



**PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
**3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716**  
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

Committee Chairperson Shulman called the February 17, 2021 Planning meeting to order at 10:31am. Members present: Josh Shulman, David Allbritton, Vince Cocks, Keith Sabiel and Renee Flowers. Member absent: Michael Fridovich. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; PSTA staff members; and members of the public.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Action Items:**

**Approve January 20, 2021 Minutes** – Mr. Cocks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sabiel to approve the January 20, 2021 minutes. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

**[Committee Chairperson Shulman requested to reverse the presentation order of the action items, to allow time for Councilman Allbritton to arrive].**

**AVA Extension in St. Petersburg** – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented a proposed amendment to the interlocal agreement with the City of St. Petersburg to continue the Autonomous Vehicle Advantage (AVA) service through March 28, 2021 for \$32,400 in matching funds. She also proposed an amendment with Beep Inc. to extend AVA operations until March 28th at a cost not to exceed \$64,800. She was pleased to report that AVA has provided over 2,800 rides, or an average of 68 rides per day. This is the highest ridership route among all of Beep's AV shuttle deployments in the country. Ms. Borchers said the funding for the extension will be reimbursed to PSTA by the City of St. Petersburg and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

**[Mr. Allbritton arrived at 10:35 am]**

Committee members had questions related to the possibility of a permanent AVA service in the future, and if the next AVA pilot will begin in Dunedin or Clearwater. Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks to approve both amendments with the City of St. Petersburg and with Beep, Inc. to continue AVA service through March 28th. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

**Clearwater Multimodal Facility Design** – Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management, and Al Burns, Director of Procurement, presented the proposed three-year contract with CDM Smith to design the plans for the Clearwater Multimodal Facility.

They explained that PSTA will partner with the City of Clearwater, with 80% of the funds from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), and 20% of local funding from FDOT, PSTA and the City of Clearwater. Mr. Burns explained the cost of the engineering and design phase will not exceed \$2.3 million dollars. Committee members had questions related to the ownership of the parcel, the proximity to the CSX railroad line, and when the proposed project is anticipated to be completed.

Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton to approve the three-year contract with CDM Smith to design the plans for the Clearwater Multimodal Facility. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Information Items:**

**SunRunner Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Update** – Ms. Borchers presented a detailed report on the progress of the SunRunner project, which will connect commuters from downtown St. Petersburg to the City of South Pasadena and the City of St. Pete Beach. She stressed the importance of focusing on future economic development, creating new small/local businesses and what infrastructure improvements will be needed to enhance the area. PSTA continues to survey and provide outreach to residents and business owners along the route.

Ms. Borchers said the SunRunner project has a robust communications strategy planned for the next few months with constituents and opponents to redevelop the surrounding community in a positive and productive manner. Ms. Borchers and Mr. Dayal informed Committee members that the construction is on schedule and future updates will be provided in the next few months.

#### **Other Business:**

No other business was discussed.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am. The next Planning meeting is scheduled for March 24th at 10:30 am.