



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2015

The Planning Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 10:30 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting, approve the Transportation Alternatives Pilot Program, the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Federal Application and the Service Redesign Phase 2 regarding service to Williams Park, and to receive information on the Regional Fare Collection Partnership Agreements. The following members were present:

### Members Present:

Mark Deighton  
Patricia Johnson  
Darden Rice, Committee Vice-Chair

### Members Absent:

Julie Bujalski, Committee Chair  
Janet Long  
Ken Welch

### Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO  
PSTA Staff Members  
Members of the Public

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Vice-Chair Darden Rice opened the meeting at 10:35 AM.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## ACTION ITEMS

October 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Deighton to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Alternatives Pilot Program – Mr. Miller presented information on a proposed pilot program for alternative transportation options utilizing taxicabs and transportation network company services. The pilot program will be operated in the East Lake Community and Pinellas Park.

In the process of developing the pilot program, PSTA has reviewed insurance, background checks, and other requirements to ensure that PSTA requirements match other providers of these services. Final approval for the pilot program is expected at the December Board meeting.

After many questions and concerns from the Committee, Mr. Deighton made a motion, to recommend the Transportation Alternatives, as presented, to the Board. Motion failed. Mr. Deighton then made a motion to recommend the program for just East Lake, seconded by Patricia Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Central Avenue BRT Federal Application - Ms. Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented information pertaining to the Central Avenue BRT, an expansion project that has been planned for some time and is a component of the Path Forward Initiative. The proposed route would connect downtown St. Petersburg to the beaches using a 15 minute frequency from 5:00 AM to midnight, travelling down the Central Avenue corridor.

The plan is supported by the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, the St. Petersburg Chamber, the Central Avenue Council, the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber and the Tampa Bay Rays.

The program is expected to cost about \$16.5 million in capital. To fund the program, PSTA is hoping to obtain 50% of the required budget from the the Federal New Starts Program and 25% from the state New Starts Grant Program (FDOT). PSTA will provide the remaining 25%. Ms. Borchers provided a proposed schedule and reviewed the New Starts and Small Starts process. PSTA will have two years to complete the project, but can most likely be completed within one year.

Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Deighton to recommend the project to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Service Redesign Phase 2: Williams Park and Budgeted Enhancements - Ms. Borchers discussed the service redesign which affects Williams Park. Since 1952, Williams Park has served as a hub for 16 routes in the PSTA System, but due to the City of St. Petersburg's desire to make the park more accessible to the community for recreational use, PSTA is looking at a new system for Williams Park which will incorporate a county-wide grid system with most transfers occurring on-street. The proposed service redesign removes most bus service from Williams Park and redistributes it along the downtown grid network.

PSTA has conducted seven public workshops and has also presented the plan to the St. Petersburg City Council. The service change will officially take place on February 14, 2015. In addition to the route changes, route enhancements are planned for the downtown area, within the FY 2016 PSTA Budget. Based on public recommendations, PSTA is looking at implementing improvements to Routes 5, 7, and 22.

Mr. Deighton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to endorse the Williams Park Service Redesign and route enhancement proposals to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Regional Fare Collection Partnership Agreements – Ms. Borchers told the Committee that PSTA has been working with the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) and the Regional Working Group (RWG) for regional fare collection systems using a smart card and transit pass mobile app for the eight-county Tampa Bay region.

PSTA is applying for grants with federal and state agencies and to date, \$2.6 million in Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) grants have been secured for the project cost of \$12.8 million.

Ms. Borchers explained that earlier in the year, proposals were received in response to the RWG solicitation and a vendor was selected. Although the agreement is being managed by HART, PSTA staff has staff is working to ensure the agreement includes all PSTA and regional needs. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HART and PSTA will address such items as Contract Agreement, Transfer of Assets, Funding Availability and Grant Sharing, Revenue Sharing, Far Policy and Joint Branding and Marketing. This item will be presented to the Committees and the Board in February.

January 22 PSTA- MPO/PPC Meeting Agenda – Mr. Miller discussed the joint meeting with the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/Pinellas Planning Council (PPC). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss ways PSTA’s priorities can coordinate with the Agency’s. FDOT has asked to have a role in the meeting as well. In preparation for this meeting, several suggested agenda areas have been suggested and an agenda flow has been recommended.

### **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

The Committee was given a list of future meeting subjects.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Johnson expressed an interest in seeing attractive bus shelters in the community. Ms. Borchers explained PSTA’s long-term plan to replace bus shelters throughout the county incorporating the shelter match program which allows cities to share in the cost and design of shelters.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned 11:54 AM. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held on January 15, 2016 at 10:30 AM.