



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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 9:00 AM on this date with the following members present:

Bill Jonson, Chairperson
Julie Bujalski, Vice-Chairperson
Joseph Barkley
Doug Bevis
Mark Deighton
Ben Diamond
Dave Eggers
Pat Gerard
Curtis Holmes
Patricia Johnson
Wengay "Newt" Newton
Darden Rice
Brian Scott
Kenneth Welch

Absent:

Janet Long, Secretary/Treasurer

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Jonson called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and the Board was led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Ms. Gerard entered the meeting at 9:03.]

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Gold Standard Award – Jim Egbert, Safety, Security & Training Supervisor, introduced Sonya Proctor, Director of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Surface Transportation, and Lee Kair, Federal Security Director, who presented the Gold Standard Award to PSTA.

[Ms. Rice and Mr. Newton entered the meeting at 9:07.]

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mitchel McNeally, St. Petersburg resident, spoke about a recent accident on U.S. 19 and believes there should be better communication between law enforcement and PSTA when emergencies arise. James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, indicated that he and Mr. McNeally had already spoken about this matter.

Vivian Peters, Largo resident, expressed her concern that the 300X bus stop at the Ulmerton Road Park & Ride is no longer there, and believes it needs to be replaced. Chairperson Jonson indicated that staff will address this issue.

Joseph Bess, St. Petersburg resident, spoke on behalf of Bus Operators and mechanics who are concerned about equality, fair treatment, and pay. He also mentioned that some employees believe that union and non-union members are not treated equally. In response to a question from Mr. Newton, Mr. Zimmet spoke briefly about the bargaining unit and the union contract.

NON-BOARD COMMITTEES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) – Elaine Mann, Committee Chair, reported on the February 17th TRAC meeting. She informed the Board that the Committee recognized departing member, Susan Dargusch, for her service on TRAC, received a financial forecast from Mr. Miller, and heard a presentation from Scott Pringle, Jacobs Engineering, on the Tampa Bay Express plan. Ms. Mann said the next TRAC meeting is scheduled for March 17th.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Ms. Bujalski reported on the February 11th meeting. She explained that the MPO Board conducted an Executive Director search and two finalists will be interviewed in March. The MPO received a

presentation on the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) new Complete Streets Policy, which is a statewide initiative to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Ms. Bujalski reported that this Complete Streets philosophy will be followed for the U.S. 19 Access to Transit study in North County.

MPO's Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – Ms. Johnson reported on the February 17th meeting in which the Board received a presentation on the enforcement of the county ordinances and rules which govern the provision of wheelchair, reclining wheelchair, and stretcher transportation in Pinellas County. She explained that the LCB was told there was a slight increase in the official federal poverty rate. Ms. Johnson reported that Ross Silvers, Mobility Manager, informed the LCB that all concerns which resulted from the Annual Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) review of PSTA had been addressed and brought into compliance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley to approve the Consent Agenda. There were no public comments. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda, which included the approval of the January 28, 2015 Board meeting minutes, the TRAC By-Laws, the TRAC members, the Resolution for 5310 grant application, and the General Service Consultant selection.

ACTION ITEMS

2015 State Legislative Agenda – Ms. Rice reported that the Legislative Committee met on February 4th and had a lengthy discussion about what PSTA's 2015 Legislative priorities should be, and voted unanimously to recommend the priorities. Mr. Miller presented the priorities which are the St. Petersburg Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) pilot project and the regional priority, the Tampa Bay Regional Transit Fare Collection. He also spoke of eight 2015 PSTA supported/positions: bus replacement funds (\$8 million), increased "Urban Corridor Funds", express lanes extended to Downtown St. Petersburg or shoulders for buses, statewide regulations to encourage Uber/Lyft-type transportation options, permit community college student fees for transportation, multi-modal Howard Frankland Bridge/SR60 interchange funding, increased funding for CTC's, and increase the State Transit Block Grant funding.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Newton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to approve the priority list as presented. Mr. Welch requested that the Board be provided the details and numbers to operate the BRT as soon as possible.

Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to amend the priorities to read “to encourage connectivity to Uber/Lyft-type and all private sector transportation options specifically to transfer and intermodal facilities.”

In response to Chairperson Jonson’s call for public comment, Ms. Peters voiced her concern about PSTA becoming involved and lobbying for the regulation of private entities such as Uber/Lyft. Ms. Rice explained that PSTA is not lobbying for these entities; rather the agency is lobbying for a law to make the entities compliant with the law. There were no further comments, and Chairperson Jonson called for a vote on the amendment of the original motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chairperson Jonson asked if there were further comments on the priorities as amended, and hearing none, called for a vote. The motion passed 13:1 with Mr. Eggers dissenting.

