



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2021

Committee Chairperson Shulman called the April 21, 2021 Planning meeting to order at 10:32 am. Members present: Josh Shulman, David Allbritton, Michael Fridovich, Vince Cocks, Renee Flowers, and Keith Sabiel. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO, PSTA staff members, and Board member Deborah Figs-Sanders (virtually).

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

Approve March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Allbritton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flowers, to approve the minutes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Waterborne Transportation – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented the proposed plans for phase I concept design of a waterborne transportation project for Pinellas County. She explained that the PSTA Planning team and our consultant AECOM are ready to take steps to apply for federal and state grants to help fund a Ferry system in Pinellas County. There were questions from Committee members that were addressed by Ms. Borchers regarding the staffing of the vessels, when the grants will be applied for, and where the ferries would eventually operate.

Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fridovich, to recommend approval of task work orders for AECOM to further define the Integrated Ferry System – Phase I Concept Design at a combined cost not-to-exceed \$135,000. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

June Services Changes/Reopening – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, summarized the PSTA service changes that will go into effect on June 6, 2021. She explained that since March of 2020, PSTA enacted new policies and procedures to ensure staff and riders stayed safe while using public transit for essential trips. These actions included: service reductions, requiring face coverings, rear door boarding and fare elimination, increased sanitation and reduced maximum passenger loads per vehicle.

Ms. Borchers stated that with the increased availability of a vaccine within Pinellas County and PSTA's encouragement of employee and family vaccinations coupled with increasing economic activity resulting in demand for return to normal service, PSTA plans to resume normal levels of service including full passenger load availability, pre-COVID frequencies and service span in addition to front door boarding. Masks will still be required to ride. In addition, by July 1st, PSTA will reinstate fares and launch the contactless Flamingo Card for ease of payment.

Other Business:

Committee member Mr. Allbritton shared that he was very pleased with the federal support so far received for the grant application for the proposed Clearwater Multimodal Transit Center.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 10:30 am.