



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716  
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AGENDA – JUNE 6, 2016; 1:00 PM  
PSTA AUDITORIUM

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	<u>TIME</u>
1. CALL TO ORDER	9:00
2. PUBLIC COMMENT	9:00
3. PRESENTATIONS	9:05
A. Senator Jeff Brandes	
B. Harry Glenn; Federal Update	
4. ACTION ITEMS	9:45
A. April 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes	CHAIR DIAMOND
B. State Government Affairs Team Recommendation	BRAD MILLER
5. FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS	10:10
6. OTHER BUSINESS	10:15
7. ADJOURNMENT	10:15

THE NEXT MEETING IS AUGUST 3, 2016 AT 9:00 AM



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## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 6, 2016

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The Legislative 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 February 3, 2016 and March 2, 2016 meeting minutes, receive updates from Gray Robinson and Van Scoyoc, and receive information on the lobbyist Request for Proposal (RFP). The following members were present:

Ben Diamond, Committee Chair  
Janet Long, Committee Vice-Chair  
Doug Bevis  
Patricia Johnson  
Lisa Wheeler-Brown

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO  
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member  
Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc  
Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc (via phone)  
Robert Stuart, Gray Robinson  
Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting  
Chandra Price, Price's Writing and Editing Services  
PSTA Staff Members  
Members of the Public

### CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Diamond opened the meeting at 9:04 AM.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

## ACTION ITEMS

February 3, 2016 and March 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve both meeting minutes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

Legislative Update State/Federal – Mr. Glenn introduced Ms. Price who gave a brief introduction about her background and company. Mr. Glenn provided a federal Legislative update and presented details on the March 14-15 Washington, D.C. trip. Mr. Palmer spoke about the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) meeting with Beth Day, Director of Planning, who is responsible for the Small Starts grant. He reported that she was very positive about PSTA’s revised schedule for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Mr. Miller added that the next step will be for the FTA to approve PSTA entering into the Project Development stage. Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, indicated that FTA had questioned the Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) \$500,000 contribution, adding that PSTA has since received confirmation from FDOT for the \$500,000 funding.

Mr. Glenn spoke about the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant stating that there was a great deal of interest among the delegation for HART’s TIGER grant application, which encompasses eight counties. He said that he will be getting a letter of support signed by all the members of Congress from the eight counties.

Mr. Glenn and Mr. Palmer provided updates on the LoNo grant program and what criteria the FTA is looking for in the grant application. He indicated that the FTA is putting emphasis on how the buses are going to help the riders get to their jobs, school, and healthcare. Mr. Palmer also spoke briefly about FTA’s Rides to Wellness initiative utilizing public transportation for getting people to healthcare services. Mr. Miller stated that staff will look into the program. Mr. Glenn provided a Congressional appropriations and budget update and indicated that he will keep PSTA apprised on the progress.

Mr. Stuart provided a post-session state Legislative update. Mr. Suskey indicated that the Clearwater to Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express Bus project was discussed at length throughout the session. He reported that Senator Latvala asked that this project not be part of the budget for fear of it being vetoed. Mr. Suskey indicated that Senator Latvala has asked to lead the effort with the House delegation to gather signatures for a letter of support for the Clearwater Express bus project.

Mr. Stuart spoke about the \$200,000 study for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program. He said that this is a priority with the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and that they will take the initiative and speak to the TD Commission regarding this study. Mr. Suskey said the study will be implemented by an independent contractor and the results will then be presented to the Legislature.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the TD allocation, the Clearwater Beach Express project, Senator Latvala's ongoing desire for a PSTA-HART merger, as well as ideas for next year's Legislative agenda. The Committee also mentioned meetings with St. Pete Beach, Madeira Beach, and Treasure Island regarding the Central Avenue BRT project.

Lobbyist RFP – Mr. Miller noted that the state lobbyist contract with Gray Robinson is ending and an RFP will be issued next week with proposals due on May 12th. He indicated that Alan Zimmet, PSTA's General Counsel, prepared a lobbying interaction feedback document for use by the Board to provide their input and comments for the selection process. Ms. Long requested to review the RFP. Committee Chair Diamond suggested a reminder be sent to the Board about the RFP process and the cone of silence.

