



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2016**

The Planning Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 10:15 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the February 17, 2016 meeting minutes, and recommend approval of the SEIU labor agreement. The following members were present:

Ken Welch, Committee Chair
Mark Deighton, Committee Vice-Chair
Pat Gerard
Darden Rice
Patricia Johnson, Alternate

Absent

Samantha Fenger

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Whit Blanton, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Executive Director
Alan Zimmet, General Counsel
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Welch opened the meeting at 10:20 AM.

PRESENTATIONS/ACTION (along with the Finance Committee)

Florida Public Service Union (SEIU) Labor Agreement – James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, stated that 83% of the Union members voted yes on the contract. He indicated that a deal was reached on a three-year contract agreement that is within PSTA's projected budget. Mr. Bradford provided background information regarding

the new labor agreement that will be in effect through September 30, 2018. He also highlighted some key contract points such as increased wage graduation steps, starting Bus Operator rate of \$12.50, a one-time \$300 stored balance for health insurance contributions, a \$500 annual lump sum compensation based on attendance, and the creation of a Health & Wellness Committee, as well as other Committees.

[Ms. Rice entered the meeting at 10:31 AM.]

Mr. Eggers asked how PSTA compares in the benchmarking group and to other organizations in Florida. Mr. Bradford said in terms of wages and compensation, the Agency is one of the top in the state. Mr. Eggers requested comparisons to Pasco and Hillsborough counties. Questions were raised concerning the \$500 lump sum compensation, PSTA's accident policy, and total budget impact.

Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Brown to recommend Board approval of the three-year labor agreement with SEIU. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously. The Committee agreed that this will appear as an action item on the Board agenda.

DART Contract – Ross Silvers, Mobility Manager, presented an information item about the paratransit contract, which expires on September 30, 2016. He said that currently, Care Ride and Yellow Cab are the contracted providers for paratransit transportation services. Mr. Silvers reviewed background information about the current DART program and the new procurement process. He indicated that an RFP will be issued April 1st with Board approval at their July 27th meeting. Mr. Silvers reviewed the goals of the new procurement including performance improvement items. Mr. Miller added that PSTA is exploring other options to paratransit contractors such as Uber and Lyft. The Committee had a few questions which Mr. Silvers and Mr. Miller answered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Compton, Sierra Club of Tampa Bay, spoke about the "Ready for 100" campaign which identifies means by which communities can move 100% away from the use of fossil fuels. He said that there will be a meeting in St. Petersburg on March 22nd and an Earth Day event in St. Petersburg on April 23rd, where Proterra is expected to have an electric bus on display.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Gerard left the meeting at 11:25 AM and did not return.]

INFORMATION ITEMS

2017 Key Budget Assumptions – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided a timeline for the budget process. She indicated that this is the second year of the Path Forward plan and the goal for 2017 is to provide a balanced budget for both operating and capital. Ms. Leous presented some key budget highlights including revenue assumptions from the ad valorem tax, passenger fare revenues, and operating assistance from federal, state, and local sources. She also reviewed the expenditure assumptions, including salaries and benefits, health insurance, and diesel fuel costs. Ms. Leous highlighted administrative cost reductions and indicated that staff has been working on identifying ways to reduce costs. She said that the anticipated savings for FY 2016 will be \$675,000.

Ms. Johnson mentioned the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) grants that most cities receive and wondered if the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program could be leveraged into those grants. Committee Chair Welch asked for more information on this concept.

REPORTS

Projects and Partner Updates – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, gave a brief report on the advancement of partner projects of interest to the Board and smaller PSTA projects. She spoke about the downtown St. Petersburg system redesign and public outreach, the North Pinellas Cultural Alliance (NPCA) shelter match program, and the PSTA, MPO, and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) monthly coordinating meetings. Ms. Sobush said the Agency will participate and/or coordinate with the MPO on four efforts; the MPO prioritization process, the Tri-County Premium Transit study, the SR 60 corridor evaluation/beach access, and the transfer area analysis. Ms. Sobush also spoke about two recent projects underway. She said PSTA is working with Pinellas Park staff for a possible replacement for Route 444 and working with consultants to develop a scope for the downtown St. Petersburg circulation study.

Mr. Blanton spoke about the U.S. 19 corridor stating that the MPO/Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) has requested that FDOT postpone its two roadway design projects from north of Nebraska Road to south of Lake Street so that the MPO/PPC can complete a consensus-driven vision for the U.S. 19 corridor. Mr. Blanton reported that it was also requested that FDOT conduct a value engineering study of the cost benefit of grade separated interchanges from the area north of Tampa Road to the Pasco County line.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Committee was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects. Mr. Miller noted that the Planning Committee will review a draft agenda for the May 6th Board workshop at next month's meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Deighton indicated that he and Mr. Miller will be having a meeting with St. Pete Beach on March 17th regarding the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and ad valorem.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM. The next meeting will be held on April 20th at 10:30 AM.