



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2016**

The Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 4:00 PM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the February 16, 2016 meeting minutes, receive information on the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project schedule, a day in the life of a Bus Operator, and the 2016 service planning initiatives. The following members were present:

Elaine Mann, Committee Chair
Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Vice-Chair
Julie DiPietrantonio
David Kovar
Alejandra Mesa
Elisabeth Olden
Vivian Peters
Robyn Pierce
Kimberly Rankine
G.W. Rolle
David Schneider
Dave Stanton
Carson Zimmer

Absent:

Catherine Baranowski
Chelsea Schneiter
Christian Smith

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Mann opened the meeting at 4:04 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Committee Chair Mann asked Mr. Miller to summarize the activities at the February Board meeting. He said a Federal Legislative presentation was provided by Harry Glenn from Van Scoyoc, PSTA's government affairs group. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Glenn provided information on the Agency's Lo-No electric bus grant application and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application. Mr. Miller also said that Mark Aesch from TransPro summarized the findings of the Customer Satisfaction Survey.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Pierce made a motion, seconded by Ms. Olden to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Central Avenue BRT Project Schedule – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, reported that this project is one of PSTA's top priorities. She introduced Bonnie Epstein, Transit Planner, who provided a summary of accomplishments to date, scope of services, project budget, and the implementation schedule. The Committee had questions relating to coordinating the BRT with the trolley and regular bus schedules, the beach terminus location, and construction costs.

Day in the Life of a Bus Operator – Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation, provided a presentation explaining how PSTA's Bus Operators are extensively trained and what transpires during their shift. He then introduced three Bus Operators – Juanita Johnson (19 years of service), John Dixon (10 years), and Donnell Wilson (14 years), who each gave a lively description of their experiences as Bus Operators. After their presentations, they answered questions from the Committee.

2016 Service Planning Initiatives – Ms. Borchers reported that the Planning staff has begun early planning activities related to route improvements and other services throughout Pinellas County. She presented 13 initiatives that are currently in the works and indicated that there will be a big service change in October. She said the initiatives will be presented to the TRAC Committee as they start to be better developed. She explained in further detail a few of the initiatives that are currently being worked on and the next steps on those projects. Ms. Borchers answered numerous questions from the Committee members on the various projects.

Committee Chair Mann had a few closing statements. She urged the members that if they have concerns or questions of staff, to send an email. She also asked Mr. Miller to talk a little more about the Direct Connect program.

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 5:11 PM. The next meeting will be held on April 19th at 4:00 PM.