



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 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 September 21, 2016 meeting minutes and the 2017 meeting schedule, as well as to recommend approval of the February 2017 service changes. The following members were present:

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

Absent

Patricia Johnson, Alternate

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Deighton opened the meeting at 10:34 AM.

PRESENTATION

St. Petersburg Homeless Leadership Presentation – Clifford Smith, Manager of Veterans, Social and Homeless Services, City of St. Petersburg, provided a presentation of homelessness and PSTA's impact. He reported that there are 6,307 homeless people in the county, with 62% of them in St. Petersburg. Mr. Smith described several homeless initiatives and partnerships with the City of St. Petersburg, the police, the Homeless Leadership Board, and human service organizations. He also talked about initiatives that PSTA is involved in such as conflict resolution meetings, innovative bus stop amenities,

and the monthly distribution of Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) bus passes. James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, and Ross Silvers, Mobility Manager, also added a few comments on how PSTA is partnering with the City of St. Petersburg to help with the homeless initiative. Ms. Rice mentioned PSTA's move out of Williams Park and Mr. Smith noted that the removal of the shelters shifted the homeless population to other areas. He stated his belief that the move from Williams Park was positive for the City of St. Petersburg.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes - Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice to approve the September 21st meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

2017 Meeting Schedule - Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to approve the meeting schedule for 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

February 2017 Service Changes – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented the proposed February 2017 service changes. She indicated that there will be two public hearings on October 24th to discuss the proposed changes – one in Safety Harbor and one in Dunedin. Ms. Borchers presented the incremental expansion of service, as well as frequency improvements. She also spoke about the elimination of the Safety Harbor Jolley Trolley route. Mr. Deighton expressed his concern about the Saturday late night service on Route 59, and Ms. Borchers explained that the time is flexible and may be changed. Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard to approve the February 2017 service changes. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEM

Clearwater Transit Improvements – Ms. Borchers presented an update on the Clearwater transit projects and how they relate to other partner projects. She spoke about the seven-day-a-week Trolley service to Clearwater Beach, noting that PSTA and the City of Clearwater have been working together on developing a bus bay and queue jump on Clearwater Beach. Ms. Borchers provided an update on the Clearwater Intermodal Center which will replace the Park Street transfer center. She said that the preferred site location is on the corner of Court and Myrtle Streets in downtown Clearwater, and indicated that this project is grant funded through the final design. Ms. Borchers stated that the goal is to

create a shovel-ready project for future grant opportunities. Another project that she provided an update on, is the Memorial Causeway Bridge bus way. She said there is a need for the Trolleys to have an exclusive lane and that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is reviewing options on the current bridge. Ms. Borchers reported that Forward Pinellas is working on a SR 60 Corridor Evaluation which includes the Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Airport (TIA) Express, bike/pedestrian access, complete streets, and enhancements to support transit. The Committee asked questions regarding timing and costs of the projects, which Ms. Borchers answered.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM. The next meeting will be held on November 16th at 10:30 AM.