



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 22, 2017**

The Planning Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) 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 January minutes and to elect committee officers.

The following members were present:

Pat Gerard, Committee Vice-Chair
Darden Rice

Absent:
Patricia Johnson

Also Present:
Brad Miller, CEO
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member
Joe Barkley, PSTA Board Member
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Vice Chair Gerard opened the meeting at 10:40 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

No vote was taken due to a lack of quorum.

INFORMATION ITEMS

FY 2018 Budget Calendar & Key Assumptions – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, gave an overview of the upcoming budget cycle and the decisions to be made to guide the budget development over the next few months. Key upcoming discussions internally and with the Board will include staffing adjustments and the capital plan. A draft budget will be available in June with time for refinements over the summer. Ms. Leous mentioned that health insurance is one of our highest costs and climbing. Staff will be exploring how to cut the escalation of costs through a new provider or self-insurance options. The Committee had questions relating to ad valorem taxes, PSTA fares, and plans to either increase or decrease staff for FY 2018 Finance staff.

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, updated the Committee on the Central Avenue BRT project and PSTA's plans to move toward being included in the detailed cross sections for segment. The Committee had questions relating to the BRT travel way, which will be a Business Access and Transit (BAT) lane. This will allow cars to make turns, but will allow only the bus to make the through movement. Ms. Sobush explained the uniqueness of the project is a left-side running, right-side boarding operation in the majority of the city of St. Petersburg with pedestrian connections to Central Ave itself.

Ms. Sobush explained that staff will need to look at relocating the bike lane in order to maintain the project. Ms. Sobush also discussed the advancement of the downtown Circulator Study, which is examining ways to improve getting around downtown. This would be directly affected by the Electric Bus Demonstration project and will directly affect where the charging stations would be located. Mr. Barkley asked questions relating to the charging stations for the two electric buses. Ms. Sobush assured Mr. Barkley that the charging stations would be strategically located and not interfere with pedestrian or vehicle traffic. The project team will be conducting additional public engagement in April and May 2017.

Project and Partner Updates – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, presented a brief overview of other projects and partnerships. These projects included: Meetings with Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Amenities Partnerships, Sandbox Paratransit Grant, and the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan. The Committee had questions relating to the purpose and timeline of the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan, the implications of the Central Avenue BRT being the only project in Tampa Bay to be under consideration for Federal Funding in 2018, and the role of Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority in the long term regional transit coordination efforts.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Committee will elect new officers at the April meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on April 19th at 10:30 AM.