



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

PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2021

Committee Chairperson Shulman called the March 24, 2021 Planning meeting to order at 10:30 am. Members present: Josh Shulman, David Allbritton, Vince Cocks, and Keith Sabiel. Members absent: Michael Fridovich and Rene Flowers. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; PSTA staff members; and members of the public.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

Approve February 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Cocks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sabiel, to approve the minutes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Funding Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Bus on Shoulder (BOS) Pilot – Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management Office (PMO) introduced the presentation of a joint pilot program with FDOT to allow PSTA buses to use the outside shoulder of the I-275 during congested conditions on the shoulder of I-275 at the 22nd Avenue North. and Gandy Boulevard interchange.

Kessia Harris, Assistant Project Manager, explained the goal of this I-275 BOS project is to increase connectivity and improve travel times to and from the City of Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida. She explained that FDOT has placed signage along the route to alert motorists about the intended use; and the pilot will also feature Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) equipment installed on PSTA buses to communicate with ramp signals constructed by FDOT to stop the flow of traffic onto the freeway while the buses are crossing the on-ramp. Ms. Harris said the shoulder will be available for PSTA for use when the speed in the general-purpose lanes drop below 35 mph. Buses will operate at a maximum speed of 35 mph on the shoulder. PSTA will begin extensive classroom and road training in mid-April prior to live operations planned for June 2021. She said there will be marketing efforts to promote safety and awareness through the design and application of a bus wrap, billboard messages, dynamic message signs and media advertisements, training videos, and other promotional events. FDOT will reimburse PSTA for these marketing efforts for a period of three years. There were a few questions from Committee members that were addressed.

Mr. Allbritton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sabiel to recommend approval of a funding agreement between PSTA and FDOT for marketing expenses incurred by PSTA for three years for the Bus on Shoulder Pilot Project not to exceed \$80,000. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Forward Pinellas Transit Planning Funding Agreement – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented the annual joint participation agreement between PSTA and Forward Pinellas for transit planning in Pinellas County. She explained due to a loss of matching funds from Pinellas County and FDOT, Forward Pinellas lowered its annual allocation of \$80,000 to \$72,000. Committee Chairperson Shulman asked if PSTA keeps track of the hours spent by PSTA in planning transit projects. Ms. Borchers stated that the Planning department provides quarterly progress reports to Forward Pinellas.

Mr. Allbritton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sabiel, to recommend approval of the joint participation agreement between PSTA and Forward Pinellas, as well as authorizing the CEO to execute the pending funding from FDOT 5305(d). There was no public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

10-Year Jolley Trolley Agreement – Mr. Miller introduced this topic for a continued partnership between PSTA and the Jolley Trolley, which has been in operation for over 40 years. James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, is in negotiations with Jolley Trolley to prepare a 10-year agreement, which will be an action item at next month's Committee and Board meeting. Mr. Bradford explained the new agreement will include shared fare and GPS technologies and bulk purchasing of fuel. He explained the 10-year agreement will reduce costs in the long run.

FY22 Budget Assumptions – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer and Michael Hanson, Director of Finance, presented an overview of the FY22 budget assumptions which are the foundation of the annual transit budget for PSTA. The key budget assumptions are for the fiscal years 2022 through 2026. Ms. Leous said the final draft budget will be presented to the Board in September, when two public hearings will be conducted on the budget. This year the PSTA Strategic Sustainability Plan will be included in the budget preparation.

Future Meeting Subjects:

The Committee was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects.

Other Business:

No other business was discussed.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21st at 10:30 am.

.