



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – AUGUST 15, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 11:00 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the May 11, 2016 meeting minutes, receive an update on the Pinellas County Health and Human Services Division (DHHS) UPASS program, and review the August Board meeting agenda and the PSTA planning calendar. The following members were present:

Darden Rice, Chairperson
Julie Bujalski, Vice-Chairperson
Janet Long, Secretary/Treasurer
Joe Barkley
Bill Jonson

Also Present:
Brad Miller, CEO
PSTA Staff Members
Members of Public

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Rice opened the meeting at 11:03 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACTION ITEMS

May 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Pinellas County DHHS UPASS Update – Mr. Miller explained that for the past few years, the DHHS purchased an average of 100 tickets per month for their clients. He said the County asked PSTA if an arrangement could be made, similar to the UPASS program, where clients could use their blue health card to ride the bus. The Authority and DHHS signed a \$20,000 annual contract in January 2016 with the assumption that they were going to hand out 100-150 passes per month. Mr. Miller indicated that staff noticed large UPASS ridership increases in June and July and was first informed on August 5, 2016 that they distributed over 3,000 blue cards to their clients.

Mr. Miller said that PSTA met with DHHS officials on August 9th and presented multiple options that would allow them to continue to provide transportation to thousands of customers, but at a significantly increased cost to the County. On August 12th, County staff presented PSTA with a proposal to cancel the UPASS program and purchase Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) bus passes for their clients.

Mr. Miller stated that subject to County Commission approval, they will pay PSTA \$121,000 in FY 2016 and approximately \$443,000 in FY 2017. He noted that this would allow the Authority to recoup the revenue that it was not receiving.

[Ms. Long entered the meeting at 11:10 AM.]

The Committee had a lengthy discussion about administrative costs, TD qualifications, County funding, the UPASS contract, poverty levels in the County, and the impact on PSTA and the County. Mr. Miller indicated that this item will be presented at the Finance Committee on August 17th.

August Board Meeting Agenda - Mr. Miller reviewed the August 24th Board meeting agenda. There was discussion about the three beach alternatives for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

[Mr. Jonson left the meeting at 12:16 PM and did not return.]

PSTA Planning Calendar – Mr. Miller presented the Committee with a decision calendar for August – December 2016. It was decided to schedule the Board Workshop in October instead of November.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 PM. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 9th at 11:00 AM.