[A break was taken from 10:36 AM until 10:42 AM.]

[Mr. Holmes did not return to the meeting after the break.]

Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funding Request to Pinellas MPO – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, provided a presentation on the STP program. She said staff would like to send a letter to the MPO asking that they add bus replacements to the priority project list for STP funding. Ms. Borchers highlighted some background information regarding bus fleet replacements, the lifecycle of PSTA’s aging fleet, and reported that the agency is facing an \$8 million annual shortfall in bus replacement capital. She explained that the STP program provides flexible funding that is prioritized by the MPO, and Pinellas County receives an annual average of \$14 million.

Ms. Bujalski stated her belief that it is important to let the MPO Board members know that even if PSTA receives funding from other sources, the agency will still need STP funding. She also believes it is important for the MPO Director to explain to the MPO Board how STP funds work. Mr. Welch asked what dollar amount is reasonable and the time frame for receiving funds. He also asked if the Operating and Maintenance (O&M) budget is being supplemented by capital grant funds. Mr. Miller responded that \$5 million is being used. Chairperson Jonson asked for clarification on the process. Mr. Diamond commented that he is not sure how helpful the letter is going to be for the MPO without knowing what PSTA’s capital needs are going to be and suggested tabling the letter until the next month.

[Ms. Johnson left the meeting at 11:17 AM and did not return.]

Mr. Scott said he supports sending the letter but with two changes: 1) delete the \$8 million for the annual capital shortfall amount, and 2) add to the last paragraph “We respectfully request MPO’s consideration and we look forward to working with you to use the resources allocated to improving transportation in our County with a comprehensive and thoughtful approach.” Mr. Miller responded that PSTA has learned that this subject is going to be on MPO’s April agenda, instead of March. With that, Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Welch to continue this at the March meeting. There were no public comments. Motion passed 10:2 with Ms. Bujalski and Mr. Newton dissenting.

Resolution Amending Rules & Regulations – Chairperson Jonson said this Resolution was reviewed and recommended by the Executive Committee. Ms. Bujalski made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to approve the Resolution. Mr. Miller explained the amendments and Mr. Deighton requested that the changes be underlined in the Resolution. Ms. Bujalski withdrew her original motion and made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to continue the approval of the Resolution at the next meeting. Ms. Bujalski asked for a summary page outlining the changes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Follow-up from 2/18 PSTA Workshop – Mr. Miller presented updated information since the workshop and addressed some of the requests coming out of the workshop. He indicated the Board will be provided a calendar of decisions next month and will also be presented with the forecasts and assumptions for the FY2016 budget preparation along with the route performance monitoring system.

Mr. Miller addressed two questions from the workshop: 1) “Why do we need \$8 million from STP funds?”, and 2) “Has our conversion of federal capital funds to operating assistance reduced our bus funding and boosted our reserves?” Mr. Miller addressed each question at length and there was much discussion among the Board.

[Mr. Barkley left the meeting at 12:33 PM and did not return.]

[Ms. Gerard left the meeting at 12:34 and did not return.]

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

PSTA Performance Report/Updates – The report was included in the Board packet. Chairperson Jonson reported that the Executive Committee revised the format, and Mr. Miller explained that the new format focuses on data. He said the month of January

was highly successful in terms of ridership. He also mentioned that this meeting was the first trial for live streaming on the web.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Board received a schedule of future meeting subjects.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Diamond thanked Mr. Miller for his presentation on the bus replacement issue and the reserves.

Mr. Scott indicated that the LCB created a Committee to discuss the Transportation Disadvantaged fare situation and he is one of the members.

Mr. Newton spoke about Mr. Miller's presentation and cautioned that PSTA will still need to implement service cuts. He expressed his unhappiness at the new format for the reports which eliminated the employee commendations and requested the list of names be emailed to him.

Ms. Bujalski commented that she hopes Mr. Miller will work with either the Executive Committee or the Planning Committee in developing the calendar of decisions before it goes to the Board. She also remarked that there may be a need for some more workshops.

Mr. Bevis thanked Mr. Miller for the information and the MPO letter.

Mr. Welch said it was a very productive meeting and looks forward to spending time with the assumptions and the financial forecast next month.

Chairperson Jonson gave an update on the letter that was sent to the District Secretary relative to the express bus lanes, who in turn requested a meeting with Mr. Miller and Chairperson Jonson which is scheduled for February 27th. He remarked that the Board meeting was very productive and an extension of the good discussions in the workshop, and he is looking forward to the financial projections.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Jonson adjourned the meeting at 12:46 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25th at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson