



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 4, 2017

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 October 17, 2016 meeting minutes, elect Committee Officers, and recommend approval of the PSTA-Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The following members were present:

Janet Long, Committee Chair
Patricia Johnson, Committee Vice-Chair
Doug Bevis
Charlie Justice
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman
Samantha Fenger - Alternate

Also Present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Long opened the meeting at 9:07 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

October 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Justice to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Elect Committee Officers – Ms. Wheeler-Bowman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to elect Ms. Long as Committee Chair and Ms. Johnson as Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

PSTA-HART Memorandum of Understanding – Mr. Miller explained that the Board agreed at its December 7th meeting to start drafting an agreement stating current HART and PSTA collaborations and possible future collaborations. He indicated that HART had a Board Committee meeting on December 21st and drafted an Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Miller spoke about the subsequent discussions that took place regarding the agreement between the two agencies and the current draft of the PSTA-HART MOU stemming from those discussions. Mr. Miller outlined six collaborative contracts and projects in the MOU and distributed a timeline for approving the document. The Committee reviewed and discussed the MOU.

[Ms. Fenger entered the meeting at 9:15 AM.]

Mr. Justice suggested adding the cost savings to each of the six collaborative projects listed in the MOU. Ms. Johnson expressed concern about some of the language relating to the two agencies collaborating. She also stated that the MOU does not mention the paratransit program. Mr. Miller explained that HART does not manage their paratransit program; it is separate and is handled by Hillsborough County. Committee Chair Long suggested that Ms. Johnson and Mr. Miller meet with the Hillsborough staff regarding their paratransit program. After a few more comments, the Committee reached consensus to move forward with the MOU.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Upcoming Legislative Trips – Committee Chair Long stated that Senator Latvala does not believe the bridge to Clearwater Beach can accommodate the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) from Tampa International Airport (TIA). Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, indicated that she had just received a draft report that said the median can accommodate an exclusive bus lane, but the pedestrian bridge cannot. Mr. Miller clarified that PSTA's number one Legislative priority is the operating funds for the Clearwater Beach to TIA express bus service and the number three priority is a capital project for \$1 million to update a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) study that was completed ten years

ago for a Clearwater Beach Causeway exclusive bus lane. Mr. Suskey indicated that he has a meeting with Senator Latvala next week as well as most of the delegation, and will discuss the report and clarify PSTA's two separate requests. Mr. Pierce added that he will speak with Representative Sprowls, as well.

Mr. Miller spoke about the trip to Tallahassee on February 7th and 8th during Committee Weeks. Ms. King spoke about the trip details.

Mr. Glenn provided an update on the federal Legislature. He said that the first day of Legislation began yesterday and provided information about the different Committees and who may be serving on those Committees. Mr. Palmer indicated that they will keep PSTA informed once the Committee assignments are determined. He also provided a brief update on the Small Starts funding. Mr. Glenn suggested a one-page write up regarding Mobility on Demand ridership being included in the calculations used by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula for federal funding. Ms. Johnson expressed her interest in taking the TD message to Washington D.C. Due to scheduling conflicts, the dates of the Washington D.C. trip will be determined at a later time.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The February Legislative Committee needs to be rescheduled due to the Tallahassee trip. A poll will be sent out to Committee members.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 AM.