



April Board Meeting
Friday, April 23, 2021 – 10:00 AM
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
3201 Scherer Drive
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Jim Holton
Cliff Manuel, Jr
Commissioner Janet Long
Mayor Rick Kriseman
Rich McClain
Commissioner Pat Kemp
Commissioner Kathryn Starkey
Commissioner Rene Flowers
David Gwynn
L.K. Nandam
Alan Zimmet
David Green
TBARTA staff

HILLSBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION AWARDS PRESENTATION

We were presented with two awards from the Hillsborough Planning Commission, the Award of Merit and the Award of Excellence. Both were for the work done on Envision 2030.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approve February Board Meeting Minutes

Reaffirm Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership

Motion made by Commissioner Long, Seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Voting Yea: Jim Holton, Commissioner Long, Mayor Kriseman, Rich McClain, Commissioner Kemp, Commissioner Starkey, Commissioner Flowers, Cliff Manuel.

Motion passes 8-0.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – BILL ROBERTS

The CAC received an update from WSP on the RRT project status. There were some constructive comments from committee members regarding the cost/number of the stations, ridership numbers and time frame being driving factors.

TRANSIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – KURT SCHEIBLE

The TMC had a good discussion from Via on micro-transit. They discussed the benefits of TD Tampa Bay and the upcoming renewal for application, and also had a discussion regarding regional ADA service.

2015 EXPRESS BUS SERVICE UPDATE – SCOTT PRINGLE

At the February meeting the Board requested the consultant complete additional analysis of a 2015 study and provide comparisons to the RRT project prior to approving a locally preferred alternative. This presentation included an update of the 2015 study that proposed express buses operating in express lanes, and connecting the three counties of Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas. It also included possible convertibility of the project from express lanes to dedicated transit lanes in the future. Three alternatives were developed: 6a (general purpose lanes from SR 56 to the Howard Frankland Bridge/express lanes across the bridge to St. Petersburg); 6b (general purpose lanes from SR 56 to downtown Tampa/express lanes from downtown Tampa to downtown St. Petersburg), and; 7 (dedicated freeway BRT lanes/express lanes across the Howard Frankland Bridge). The analysis also included reducing the number of stations from 13 to 6. A motion was made to bring back analysis of two additional alternatives in May: one alternative consisting of bus on hardened shoulder lanes from Pasco county to downtown Tampa, then transitioning to express lanes from downtown Tampa to downtown St. Petersburg; and another alternative consisting of bus on hardened shoulder lanes from Pasco county to downtown Tampa, then transitioning to express lanes from downtown Tampa to the Gateway area of Pinellas, then to a hardened shoulder from Gateway to downtown St. Petersburg. In addition, Commissioner Long asked to see projections of ridership, travel time and cost alternatives that do not require the construction of transit lanes in the median of I-275 from downtown Tampa to Westshore in order to maximize leverage of FDOT's investment in this corridor and begin construction and operation of the project as efficiently and affordably as possible. Staff was also asked to work with Commissioner Kemp on an express bus alternative that would be acceptable to Hillsborough County.

Motion made by Commissioner Long, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

Voting Yea: Jim Holton, Commissioner Long, Mayor Kriseman, Rich McClain, Commissioner Starkey, Commissioner Flowers, Cliff Manuel.

Voting Nay: Commissioner Kemp.

Motion passes 7-1.

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – COMMISSIONERS LONG & STARKEY

Federal Legislative Update (Harry Glenn and Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc)

Negotiations are continuing on Biden's infrastructure legislation. In March the President released a \$2.25 trillion dollar infrastructure package. This 8-year package would be financed by increasing the federal corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%. Republicans are discussing a \$600-800 billion dollar alternative package. This would be a 5-year bill and increases fees on airport passengers and

port fees. It also includes a fee derived from vehicle driven miles. DOT has confirmed Polly Trottenberg as Secretary. In addition, they released a notice of funding opportunity for the RAISE grants program. This \$1 billion dollar program is available for regional transportation projects. It has awarded \$9 million in 10 years, and carries a 7% success rate for an award. On April 9th, the President released his FY2022 budget request which included \$25.6 billion for federal transportation programs.

State Legislative Update (Ron Pierce, RSA)

Our \$1.5m appropriation is now in both the House and Senate budgets. These funds would be non-recurring and come from the transportation trust fund. RSA will begin to work on a veto strategy with the Governor's office. Our bill enabling act language has been included in both the House and Senate packages. Senator Brandes added language to the amendment in the DOT package to dissolve TBARTA, however it was withdrawn.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – COMMISSIONER LONG

March Financials (Melonie Williams)

Year to date through the month of March, the net surplus of \$383,000 was \$56,000 under the budget of \$439,000. On the revenue and expense side we were under budget due to the timing of the PD&E study and the technology project. At the end of March there was approximately \$618,000 in the bank.

Commuter Vanpool Services Contract Amendment (Diane Durr)

On June 22, 2018, the Board approved the original contract for vanpool services with Enterprise. The agreement was structured with a two-year base term and renewal options for three additional one-year periods. This will be the second renewal and effective July 1, 2021. The subsidy remains \$400 per month per vehicle. Projected expenses were approved in the FY 2021 operating budget and will be included in the FY 2022 budget.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Long, Seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Voting Yea: Jim Holton, Cliff Manuel, Commissioner Long, Mayor Kriseman, Rich McClain, Commissioner Starkey, Commissioner Flowers.

Motion passes 7-0.

Pinellas Aerial Gondola Feasibility Study (Brian Pessaro)

A recommendation for a one-year contract was presented for SJI alliance in the amount of \$779k to conduct a study of possible aerial gondola corridors in Pinellas County. This contract will be funded with remaining funds from the Innovative Transit Solutions public transportation grant agreement (Grant G1C05). In July 2020, TBARTA completed the Innovative Transit Technologies Study, which examined air taxis, hyperloop, and aerial gondolas. At the August 2020 meeting, the Board directed staff to coordinate with Forward Pinellas on next steps for an aerial gondola study per the ITTS recommendation.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Long, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.
Voting Yea: Jim Holton, Cliff Manuel, Commissioner Long, Mayor Kriseman, Rich McClain,
Commissioner Starkey, Commissioner Flowers.

Motion passes 7-0.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT – RICH MCCLAIN

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Update (Brian Pessaro)

An update to the 2021 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) was presented with two minor edits. The performance metrics table for the vanpool program has been updated to add 2020 data, and references to the “Director of Commuter Services” have been changed to “Manager of Commuter Services.”

Motion to approve made by Mayor Kriseman, Seconded by Rich McClain.
Voting Yea: Jim Holton, Cliff Manuel, Commissioner Long, Mayor Kriseman, Rich McClain,
Commissioner Starkey, Commissioner Flowers.

Motion passes 7-0.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Holton thanked Cliff Manuel for his role in helping to secure funding at the Senate level. He hopes we can build some consensus on this Board within the different counties regardless of our differences of opinion. This Board's purpose is to promote regional travel.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

TBARTA held an Earth day event in Manatee with Commute Connector to raise awareness of transportation options available to businesses and their employees.

Melonie has been working with CLA on the FY2020 audit. The final report will be presented at the May Board meeting.

We are working with UZURV on the next funding application. The initial funding only goes through June 30th. We are looking to expand access south to Sarasota per Manatee county residents. The midyear performance report has been completed and the results will be presented at the May Policy Committee meeting.

We have added new staff reports to agenda. They will be included every month as information only items.

****NEXT BOARD MEETING****

May 21, 2021 – 10:00 AM

PSTA Board Room

3201 Scherer Drive

St. Petersburg, FL 33716

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