



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 19, 2021

Committee Chairperson Shulman called the June 19, 2021 Planning meeting to order at 10:20 am. Members present: Joshua Shulman, David Allbritton, Vince Cocks, and Deborah Figgs-Sanders. Members absent: Michael Fridovich and Renee Flowers. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO, and PSTA staff members.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

Approve May 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Cocks made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Allbritton. Motion passed unanimously.

PSTA Fare Policy/Title VI - Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented the following proposed changes to the fare policy, which was approved in January 2020.

- PSTA will charge \$3 per extended use card. The fee will be used to cover the costs of producing the smart cards and incentivize customers to retain them.
- A new fare of \$3.50/ ride will be added for Access PSTA Mobility on Demand (MOD) rides (\$1 less than Access PSTA Paratransit).
- Existing magnetic stripe cards will no longer be sold at the PSTA customer service locations. They will be accepted as legal fare payment through December 31, 2021.
- Increase in free ride school-aged children from 5 years old to 8 years old.

Ms. Borchers also stated that PSTA will offer smartcards free of charge during the promotional period through August 31, 2021. The mobile app is always free to download and riders who obtain a Flamingo card or the mobile app will be able to use their Flamingo account to ride at no charge. She said account holders may reload their cards online, at PSTA Customer Service Centers, as well as at a retail network of stores such as local convenience stores, 7-Elevens, Western Unions and Amscot.

Diane Randall, Director of Risk Management, presented the PSTA equity analysis for all fare changes and determined that the fare changes do not negatively affect minority or low-income populations. She was pleased to report that the analysis concluded that there are no negative impacts created by the fare structure change. More importantly, the smart card fee and retail network do not create a disparate impact or

disproportionate burden for PSTA riders. She reiterated that the retail network to support the Flamingo Fares are concentrated in areas with higher minority and low-income populations than the county average to comply with Title VI Policy.

Questions and comments were made about the Flamingo Fares program, linking this program to other services available to residents, monthly survival budget, balance between cost and value, the application process, and the Transportation Disadvantaged program. Mr. Cocks made a motion, seconded by Ms. Figgs-Sanders, to recommend approval of the revised PSTA Fare Policy. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Allbritton made motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks to approve the fare equity analysis to comply with the Title VI amendment. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Item:

FY22 Budget Update: Mr. Miller introduced Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer who presented a brief overview of the draft FY22 budget. Ms. Leous said the FY 2022 PSTA Operating Budget complies with PSTA's Mission, advances us towards our PSTA Vision and implements key strategies found in the Sustainable Strategic Plan. She reiterated the budget was put together with a key focus on the new sustainability plan and PSTA commitment to diversity and inclusion in all our initiatives.

Mr. Leous was pleased to report the transformational projects that will advance PSTA and its riders into a historic period of significant advances that PSTA has made over the past year and will continue into FY22. The programs are the historic funding and construction of the first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in PSTA's history called the Sun Runner, as well as the complete overhaul of the Mobility on Demand program to PSTA Access and a new Sustainable Strategic vision for PSTA's future, which includes new staffing, environmental, health, and financial wellness initiatives.

Ms. Leous reviewed plans for funding electric buses with a goal of low emissions, and the use of solar power. She said the focus will now be on reviewing the draft budget over the summer months and presenting a final draft to the PSTA Board at the August 25th meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for July 21st at 10:30 am.