



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2016**

The Planning Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 10:00 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the March 16, 2016 meeting minutes, receive information on the Sustainability Plan and the October 2016 service improvements. The following members were present:

Ken Welch, Committee Chair
Mark Deighton, Committee Vice-Chair
Samantha Fenger
Pat Gerard

Absent

Darden Rice
Patricia Johnson, Alternate

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
Whit Blanton, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Executive Director
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENTATION (along with the Finance Committee)

Sustainability Plan – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, explained that PSTA has, for the first time ever, submitted its sustainability achievements to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) for recognition as part of their sustainability program. She, and Kristina Tranel, Transit Planner, provided a presentation on sustainability

including a brief history and PSTA's sustainability planning approach. Ms. Sobush spoke about the environmental, financial, and social sustainability of the Agency's fleet and the sustainability goals.

[Ms. Fenger entered the meeting at 10:16 AM.]

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Compton, Sierra Club, spoke about the Deepwater Horizon tragedy and the dependency on oil. He also commented on the emission levels from various bus technologies and noted that the Proterra electric bus will be at Williams Park for the Earth Day celebration.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Deighton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

October 2016 Service Improvements – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, provided a presentation on the proposed service improvements. She spoke of the 2013 Pinellas Community Bus Plan, which was originally a ten-phase improvement plan. The plan is now a three-phase plan with phases one and two complete. Ms. Borchers explained that phase three will focus on efficiency improvements throughout the County starting in October 2016 with North and Mid-County, and in February 2017, the South and the remaining Mid-County. She also presented maps of the proposed service improvements.

Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, described the early engagement activities with City/County staff, internal workshops, and scheduled public workshops/hearings, as well as web/social media engagement. He indicated that a week prior to the service changes, staff will conduct public outreach to riders at all major transfer facilities and on-board, if needed.

Mr. Welch had questions about the Safety Harbor Jolley Trolley. Mr. Jonson suggested conducting workshops in the North Greenwood area or Park Street terminal area.

REPORTS

Projects & Partner Updates – Ms. Borchers gave a brief report on the advancement of partner projects of interest to the Board and smaller PSTA projects. She spoke about the State Road 60 Corridor project and the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). She also indicated that the Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group met at PSTA on April 8th and discussed the Regional Premium Transit Study draft scope and transit referenda. Ms. Borchers provided information about the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Bus on Shoulders study. She pointed out that the pilot area for the project is located in Pinellas County on I-275 from downtown St. Petersburg to Gandy Boulevard, connecting into the proposed Tampa Bay Express (TBX) lanes.

Mr. Blanton spoke about the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and FDOT coordination. He indicated that the MPO, FDOT, and PSTA staff are meeting monthly to ensure ongoing coordination. He spoke about the downtown Clearwater – Clearwater Beach Busway Reevaluation Scope and the PSTA transfer area analysis. Mr. Blanton said there will be a joint PSTA/MPO/PPC Board workshop on July 29th.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Miller said there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Largo Transit Center on April 28th which will officially open on May 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM. The next meeting will be held on May 18th at 10:30 AM.