



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – JULY 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 3:00 PM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the June 15, 2016 meeting minutes and recommend approval of the Dunedin service changes, and the FY 2017 millage rate/proposed service improvements. The following members were present:

Mark Deighton, Committee Vice-Chair
Samantha Fenger
Pat Gerard
Darden Rice
Patricia Johnson, Alternate

Absent

Ken Welch, Committee Chair

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Vice-Chair Deighton opened the meeting at 3:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Dunedin Service Changes – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented the proposed route changes affecting Dunedin. She noted that the Jolley Trolley would become a seven-day service with a deviation for the spring training period to the Blue Jays stadium. Ms. Borchers indicated that the Route 61 would travel from downtown Clearwater on Douglas Avenue to Union Street and travel on Patricia Avenue to the recreation center and the Dunedin High School. She said that the proposal for Route 78 would be to re-route it from Milwaukee Avenue and move it to Douglas Avenue. She noted that staff is recommending the extension of the Dunedin/Palm Harbor Connector past the Countryside Mall to service Safety Harbor and move the Route 62 out of Safety Harbor. Ms. Borchers added that the TRAC Committee expressed their support of the proposed service changes. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to recommend approval of the Dunedin service changes.

[Ms. Fenger entered the meeting at 3:09 PM.]

In response to Committee Vice-Chair Deighton's call for public comment, Rosemary Windsor, Bob Clifford, and Sue Eaton from the Jolley Trolley all expressed their support of the proposed changes and their willingness to consistently run the Jolley Trolley by the Blue Jays stadium, even after the spring training season ends. There were no further comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Millage Rate/FY 2017 Service Improvements Proposals – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided the FY 2016 forecast summary and noted that there is a projected surplus of \$767,921 that will be added to the reserves. She said this is PSTA's fifth straight year of substantial savings. Ms. Leous reviewed several accomplishments over the past year and indicated that outreach is a focus area for the upcoming year. She also spoke about results from the American Bus Benchmarking Group (ABBG) and pointed out that PSTA will focus on areas such as employee training, capital investment, and service frequency.

Ms. Leous reviewed the FY 2016 forecast to the FY 2017 budget and stated that the FY 2017 budget without an ad valorem change is balanced by \$78,495. She added that an ad valorem adjustment to the maximum millage would provide \$1.1 million that can be used for increased service to customers.

Ms. Borchers presented staff's recommendations for incremental expansion of bus service if the ad valorem were raised to 0.7500. She explained that the adjusted ad valorem would allow for extended weekday hours on heavily used routes and improved weekend frequencies and service span.

Committee Vice-Chair Deighton asked for a breakdown of costs for the extra frequency on Saturdays and Sundays. He pointed out that the increase in ad valorem for the average household is only \$2.21 per year, if the millage was increased to the cap. Ms. Rice emphasized that when the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) discussed Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for PSTA, it was noted by the MPO Chairman that PSTA did not vote to raise the ad valorem to the cap last year. Ms. Johnson pointed out that as a business owner, it is difficult for her employees to get to work on Saturdays and Sundays. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice to recommend approval of the proposed millage rate of 0.7500 to be transmitted to the Property Appraiser and recommend approval of the proposed service improvements. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Public Workshops – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, presented the Project Development (PD) status. She said that PD started in June 2016 after the Board approved the Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for \$500,000. She indicated that staff is currently working to evaluate beach destination alternatives, with one-on-one meetings with City Managers and presentations to Treasure Island and St. Pete Beach City Councils. Ms. Sobush announced that there are additional workshops planned for August 1st and August 2nd in St. Petersburg. She indicated that there are presentations scheduled with the City Councils on August 9th for Madeira Beach and August 23rd for South Pasadena. She also presented next steps for August, September, and October. The Committee discussed the ad valorem and the cities that do not contribute to PSTA.

REPORTS

Projects and Partner Updates – Ms. Sobush gave a brief report on the advancement of partner projects of interest to the Board and smaller PSTA projects. She said that the downtown St. Petersburg Circulation Study has begun which will develop a preliminary operation plan for the preferred circulation alternative. She indicated that a public workshop will be held on August 1st in St. Petersburg in conjunction with the BRT workshop. Ms. Sobush reported that PSTA executed a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant in 2010 for \$1.25 million for preliminary engineering,

conceptual design, and environmental work for a Clearwater Intermodal Center to replace the Park Street terminal. She said that the Authority has engaged one of its General Services Consultants to draft a scope of work that includes conceptual site plan alternatives, environmental documentation, preliminary site design, and public outreach. The work will also include capital and operating cost estimates.

Ms. Sobush indicated that staff meets regularly with Forward Pinellas staff and FDOT to coordinate on PSTA's projects, and she noted that there will be a joint work session on July 29th to continue talking about how Forward Pinellas prioritizes projects and funding.

Mr. Blanton reported that Forward Pinellas is continuing to work on the screening of the criteria for the Transfer Area Analysis, which could become part of Forward Pinellas' prioritization in the future to prioritize the Transportation Alternatives Program funding to improve access to transit. He also said that Forward Pinellas is completing the Scope of Work (SOW) for the Gateway Mid-County Connectivity Study.

Mr. Deighton asked about the combining of local MPO's. Mr. Blanton explained that the Federal government has issued a notice of proposed rule-making that would require the MPO's that are in one metropolitan planning area to either consolidate or to demonstrate that they remain distinctive MPO's, but with a unified set of planning products such as a single long-range plan, a single set of performance measures and targets, and a single transportation improvement program.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS - AUGUST

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

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM. The next meeting will be held on August 17th at 10:30 AM.