



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES – APRIL 10, 2017**

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The Legislative Committee of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors held a meeting in the Auditorium at PSTA Headquarters at 1:00 PM on this date. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the March 1, 2017 meeting minutes, receive federal and state Legislature updates, and updates on the recent Legislative trips. The following members were present:

Janet Long, Committee Chair  
Charlie Justice - Alternate  
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Absent

Patricia Johnson, Committee Vice-Chair  
Doug Bevis  
Samantha Fenger

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO  
Bill Jonson, PSTA Board Member  
Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc  
Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc (via telephone)  
Channon Hanna, Van Scoyoc (via telephone)  
Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting Group (via telephone)  
Natalie King, RSA Consulting Group (via telephone)  
PSTA Staff Members

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Long opened the meeting at 1:05 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## ACTION ITEMS

March 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Mr. Justice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Bowman to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

Federal Issues, Delegation Visits – Mr. Glenn reported on visits to Washington DC in March and April, and the various meetings that took place. He also spoke about meetings with members of Congress and other Legislative staff, as well as Senators Nelson and Rubio.

It was noted that Senate Committee staff invited Mr. Miller to participate in a future roundtable discussion regarding PSTA's experience establishing and growing the Direct Connect service. Additionally, Mr. Glenn reported that Congressman Diaz Balart, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, requested that PSTA and the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) educate Florida's ten freshmen members of Congress about the impact the proposed budget cuts would have on Florida transit programs.

Mr. Palmer provided an update on the current status of the appropriations process for FY2017 and information on FY2018 appropriations.

Mr. Glenn discussed a letter sent to the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development signed by 33 Senators. They encouraged the Subcommittee to support investments in public transportation through robust funding of the FTA's Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. Mr. Miller presented a similar letter that will be signed by the PSTA Board of Directors. Mr. Justice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Bowman to recommend approval of sending the letter. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

State Legislature Update – Mr. Pierce reported that Senator Brandes has put \$100,000 into the budget for a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study for the bus lane on the Clearwater Memorial Bridge. Ms. King spoke about the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) study that was completed in December. Mr. Miller indicated that the study recommended Option 1, which is fairly neutral for PSTA. Miami-Dade, Lee, and Broward Counties would all see a reduction in funds. He said for that reason, the FPTA is supporting the study and Option 1, but will ask the Legislation to delay implementation for a year so that the issue of reimbursable funds could be examined and better clarified.

Mr. Pierce discussed the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) bill relating to re-organizing the agency. He said the House will probably hear this bill next week and then go to Senator Latvala's Appropriations Committee the following week.

### **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

Mr. Miller said that the May Legislative Committee meeting will have to be rescheduled.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 PM.