



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**

The Finance & Performance Management Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 9:00 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the August 17, 2016 meeting minutes, and recommend approval of the wheelchair restraints contract, the Direct Connect expansion contracts, and the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) renewal. The following members were present:

Joe Barkley, Committee Chair
Brian Scott, Committee Vice-Chair
Mark Deighton
Dave Eggers
Bill Jonson
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, Alternate

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Barkley opened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eggers to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Wheelchair Restraints – Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, spoke about the purchase of 46 wheelchair restraints that the Board previously approved. At that time, the total amount of the grant was \$343,064 and the Board approved \$242,000 for the restraint kits. He explained that originally, PSTA was going to utilize outside contractors to install the equipment. Mr. Lukasik reported; however, the Agency has decided to use its own maintenance personnel for the installations and utilize the remaining grant funding of \$101,564 to purchase 19 additional restraint kits bringing the total number of buses to be upgraded to 65. He indicated that the purchase of the additional restraint kits will be for model year buses 2006-2009. Mr. Lukasik said staff is recommending the award of the contract for seat/securement equipment for an additional 19 restraint kits to Gillig LLC, for a new total cost not to exceed \$343,064. Mr. Eggers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonson to recommend approval of the contract. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Direct Connect Expansion Contracts – Chris Cochran, Senior Planner, provided some background information on the Direct Connect pilot program in East Lake and Pinellas Park. He reported that based on the success of the pilot program, PSTA staff has been working to expand this service county-wide to 21 locations. He reviewed the strategic locations and explained how these locations were selected. He also provided information on the pricing strategy. Mr. Cochran indicated that staff is recommending approval of a two-year Direct Connect transportation alternative expansion agreement at a cost not to exceed \$100,000 that would include the services of Uber, Lyft, United Taxi, Care Ride, and Wheelchair Transport Services.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion about abuse of the system, the costs, and the possibility of another pilot project. Committee Chair Barkley asked Mr. Cochran to incorporate answers to the Committee's questions for the Board meeting. The Committee recommended that this item be an information item on the Board agenda, with additional discussion at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Renewal – Ross Silvers, Mobility Manager, explained that every five years, Forward Pinellas must submit a Pinellas CTC designation submittal to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) for approval. Mr. Silvers noted that as Pinellas County's CTC, PSTA is eligible to accept the Trip and Equipment grant and the Mobility Enhancement grant from the State CTD each year for TD services in Pinellas County. Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eggers to recommend approval of the CTC renewal agreement. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Pinellas County Department of Human Services (PCDHS) Client Transportation – Mr. Miller provided background information and an update on the PCDHS bus pass issue. He showed slides explaining how the original UPass program was priced at \$20,000, the subsequent impacts of the non-profits reducing their bus pass purchases, and the impact of the ridership growth in free rides. Mr. Miller explained that PSTA will not recoup the lost revenue of \$140,000 incurred over the summer. He said the Authority is proposing to discontinue the UPass program and implement the \$5.00/10-day TD pass program, with a cap of 3,000 clients. Mr. Miller said the clients could upgrade to a monthly pass for an additional \$6.00. The Committee had a few questions which Mr. Miller answered.

[Mr. Jonson left the meeting at 10:27 AM and did not return.]

[Ms. Wheeler-Bowman left the meeting at 10:29 and did not return.]

REPORTS

The reports were included in the packet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Committee was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

[Mr. Eggers left the meeting at 10:36 AM and did not return.]

PRESENTATION - along with Planning

St. Pete Beach Draft Commitment Agreement for Bus Rapid Transit Route (BRT) – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, presented an update on the Central Avenue BRT project including a project schedule. She stressed the importance of following the timeline, which if not followed, could delay the project by a year or more.

Discussion took place about the fact that the proposed alignment is to St. Pete Beach which is not part of PSTA. The Committee talked about the idea that St. Pete Beach should pay closer to the \$1.8 million they would be paying if they were a member of the Authority,

especially since this will be the first premium transit route in Pinellas County. This item will be presented as an action item next month.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM. The next meeting will be held on October 19th at 9:00 AM