



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – OCTOBER 17, 2016

The Legislative Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 1:00 PM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the September 7, 2016 meeting minutes and the 2017 meeting schedule as well as receive updates from PSTA's state and federal lobbyist. The following members were present:

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

Absent

Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting Group
Natalie King, RSA Consulting Group
Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc (via telephone)
Alan Suskey, Suskey Consulting (via telephone)
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Diamond opened the meeting at 1:03 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

September 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

2017 Federal and State Legislative Priority List – Mr. Miller gave an update on the meetings with state Legislators and presented a draft of the 2017 State Legislative priority list. He noted that the priority list will be shared with the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority's (HART) Executive Committee at the joint meeting scheduled for October 31st to see if there are opportunities for collaboration on any priorities. Mr. Miller said that the list will be brought back to the Legislative Committee in November to recommend approval at the December 7th Board meeting.

Mr. Pierce and Ms. King reported on meetings with Representative Peters, Representative Ahern's staff, and Representative Sprowls. Mr. Suskey spoke about the revenue forecast and budget for the upcoming year.

Mr. Miller presented the three state Legislative priorities and the request for each: 1) the Clearwater Beach to Tampa Airport Express operating funds, 2) increase urban Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funds, and 3) the Clearwater Beach Causeway bus lane. Committee Chair Diamond suggested producing a one-page information sheet for each priority. Ms. King stated that she will provide a template. Ms. Long would like to have the information sheets ready for the October 31st joint meeting with HART.

Mr. Miller said that the federal priorities are to continue asking for support of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) appropriations, and to advocate for a change in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements relating to how rides are counted in the FTA formula that is used for allocating funds. Currently, the rides using Uber and Lyft are not counted. Mr. Palmer suggested that PSTA should continue advocacy for grant funding and he indicated that there is also talk about a new infrastructure initiative that should be on PSTA's federal priority list, but he did not have specifics as yet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Miller mentioned that Sean Sullivan, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, is planning a Transportation Summit for February 16, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM. Staff will send a poll to the Committee members for available dates for the November meeting.