## **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

The Committee was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects. Ms. Long mentioned a conflict with the April 27th Board meeting with the County Employees Appreciation Day, which will affect four Commissioners. Mr. Miller said that the Board meeting is expected to end by 11:00 AM.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM. The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held on May 4th at 9:00 AM.

## NEW FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS/APPLICATIONS

In addition to PSTA's annual State and Federal formula/block funding, PSTA regularly monitors opportunities for discretionary grants to assist with our delivery of public transportation services or pilot new innovations in how we enable the mobility of our community.

### STATE GRANTS

1. Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Mobility Enhancement Grant

**PROJECT: Complete Trip Initiative**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: \$300,000**

PSTA submitted an application to provide low-income workers with trips to and from work during late-night hours when regular fixed route service is not available. The service will provide TD program participants with greater access to job opportunities. Providers will include private transportation companies and a transportation network company (TNC).

**Submitted: 5/16/16**

2. Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Grant

**PROJECT: State Project Development Funds – project development phase of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Small Starts process**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: \$500,000**

PSTA submitted an application to provide planning for the project development phase of the Central Avenue BRT that will provide express service between downtown St. Petersburg and the Beaches.

**Due: 7/1/16**

### FEDERAL GRANTS

3. TIGER VIII (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery)

**PROJECT: Regional Fare Collection**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: \$9,671,026**

HART and PSTA jointly submitted an application for the regional fare collection project that will provide a seamless regional fare media across eight counties. The project will include a smart card and a mobile application to improve experience of riding public transportation in the region. Total project budget is \$12,088,783.

**Submitted: 4/29/16**

4. **2016 Federal Section 5339 Discretionary Low-No Grant**

**PROJECT: Electric Buses for downtown St. Pete Circulator**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: \$1,549,380**

PSTA submitted an application to replace two aging buses with two electric buses and associated charging infrastructure. The buses will be utilized on the downtown St. Petersburg circulator route. The application will include be scalable to five electric buses.

**Submitted: 5/13/16**

5. **2016 Federal Section 5339 Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Grant**

**PROJECT: Bus Replacements**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: \$16,620,000**

PSTA submitted an application to replace some of the oldest buses in the fleet, including ten 2003 MCI buses and eight 2002 40' buses. As replacements, PSTA is requesting 18 BAE Series E buses which are lower emitting and are expected to have a fuel economy that is at least double the fuel economy of the 2002 and 2003 buses.

**Submitted: 5/13/16**

6. **Rides to Wellness**

**PROJECT: Coordinated Access and Mobility Program**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: \$200,000**

PSTA coordinated with the Hillsborough and Pasco Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) and the Humana private healthcare organization to develop this grant application that improves access to healthcare for the transportation disadvantaged. The Pinellas-based Neighborly Care Network coordinated this regional application.

**Submitted: 5/27/16**

7. **Mobility on Demand (Sandbox)**

**PROJECT: Transportation Network Solutions for Paratransit Services**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: TBD**

PSTA Staff is developing implementable concepts for a pilot that would integrate transportation network solutions for paratransit services.

**Due: 7/5/16**

8. **2016 Transit Security Grant Program**

**PROJECT: CCTV Cameras in the Maintenance Area; Replacement of Security Access System and Updating of our Security Assessment and Plans**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: \$1,130,024**

PSTA made application for three projects - CCTV Cameras in the Maintenance Area; Replacement of Security Access System and Updating of our Security Assessment and Plans.

**Submitted: 4/25/16**

9. **Federal Transit Administration 5307 Flexed Funds Grant**

**PROJECT: US 19 Passenger Amenity Improvements**

**APPLICATION AMOUNT: \$151,215**

PSTA was notified that we would be the recipient of grant funds from an earmark to be used for passenger amenity enhancements on US 19 between Sunset and Enterprise Roads.

Submitted: Not Applicable