



**PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
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**PLANNING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 20, 2022**

Committee Chairperson Shulman called the April 20, 2022 Planning meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Members present: Josh Shulman, Vince Cocks, David Albritton, Rene Flowers, and Deborah Figgs-Sanders. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; PSTA staff members; and members of the public.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Action Items:**

**March 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks, to approve the minutes. There was no public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

**Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Equity Fare Policy Recommendations -** Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, introduced Nicole Dufva, Project Planner, who presented an action item to recommend an increase in the TD income threshold from 150% to 200% of the Florida Poverty Level (FPL) to the Forward Pinellas Local Coordinating Board (LCB) next month.

Ms. Dufva showed the results of a PSTA online fare survey from December 2021, which showed that over 70 percent of survey respondents said they earn less than 200% FPL. Questions were asked about the number of recipients surveyed and the rising cost of affordable housing. After discussion, Mr. Shulman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton, to recommend the increase in FPL to the LCB of Forward Pinellas. Motion passed unanimously.

**Information Items:**

**PSTA Access Accountability Monitoring** – Bonnie Epstein, Director of Mobility, presented an update on PSTA Access ridership statistics, complaints, on-time performance, software improvements, scheduling and will call fulfillment by Spare Labs software. She explained that since the new program launched in December 2021, complaints have dropped to eight per month; the on-time performance is performing steadily at 96%; and Spare Labs is on course to reach software milestones by June 30, 2022. She also mentioned that PSTA has only spent \$173,000 to date of the \$1.6M

contract, and the status report will be updated monthly. Questions were asked about the Live Duty Optimization milestone and Medicaid reimbursement.

**FY 23 Budget Assumptions** –Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer; Al Burns, Director of Procurement; and Nick Sagan, Budget Analyst; presented an overview of the FY 23 budget assumptions and the sources of revenue and expenditures that are used to forecast the budget. The key budget assumptions and forecasted expenditures are for FY 23 through 27.

Ms. Leous said the Program of Projects (POP), which includes all PSTA capital projects, will be presented in May, the draft budget will be presented in June, and the final vote on the budget in September. Questions were asked regarding health insurance costs, aligning the budget forecast with the declining passenger fare revenue, and planning for a reduction in diesel fuel costs with the growing electric bus fleet.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Shulman requested the Planning Committee be informed of the plan for developing arterial bus routes to the SunRunner route to maximize the new service.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 10:30 a.m.