



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING MEETING
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

The Planning Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 10:30 AM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the August 17, 2016 meeting minutes and receive information on the St. Pete Beach draft commitment agreement for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route, the Forward Pinellas priorities, the Pinellas County Department of Human Services transportation, and a ridership analysis. The following members were present:

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

Absent
Darden Rice

Also Present:
Brad Miller, CEO
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

PRESENTATION - along with Finance

St. Pete Beach Draft Commitment Agreement for BRT – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, presented an update on the Central Avenue BRT project including a project schedule. She stressed the importance of following the timeline, which if not followed, could delay the project by a year or more.

Discussion took place about the fact that the proposed alignment is to St. Pete Beach, which is not part of PSTA. The Committee discussed the belief St. Pete Beach should pay closer to the \$1.8 million they would be paying if they were a member of the Authority.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Welch opened the regular Planning Committee meeting at 10:55 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Deighton to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Forward Pinellas Priorities – Ms. Sobush updated the Committee on the Forward Pinellas priorities. She noted that for the first time, transportation projects are on the list. The list includes PSTA's Central Avenue BRT project, Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Airport (TIA) express bus, and transit operational enhancements and associated capital. Ms. Sobush added that inclusion of transit projects on Forward Pinellas' multimodal transportation priority project list allows PSTA to apply for federal and state transportation funding, including funds not previously available to the Authority.

Pinellas County Department of Human Services (PCDHS) Client Transportation – Mr. Miller updated the Committee on the recent events with PCDHS. He indicated that PSTA received a letter from the County stating that they expect to continue the \$20,000 arrangement per the current agreement through the notice clause of 90 days. Mr. Miller said the Authority is expecting to lose \$140,000 from the summer and through the end of the year. He reported that PSTA is proposing that the County pay \$5.00 for a 10-day Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) pass for their clients. The client could then upgrade to a 31-day TD pass for an additional \$6.00. Mr. Miller indicated that he has a meeting scheduled for Monday, September 26th with the County Administrator to discuss further. Ms. Johnson voiced her concern that there are many TD-qualified people who are not aware of the program.

Ridership Analysis – In response to Ms. Gerard's request for information on the recent decline in ridership, Mr. Miller provided an updated ridership trend analysis. This presentation was originally given to the Finance Committee in July. His presentation covered four areas: national trends, 2015 PSTA fare increase/service cuts, other local

factors, and silver linings. Mr. Miller also spoke about how to increase transit ridership in the future.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Chair Welch suggested that elections take place due to the fact that this will be his last meeting. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to nominate Mr. Deighton as Committee Chair. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fenger to nominate Ms. Gerard as Committee Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Johnson reported on stretcher transportation in Pinellas County, which no longer has to be by ambulance. She indicated that wheelchair providers will now be available for transporting people on stretchers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 AM. The next meeting will be held on October 19th at 10:30 AM.