



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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TRAC COMMITTEE MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2020

This meeting was conducted by means of Communications Media Technology.

Committee Chairperson Kovar called the August 18, 2020 TRAC meeting to order at 4:02 pm. Members present: Duncan Kovar, Chelsea Anderson, Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Teresa Dunphy, Andrea Baron, Mary Young, Roman Shurubalko, Kim Rankine and Jayson James. Members absent: Laurie Humpel, Edwin Klumpp, and Debra Bjorkquist. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO, PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

Call to Order – TRAC 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 reported the highlights of the PSTA Board meeting held on July 29th: Largo Board member, Commissioner Samantha Fenger, resigned from the Board and was replaced by Commissioner Jamie Robinson of the City of Largo; the Board unanimously approved the initial construction to begin the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) SunRunner project, as well as the annual Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice for the Pinellas County Tax Appraiser's Office.

Forward Pinellas Report

Although there was no Forward Pinellas Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting held in August, Ms. Lepik-Corrigan briefly reported on a Vision Zero/Safe Streets Pinellas task force meeting held virtually on August 14th that encouraged all citizens to participate in a coloring contest for people of all ages to submit their artist interpretation of what safe streets mean to them.

Action Items:

July 21, 2020 TRAC Meeting Minutes – Ms. Dunphy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rankine, to approve the amended minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

TRAC By-Laws – Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, reviewed the necessity of modifying certain sections of the TRAC By Laws due to the Covid-19 pandemic and state of emergency this year. He proposed the following changes for approval by TRAC: TRAC members facing term elimination at the end of 2020 will be allowed to serve an additional year; adding an additional full voting Beach Community seat, bringing the total number of TRAC members to 13, plus 5 alternates; maintaining a required 80% attendance rate, and members will receive a monthly transit pass or DART (equivalent) pass when fares resume; members who fail to respond within 48 hours to a quorum email notice or a phone call notification of a virtual or on-site meeting, more than one time for every four meetings will not be in compliance with the By Laws and may be asked to leave the Committee. After Mr. Lasher's review of the proposed By Law edits, TRAC members agreed with all the modifications, except for the allowance of one extra year to serve for only members who face their two term elimination at the end of 2020. Ms. Rankine raised the issue that under the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic this year on the TRAC members, that all serving members should receive the extra one year added to their existing term(s). Ms. Rankine made the motion, seconded by Ms. Lepik-Corrigan, to approve the TRAC By-Law modifications, with an amended section adding one extra year to all serving members at the end of 2020. There were no public comments. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Pedestrian Crossing Project on US 19 – Whit Blanton, Executive Director of Forward Pinellas, presented the Forward Pinellas and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) planned construction of pedestrian underpass crossings at specific intersections on US 19. He provided details about the design and specifications of the crossings. TRAC members fully supported the construction of these pedestrian and bicycle friendly crossings. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Blanton for the presentation and the hard work and collaboration with FDOT to construct these safe crossings which ultimately will help transit riders get to their destinations in a safe manner. Ms. Lepik-Corrigan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Baron, to recommend approval that the PSTA Board send a letter in support of the proposed pedestrian crossings on US 19. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

2021 TRAC Recruitment Marketing Plan – Juan Luvian, Public Engagement Planner, reviewed the annual plans for recruiting new members to TRAC to fill five open seats: He explained that the TRAC recruitment will begin on August 31st and the deadline to apply at <http://www.PSTA.net/joinTRAC> is October 1st. PSTA plans to have applications at all terminals, an online website to apply at, extensive social media promotion, Facebook advertising, PSTA email blasts and Friday Transit Updates to seek out interested applicants throughout Pinellas County. Mr. Luvian along with Committee Chairperson Kovar recommended that TRAC members help promote the opportunity to their fellow riders, co-workers, local organizations and municipalities in their communities.

COVID Rider Survey – Nicole Dufva, Project Planner, described PSTA’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic’s shutdown of non-essential services and businesses in the community over the past six months. She explained how PSTA designed service changes and safety policies to protect staff and riders while focusing on providing transportation for essential workers and life-sustaining trips for transit dependent citizens. In the effort to understand the riders’ travel needs and safety preferences during this unprecedented time, PSTA conducted a second Covid-19 Rider Survey via Survey Monkey last month. Ms. Dufva reviewed the survey results, which will be used to improve upon PSTA’s current safety and health protocols for the riding public as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a threat to all citizens. She said the survey will help staff develop sensible and safe post-pandemic transit improvements when the state of emergency is lifted. She informed the Committee that PSTA plans to conduct another rider survey in October and encouraged all TRAC members to participate.

Other Business:

Committee Chairperson Kovar announced that former TRAC Committee Chairperson, Mark O’Hara, has reapplied to join the Committee as the Alternate South representative. His term will begin on September 1, 2020. He encouraged all TRAC members to seek out fellow transit riders to apply to join TRAC for the 2021 calendar year, and to continue using social media to help promote PSTA and its essential transportation services during the state of emergency.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm. The next TRAC meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 4:00 pm.