



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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2020

This meeting was conducted by means of Communications Media Technology.

Committee Chair Long called the June 10, 2020 Legislative Committee meeting to order at 10:01 am. Members present: Janet Long, Joe Barkley, Gina Driscoll, Heather Gracy, Charlie Justice, and Dan Saracki. Also present were: Brad Miller, CEO; Ron Pierce and Natalie King, RSA Consulting; Harry Glenn and Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc; and PSTA staff.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

Approve May 6, 2020 Minutes – Mr. Saracki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) 2030 Plan Letter – Mr. Miller stated that there is a revised letter in the agenda packet for the Committee's review. This is in response to TBARTA's 2030 Plan and the concerns that PSTA has with the funding portion outlined in their plan. The plan's funding scenarios propose a ten percent funding redistribution of the State Transit Block Grant funding away from PSTA, the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART), Pasco, Hernando, and Manatee transit systems to fund TBARTA activities. Committee Chairperson Long stated her opinion that this letter is not ready for signature and pointed out her concerns. After further discussion and comments by each Committee member, it was decided to take no action on this item. Mr. Pierce briefly spoke about TBARTA's recurring funding and the need for a dedicated funding source.

State Legislative Updates:

Mr. Pierce spoke about State Legislative issues and the development of the FY21 State Legislative agenda with Board approval in September or October. He also stated that discussions are still taking place regarding extending virtual meetings past June.

Future Year Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Late Shift Funding – Mr. Miller provided information on funding issues related to the TD Late Shift program. He noted that this will be included on the State Legislative agenda to ensure that PSTA can continue this very important service.

Re-Opening Plans – Mr. Miller said he is working with Mr. Pierce about re-opening plans and grant deadlines.

Federal Legislative Updates:

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Schedule – Mr. Palmer talked about the \$22 million approved for the Central Avenue BRT project. He stated that the funds should be received sometime in July. Mr. Miller spoke about the process and timeline for receiving the funds.

Other Business:

Mr. Palmer and Mr. Glenn provided an update on other funding sources including the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Transportation Reauthorization Bill, and the Appropriations process. Mr. Miller talked about the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grants for the BRT corridor.

Ms. Driscoll expressed her concerns about the funding issues for the TD Late Shift program. She stated that the TD Late Shift is such an essential project and questioned how PSTA could expand on this program to create an even more innovative program moving forward, especially in light of the current unemployment numbers.

Mr. Saracki asked Mr. Pierce about future Legislative trips to Tallahassee.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for July 8th at 9:00 am.