



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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 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 September 21, 2016 meeting minutes and the 2017 meeting schedule, as well as to recommend approval of the Direct Connect agreements. 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
Darden Rice, Chairperson
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Barkley opened the meeting at 9:00 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Deighton to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

2017 Meeting Schedule – Mr. Deighton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scott to approve the meeting schedule for 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, announced that this is the third year that PSTA had been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award of Excellence for the Authority's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Direct Connect Agreements - Mr. Miller explained PSTA's three innovative programs; the Direct Connect, the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Late Shift, and the upcoming Sandbox program. He said staff is asking the Committee to recommend approval of a second pilot of the Direct Connect program to encompass the whole county. He showed the seven connecting points for this pilot and demonstrated how the program works. Mr. Miller indicated that there will be five providers for this service: Uber, Lyft, United Taxi, Care Ride and Wheelchair Transport. He noted that the budget for this second pilot program is \$100,000 and the goal is to have 50 rides per day. PSTA will pay a \$5.00 discount for each ride. Committee Chair Barkley asked if PSTA is tracking origin and destination for each ride, and Mr. Miller responded yes. Mr. Eggers said that he would like more monitoring and discussion about the second Direct Connect pilot program.

Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Bowman to approve the Direct Connect agreements along with a monthly progress report to the Board. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, indicated that the proposed alignment, stemming from the technical analysis and public outreach, is from downtown St. Petersburg, through Pasadena, and to St. Pete Beach. She said this would generate the most ridership due to the number of hotel rooms and the greatest population and employment density. She said the goal is to have a successful project; therefore, staff is recommending that the Board take no action in October, to allow staff time to analyze different routing and cost options to lower the cost to St. Pete Beach. Ms. Sobush presented three cost reduction routing options.

Mr. Miller presented a non-route cost-reduction policy for consideration. He said that the cities that contribute to the ad valorem pay about 60% of the bus service. He said that an option would be to treat St. Pete Beach in the same manner and charge them only 60% of the cost for the BRT.

[Mr. Eggers left the meeting at 9:30 AM and did not return.]

Committee Chair Barkley expressed his reluctance to give a very valuable service to a city that is not a member of the PSTA system and, in his opinion, a city that does not want it. Mr. Jonson brought up the millage rates of various cities as compared to St. Pete Beach. Ms. Rice urged the Committee to consider the benefits of a BRT route to St. Pete Beach. The Committee requested cost and ridership projections.

REPORTS

Monthly Financial Statement - The financial statements were included in the packet. Ms. Leous gave a brief summary of the reports for the month ending August 31, 2016. She indicated that PSTA will likely meet their goals for the fiscal year. The Committee had a few questions regarding the surplus, fares, and revenues, which Ms. Leous explained.

Ridership/Performance - The report was included in the packet. The Committee had comments on the decline in fixed route passenger trips. Mr. Miller pointed out that the benchmarking group is experiencing the same decline and possibly could be attributed to an improved economy and low gas prices.

PSTA Contracts - The quarterly report was 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.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM. The next meeting will be held on November 16th at 9:00 AM.