



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2022

Committee Chairperson Shulman called the June 15, 2022 Planning meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Members present: Josh Shulman, Vince Cocks, Deborah Figgs-Sanders, and Jim Olliver. Members absent (excused): Rene Flowers and Dave Allbritton. Also present: Jeff Gow, Board member; Brad Miller, CEO; and PSTA staff members.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Action Items:

May 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Figgs-Sanders made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks, to approve the amended minutes with Ms. Figgs-Sanders and Ms. Flowers as “excused” absences. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

FY 23 Draft Budget – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, presented the draft of the FY 23 operating budget at \$111.6 million, and the five-year capital plan at \$154.5 million. Al Burns, Director of Procurement, said that despite high and rising fuel, labor, contracted services, health care, and bus parts costs, PSTA was able to achieve a balanced budget. He credited the balanced budget to PSTA’s commitment and investments in electric and hybrid buses, competitive procurement, bulk purchases, the mobility on demand options, and switching projects to Federal dollars from operating reserves. He said that the SunRunner Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project will be fully operational by the fall of 2022.

Nick Sagan, Interim Manager of Financial Planning & Analysis, showed how the draft budget reflects PSTA’s Sustainable Strategic Plan (SSP), including achieving environmental, financial, and social sustainability. He recommended the draft of the proposed FY 23 budget be forwarded to the PSTA Board over the next two months.

Federal Formula Funding Split – Brad Miller, Chief Executive Officer, stated that Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) is requesting a change in the formula that is used to distribute transit funds to PSTA, HART, Pasco, and the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA). He said the Federal Transportation

Administration (FTA) does not assign or disperse funds; it is up to the individual agencies to split the funds. Mr. Miller reviewed the factors in the FTA formula and said that the agencies have been utilizing this formula for the past 20 years. It is his hope that in the future, all four grantees will advocate for increased formula funding for the success of all agencies.

Other Business:

Committee Chairperson Shulman said the Pinellas County School Board (PCSB) purchased a new school bus routing software. He suggested PSTA collaborate with PCSB on this important new system software to help achieve the goals of improved student transportation and safety.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m. The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 10:30 a.m.