



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 30, 2017

The Legislative Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 2:30 PM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the January 4, 2017 meeting minutes and receive updates from PSTA's state and federal lobbyists. The following members were present:

Janet Long, Committee Chair
Patricia Johnson, Committee Vice-Chair
Charlie Justice (via telephone)

Absent

Doug Bevis
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman
Samantha Fenger, Alternate

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting Group
Natalie King, RSA Consulting Group
Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc
Channon Hanna, Van Scoyoc (via telephone)
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Long opened the meeting at 2:32 PM.

Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Committee Chair Long to allow Mr. Justice to participate by telephone. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

January 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Justice to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Upcoming Legislative Trips – Mr. Miller indicated that there will be a trip to Tallahassee on February 7-8 and five Board members are scheduled to attend. Ms. King provided details of the upcoming trip. She said she is scheduling time for the group with each of the delegation members while in Tallahassee as well as others including Steve Holmes, the Executive Director of the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Commission. Mr. Miller indicated that there will be another trip to Tallahassee on March 14th for the TD Day.

Mr. Miller also reported that the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) has decided not to join PSTA on the Tallahassee trip, although he believes that the HART Board will approve the PSTA-HART Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at their February meeting.

Mr. Miller noted there will be federal trips to Washington D.C. sometime in March or April and he will also be in Washington D.C. on March 12th for American Public Transportation Association (APTA) meetings. He said the April trip will be devoted to meeting with the Congressional delegation as well as other key Transportation Committee members.

Status of PSTA's 2017 State Legislative Priorities – Mr. Pierce gave an update on each of PSTA's four Legislative priorities: 1) Clearwater Beach to Tampa International Airport Express Bus, 2) TD Study recommendation review, 3) Clearwater Beach Causeway busway design funding, and 4) transmittal of PSTA-HART collaboration MOU. Mr. Miller provided more information on the TD study adding that it is currently being reviewed by Mr. Holmes. Ms. Johnson spoke about some misconceptions on the TD funding issue.

Mr. Pierce and Committee Chair Long spoke about the Tampa Bay Partnership, the possibility of a regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and possibly re-purposing the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA).

Updates on PSTA's 2017 Federal Priorities – Mr. Miller reported that staff had a great meeting last week in Atlanta with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Discussion took place regarding the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, PSTA's

continued applications for electric buses, and counting Uber rides toward federal ridership numbers.

Mr. Glenn introduced Ms. Hanna with Van Scoyoc and she provided a brief background about herself. Mr. Glenn gave an update on the Small Starts funding for the BRT project. He indicated that Congress will conclude 2017 appropriations work sometime in March or April, and suggested that a trip to Washington D.C. take place in April or May. Ms. Hanna provided her perspective on what is happening with the Tiger Grant and Capital Investment Grant programs. Mr. Glenn spoke about Committee appointments and noted that there will be a joint delegation meeting on February 21st and Congressman Crist is expected to attend.

[Ms. Long left the meeting at 3:23 PM and did not return.]

Mr. Glenn discussed counting Uber rides toward federal ridership numbers and suggested that PSTA meet with Uber representatives while in Washington D.C. Mr. Miller mentioned a video the Agency produced featuring TD riders and Mr. Glenn suggested that the video be shown to the administration in Washington D.C. Ms. Johnson added that people have been trained to work through social services programs, but cannot work because of lack of transportation and funding for the TD program. Mr. Glenn indicated that he is also monitoring the possible regulation regarding the consolidation of MPOs.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for March 1st at 9:00 AM.