



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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**TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

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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 following members were present:

Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Chair  
Carson Zimmer, Vice-Chair  
Julie DiPietrantonio  
Teresa Dunphy  
John Estok  
David Kovar  
Richard McDaniel  
Alejandra Mesa  
Mark O'Hara  
Elisabeth Olden  
Tanya Pistillo  
Kimberly Rankine  
C. David Schneider  
Portia Smith  
Dave Stanton

Absent:

Gregory Hackley  
Christopher Talley

Also Present:

PSTA Staff Members

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Gloria Lepik-Corrigan opened the meeting at 4:05 PM.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**CHAIR'S REPORT** – Ms. Lepik-Corrigan reported to the Committee on the highlights of the PSTA Board Meeting held on January 25th: The Action items included a PSTA-HART Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an update on the Central Avenue BRT Alignment; including a recommendation to the Board to approve the western terminus to be in St. Pete Beach. Cassandra Borchers also presented a revised scope for a \$980,000 FDOT Service Development grant which will be applied toward the new evening and weekend service that began February 5th.

After the Chair's report, the Committee had a brief discussion about better coordination with Forward Pinellas. Several members of TRAC are also members of the Forward Pinellas Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The Committee agreed that complementary projects and initiatives should be reported at TRAC. Mr. Zimmer serves on both Committees and will give an informal update of CAC's activities at future meetings. This will allow TRAC the opportunity to identify areas for potential cooperation.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Minutes – Mr. O'Hara made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rankine to approve the minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Electric Bus Pilot Program – Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, gave an informative presentation about the recommended purchase of two electric buses and charging systems from BYD for a pilot program. The Committee had questions relating to the cost savings potential, the cost of repair, the rate of charging the battery at PSTA versus the strategically placed on-route wireless inductive battery plates, and where the electric buses would run. The buses would operate the pilot program route in downtown St. Petersburg. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Zimmer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rankine to recommend approval of the electric bus contract. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Dunphy entered the meeting at 4:40 PM during Mr. Lukasik's presentation]

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2017 TRAC Member Ideas and Initiatives – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, and Ms. Lepik-Corrigan led a discussion reviewing ideas submitted by TRAC members for possible future information and action items for 2017 TRAC agendas. Three of the most popular topics for future discussion included: understanding the regional governance studies and implications of regional efforts on PSTA, transit safety and how public art could be incorporated into transit amenities, and how ridership and other performance metrics are being factored into PSTA's strategic plan. The Committee members were asked to give their top two areas of interest which were noted on easel pads. At next month's meeting, the Committee will receive a compilation and ranking of the feedback received from TRAC members. By consensus, the Committee will select the top three areas of interest to present as information items at future meetings. The Committee will also select two main projects to accomplish this year.

Ms. Borchers mentioned that the TRAC Committee will be invited to attend a Spring Break event on Clearwater Beach on March 2nd that will announce PSTA's free rides to the beach for Spring Break 2017. Free rides are from February 24 to April 30.

## **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM. The next meeting will be held on March 21nd at 4:00 PM.