



February Board Meeting
Friday, February 19, 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 Reggie Bellamy
Commissioner Rene Flowers
Secretary Gwynn
Nichole Mills (Secretary Nandam)
Jennifer Cowen
David Green
TBARTA Staff

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

Commissioner Karen Seel

The Governing Board presented Commissioner Karen Seel with Resolution 2021-01 in appreciation of her service to TBARTA. In addition to serving on the Board, she served as an alternate member of the Legislative, Finance and Policy Committees, and also served on the Ad Hoc Executive Director Search Committee. During her tenure, she actively participated in framing the goals, direction, and programs of the agency.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Approve October/November/January Meeting Minutes

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

Motion passes 9-0.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – BILL ROBERTS

The CAC expresses their support for legislation allowing a virtual quorum, the RFQ issued for the gondola project, reinstating funding for Westshore interchange. Chair Roberts thanked the Board for the action on the Transit worker proclamations.

TRANSIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – KURT SCHEIBLE

The Committee meetings are well attended and always have a quorum. They received a briefing from VIA (Micro-transit) along with updates on regional ADA service and TD Tampa Bay successes.

RRT MILESTONE #3: LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – BRIAN PESSARO

Milestone #3 requires Board approval of the LPA (locally preferred alternative) to move the project forward. Alternative #3 was recommended and highlighted as the most competitive mid-level investment at \$353 million dollars. This option includes dedicated freeway BRT lanes, except across the Howard Frankland bridge where express lanes would be utilized. The project schedule follows that of the TBNext program. Next steps include completing NEPA to be considered "shovel worthy" for future stimulus packages, continuing to follow FDOT/TBNext work programs to determine timing for FTA CIG applications, and defining the operating plan and costs. Staff recommended Alternate #3 as the locally preferred alternative.

After much discussion, a motion was made to develop one additional alternative for consideration: An update of the 2015 express bus service plan connecting Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas. This update will be presented at the April Board meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Long, Seconded by Cliff Manuel, Jr.

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

Motion passes 9-0.

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – COMMISSIONERS LONG & STARKEY

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

Congress is working to get the fifth COVID relief package approved the first week in March totaling about \$1.9 trillion. The package includes \$30 billion for transit agencies. The House/Senate appropriation committees are going to bring back the process known as congressional earmark spending (community projects - new term). It will only be available to public entities and non-profit institutions, which would include TBARTA. The House appropriations process is set to start after the President's budget recommendation which comes out in April. The President is also set to discuss the infrastructure bill at the state of the union address in March. We understand that the bill could range from \$2 to \$4 trillion and would be offset by tax increases. Surface transportation will be a major part

of that with \$105 billion over five years for public transit including significant increases for buses.

State Legislative Update (Ron Pierce, RSA)

RSA met with Senator Brandes regarding SB1130. He is still moving forward with the bill, but there is not a lot of support. It was referenced yesterday at Senate Transportation Committee. At the moment there is still no companion House bill sponsor. At this time, RSA thinks it would be prudent to not move forward with an appropriations request based upon where we are. The challenge will be the financial implications on the operating side. A motion was made to affirm support of the mission, goals, and objectives of TBARTA. In addition, staff will schedule a joint meeting between the Board and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council based on a recommendation from the emergency Legislative/Policy meeting that took place on February 12.

Motion made by Commissioner Long, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

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

Motion passes 8-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – COMMISSIONER LONG

January Financials (Melonie Williams)

Year to date through the month of January, the net surplus of \$380,000 was \$92,000 under the budget of \$472,000. On the revenue and expense side we were under budget due to the timing of the PD&E study and the technology project along. At the end of January there was approximately \$736,900 in the bank. Commissioner Long recommended that the Committee come up with a study/financial plan to cover the finances through 2022 and if agreed upon withdrawal our \$1.5m appropriation request. Due to this new initiative, we will schedule a joint Finance/Policy Committee meeting for March.

Commuter Services Ad Campaign (Chris Jadick)

As FDOT district seven's provider of commuter services, TBARTA is the recipient of a \$350,000 grant to support vanpooling in Hillsborough County. Per the grant agreement, funds will be used to maintain and expand TBARTA's regional vanpool program. 75% (\$262,500) is specifically designated for marketing through "Employer and Community Outreach" with half of that (\$131,250) budgeted for FY 2021. Staff presented a purchase order in the amount of \$101,500 for Clear Channel Outdoor to market vanpool services in Hillsborough County. This will cover an 8-week billboard and digital ad campaign.

Motion made by Commissioner Flowers, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

TBARTA PSTA MOU for AVA Shuttle (Brian Pessaro)

This MOU covers a funding partnership with PSTA for AVA shuttle demonstrations. The demonstrations will take place in Downtown Dunedin from April to June and in Clearwater Beach from July to September. PSTA will release a solicitation for these two demonstrations in February. As a funding partner, TBARTA will contribute up to \$400,000 in FTA Section 5307 funds. This is in-line with TBARTA's Envision 2030 plan, which includes a policy recommendation to, "advance new and emerging transit technologies". More specifically it recommends, that TBARTA "demonstrate and advance new and emerging transit technologies such as Autonomous, Connected, Electric, and Shared (ACES) vehicles".

Motion made by Commissioner Flowers, Seconded by Mayor Kriseman.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT – RICH MCCLAINTransit Worker Proclamations (Chris DeAnnuntis)

Based on a recommendation from the TBARTA Citizens Advisory Committee, a proclamation was presented to publicly recognize the five transit agencies in the TBARTA region (TheBus, PCPT, PSTA, HART, MCAT) for providing essential transportation services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion made by Commissioner Starkey, Seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

DBE Program and Goal (Diane Durr)

As a Recipient of Department of Transportation Funds and in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulation (Title 49 CFR Part 26) TBARTA is required to have a DBE Program in the administration of its contracts. The Program requires the establishment of goals ranging from 1-10% on a triennial basis, which represents a percentage of the federal funds expended by the organization. The calculation to determine the goal ratio is based on the number of DBE contractors who are able and willing to participate in DOT-assisted contracts (based on the solicitation). Staff recommends a program goal of 2% for FYs 21-23. The DBE Program is designed to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts in the highway, transit, and airport assisted programs. DBE Programs also serve as a mechanism to create a level playing field in which minority and disadvantaged enterprises can compete fairly for contracts funded with DOT dollars. Due to the timing of this item a motion to table until the next meeting was made.

Motion made by Cliff Manuel, Jr, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CAC appointments need to be reaffirmed at the April Board meeting. Staff will work on filling vacancies prior to the meeting.

We are continuing to work with NASA on a model to identify air taxi vertiport locations. In addition, we are participating in an urban air policy collaborative. This five-month long program is administered by CAMI and includes agencies from around the country.

The interest in TD Tampa Bay ridership continues to grow. In January we completed 260 trips, four time over number in December. Medical and employment appointments make up 56%, 20% for social reasons and 6% for education.

****NEXT BOARD MEETING****

April 23, 2021 – 10:00 AM

HART Board Room

1201 E. 7th Avenue - 3rd Floor

Tampa, FL 33605

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority meetings are open to the public. If a decision made at a meeting is appealable, any person who decides to appeal will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in a Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by calling 1(800) 998-7433. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800) 955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800) 955-8770 (Voice).