592.

Public comment is limited to three minutes per individual speaker, unless additional time is granted. Presentations will be limited to only the subject for which the public hearing is being held. The public hearing will not be closed until all individuals so desiring have had an opportunity to make a presentation.

A paid advertisement concerning this public hearing appeared in the *Tampa Bay Times* on June 3, 2020. Notices were posted at PSTA administrative headquarters, Park Street Terminal, Grand Central Station, Williams Park, Pinellas Park Transit Center and on all PSTA buses on June 2, 2020, and on PSTA's website on June 2, 2020. A press release announcing the public hearing was e-mailed or faxed to major media contacts and area social service agencies on June 2, 2020. To date, we have received no comments on the proposal.

Public Comment:

Gilbert Ginnaly, Clearwater resident, talked about PSTA's budget and noted his opinion that the bus service should be free because the taxpayers are paying for this service. He also mentioned the cost of fuel being at its lowest and that the buses PSTA purchase should not be electric.

There being no further public comments, the public hearing was concluded at 9:15 am.

Finance Committee Chairperson Barkley called the June 17, 2020 combined Finance/ Planning Committee meeting to order at 9:15 am. Members present: Joe Barkley, Josh Shulman, Vince Cocks, Richard Bennett, Dan Saracki, Dave Allbritton and Darden Rice. Members absent: Keith Sabiel and Ken Welch. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO, and PSTA staff members.

Call to Order - Joe Barkley, Finance Committee Chair – Committee Chair Barkley read the required opening statement relating to the use of Communications Media Technology and how the public can view the meeting and make comments.

POP Approval:

Ms. Leous said staff is recommending approval of the FFY20 POP and recommend adopting Resolution #20-02. Questions were raised about the mobility management program and the funds included in the POP, charging stations, replacement vehicles, and the no-fare suggestion by the citizen during the public hearing. After discussion, Mr. Shulman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to recommend approval of the FFY20 POP and Resolution #20-02. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Committee Chairperson Barkley read the written comment emailed by Henry Schramm regarding bringing the Demand Response (DART) service in-house.

Presentations:

FY21 Budget – Ms. Leous presented information about the proposed FY21 budget. She said that passenger fare revenues are projected to return to more normal levels in FY21 and with rising property values, property tax revenues are increasing \$4.2 million or 7.9% over the FY20 projected year-end. Ms. Leous noted that salaries are increasing

\$1.0 million or 2.8% over the FY20 adopted budget. She also indicated that due to the effect of COVID-19, projected year-end operating revenues for FY20 are \$6.6 million under budget, mostly due to a projected \$4.8 million loss in passenger fares. Ms. Leous pointed out that PSTA continues to manage its operating expenses and reduced them significantly over the first eight months of FY20. She indicated that the forecast anticipates projected year-end expenses for FY20 to be favorable to the budget by \$6.3 million. She also mentioned the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act funding in FY20 is projected to be \$10.3 million. A question was raised about the timing of receiving the CARES Act funding.

Action Items:

May 20, 2020 Finance/Planning Meeting Minutes – Mr. Saracki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mobility Initiatives:

CareRide Contract Amendment – Ms. Leous provided background information regarding the DART program and the need for the CareRide contract amendment. Questions and concerns were raised regarding the fuel charge calculations, the transition period, the procurement process, and the citizen comment regarding bringing this service in-house. After Mr. Miller addressed the Committee's concerns and comments, Mr. Cocks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Saracki, to recommend approval of the CareRide contract amendment. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

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. Questions and concerns were asked about the eligibility procedure and the CareRide transition. This was an information item – no vote taken.

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 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. Al Burns, Director of Procurement, spoke about the procurement process. He said the goal of the solicitation is to improve mobility, provide passengers with more transportation options, provide better access to jobs, especially when fixed route service is infrequent or

unavailable, and to better leverage existing resources and high performing fixed route bus services. He indicated that staff is recommending approval of a two-year contract with three one-year options for Mobility on Demand with Lyft, Inc., Uber Technologies, Inc., and Bay Area Metro, LLC., for a total contract amount not to exceed \$12.1 million and authorize the CEO to exercise the three one-year options. The Committee raised questions regarding the contracts, the cost, the fiscal impact, and prioritization of rides. After Mr. Burns responded to the Committee's questions, Mr. Saracki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shulman, to recommend approval of the Mobility on Demand Service contracts. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

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. She stated that staff is recommending approval of the FY21 agreements with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and recommend adoption of Resolution #20-03. Additionally, recommend authorizing the filing and execution of the Annual Trip & Equipment grant for \$3.74 million and the TD Innovation and Service Development grant applications from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD), and recommend approval of four Coordination Agreements with local non-profit transportation providers at a total cost not to exceed \$627,990, and recommend adoption of Resolution #20-04. Mr. Cocks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to recommend approval of the State grants and recommend adoption of Resolutions #20-03 and #20-04. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Health Benefits Renewal – Ms. Leous outlined the health benefits renewal for medical, prescription, and dental insurance with Cigna, vision coverage through Superior Vision, and optional life and accidental death and disability insurance through Minnesota Life. She indicated that the increase in cost will be shared 50/50 with employees and PSTA. The Committee raised questions regarding the Health Savings Account (HSA) and costs for individuals versus family. After Ms. Leous and Mr. Miller responded, Mr. Shulman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Saracki, to recommend approval of the renewals. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Marketing Contract – Whitney Fox, Director of Marketing and Communications, and Mr. Burns provided a presentation on the marketing contract and outlined the procurement process. Staff is recommending approval of a two-year contract with three one-year options for marketing services with Jones Worley Design, Inc. for a total contract amount not to exceed \$900,000 and authorize the CEO to exercise the three one-year options. Questions were asked about the cost and if this amount is in the budget, as well as how other transit agencies are handling their advertising. After Ms. Fox responded to

their questions, Mr. Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Saracki, to recommend approval of the contract with Jones Worley Design, Inc. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Bus Advertising Contract Extension – Mr. Burns spoke about the bus advertising and staff's recommendation to approve a one-year extension with Vector Media. A question was asked about the revenue being generated. Mr. Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks, to approve the bus advertising contract extension. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Bus Shelter Easement Agreements – Michael Hetrick, Assistant Project Manager, talked about the three bus shelter easement agreements. He said staff is recommending approval of agreements with John Petalas (Seminole Subs), SPI Largo Village-C/F Properties, and Kimco Largo 139 Inc. Questions were raised about the location of these properties and the timeline for installation. After Mr. Hetrick answered, Mr. Saracki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks, to recommend approval of the agreements. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Monthly Financial Statement – The financial statements were included in the packet.

Information Items:

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) 2030 Plan Letter – Mr. Miller briefly updated the Committee on the TBARTA 2030 Plan and the letter that was brought to this Committee last month. He noted that the letter will not be sent to TBARTA at this time and that the Authority decided not to take funds from local transit agencies.

Other Business:

No other business was discussed.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for July 22nd at 9:00 am.