



**August Board Meeting**  
**Friday, August 06, 2021 – 9:00 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  
Mayor Jane Castor  
Mayor Rick Kriseman  
Rich McClain  
Commissioner Kathryn Starkey  
Commissioner Rene Flowers  
David Gwynn  
L.K. Nandam  
Alan Zimmet  
David Green  
TBARTA staff

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

(Rick Homans, President/CEO Tampa Bay Partnership – via email) As the Board of TBARTA convenes Friday to select a preferred alternative for the Regional Rapid Transit project, I would like to, on behalf of the Tampa Bay Partnership and its business leaders, offer a few observations and a specific recommendation. First, we want to underscore the significance of this regional transit project. This project will enable our residents to access jobs, education, and healthcare throughout Tampa Bay. Experts at the USF Muma College of Business have identified improved transit as a key driver to improve our region's low performance in poverty, income inequality, economic mobility, unemployment, and gross regional product per capita. By advancing this project, you can take a bold step towards making Tampa Bay more competitive with our peer communities in the U.S. Second, the Partnership has consistently advocated for a regional transit project that provides a relatively fast, reliable, and predictable way to connect our county transit agencies and key activity centers in Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties. The Tampa Bay Partnership has funded and produced research on best practices for transit-oriented development. We've also undertaken significant research to model the impact of improved transit on access to jobs in our region, finding that the Regional Rapid Transit project enhances job access to a greater extent than other premium transit projects underway in Tampa Bay.

As you consider the numerous options for Regional Rapid Transit, we recommend you select Alternative 8B. This alternative uses a combination of expanded, hardened, and dedicated shoulder lanes and FDOT's planned express lanes to provide the reliability and predictability the project needs to attract "choice" riders. Alternative 8B connects nine activity centers in the three counties and TBARTA can easily upgrade the quality of its stations and bus fleet in future years to meet the "Gold Standard" of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP). Alternative 8B also presents a cost-effective and competitive approach to Tampa Bay's first regional premium transit project. It has a projected capital cost of \$207 million with annual operating expenses of \$7.66 million, giving it a cost per rider of \$8.37. Guidelines for federal funding identify passenger costs of \$10 or less as highly competitive. We encourage TBARTA to think creatively and aggressively when it comes to funding, and we hope that the State of Florida will play a significant role, as it has done in Central Florida and South Florida with SunRail and Tri-Rail. The State of Florida has provided hundreds of millions of dollars of support to these sister regions as they advanced their signature regional transit projects – now, it's time for the State of Florida to do the same for Tampa Bay. We can think of numerous ways by which FDOT could participate, including toll revenues from Express Lanes, revenue from Documentary Stamp tax collections, Strategic Intermodal System funding, and the federal infrastructure bill. We know that FDOT is considering ways in which it can play a more meaningful role helping key Florida metro areas advance regional transit, with both capital and operating costs, and we believe the Regional Rapid Transit could provide a model example for increased state and federal funding. Finally, we want to commend the Florida DOT for its support of the regional rapid transit project, as well as WSP for its project planning and support. We also want to express our gratitude to the staff and Board of TBARTA for its dedication to this important work. We appreciate your consideration of our recommendation to adopt Alternative 8B as the preferred alternative for the Regional Rapid Transit project.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### Approve April, May, July Board Meeting Minutes

Motioned made Rich McClain, Seconded by Cliff Manuel, Jr.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

### Approve Manatee County CAC Appointment

The Governing Board unanimously voted to approve Corinne Tucker as the Manatee County Citizens Advisory Committee member. She currently works as a multi-modal planner at the Sarasota/Manatee MPO.

Motion made by Commissioner Flowers, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

### FY 2020 Audit

The Governing Board unanimously voted to approve the fiscal year 2020 audit report completed by CliftonLarsonAllen for the year ending September 30, 2020. TBARTA received an unmodified opinion stating that the financial statements were fairly presented. There were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies regarding internal controls over compliance. There were no financial statement findings or management comments.

Motion made by Rich McClain, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

#### Amended Bylaws

The Governing Board unanimously voted to approve the third amendment to the TBARTA bylaws. Updates include allowing a simple majority of Board members to act on an item versus seven, the Tampa and St. Petersburg mayors may designate alternates to represent them at meetings, the CCC was removed as a TBARTA committee, and the Polk TPO's position on the CAC was removed.

Motion made by Cliff Manuel, Jr, Seconded by Rich McClain.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

#### **CAC REPORT**

Bill Roberts updated the Board on the following actions that were taken at the June Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting.

- Approval to revisions of the CAC bylaws.
- Approval to meet on a monthly basis for the remainder of 2021.
- Approved a motion unanimously asking the Board to take all necessary steps to receive additional funding for TD Tampa Bay. This is a regional project and serves a volatile population.
- The Committee voted 7-2 recommending that the Board start with Alt. 6a due to future convertibility and move to Alt. 8c or better as each phase becomes available.

#### **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

##### FY 2022 Budget (Melonie Williams)

The Governing Board voted to unanimously approve the fiscal year 2022 budget. The capital budget is \$504,714 funded by an FTA Section 5307 grant passed through to TBARTA from PSTA and includes a US19 BRT Feasibility Study and other related studies. The \$3.8 million operating budget is supportive of TBARTA's mission and includes resources to support the organization, the Commuter Assistance Program, and planning work to continue our transit vision for Tampa Bay. Key highlights of the FY 2022 budget include:

- Continued Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) funding support from FDOT that assumes increased participation in the van pool program.
- Completion of the Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) work for the 41-mile BRT.
- Completion of the Pinellas Aerial Gondola Feasibility Study.
- Partner contributions remain the same to continue establishing an operating reserve.
- Revenues will exceed expenses by \$385k, allowing for a thirty-six-day operating reserve.
- Salary assumptions include a 3% maximum merit-based increase.

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

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

Motion passes 7-0.

#### BMO Annual Performance Review (David Green)

The Governing Board voted to unanimously approve continuing the professional legal services agreement with BMO, whose performance and compensation must be reviewed each year. Staff is fully satisfied with BMO's performance and the approval includes an increase of \$5 per attorney hour effective August 1, 2021. This brings the new hourly rate to \$255 with all other hourly rates remaining unchanged. The original contract was awarded on August 3, 2018, and either party may terminate it for any reason.

Motion made by Commissioner Flowers, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

#### RRT Locally Preferred Alternative (Brian Pessaro)

After much deliberation, The Governing Board unanimously voted to approve a modified version of Alternative 8c with the addition of dedicated freeway BRT lanes from Bearss Ave to Wesley Chapel (SR56 and SR54). The LPA includes 9 stations and will operate in dedicated freeway BRT lanes from Pasco to downtown Tampa, mixed traffic to Westshore, express bus lanes to Gateway, and dedicated BRT lanes to St. Petersburg. Board member feedback is provided below.

- Secretary Gwynn stated that FDOT wants to support a project that is competitive for federal funding and supports the region. In the TBNNext project, segments have features built in to accommodate a service like the RRT. The Hillsborough TPO voted to remove any improvements from Hillsborough Avenue north up to Bearss. This would have to be added back into the priority list in order to be included on the RRT project.
- Mayor Castor brought up concerns on the schedule and how it would impact the streetcar project.
- Commissioner Starkey had concerns on alternative 8c, stating that there are no benefits to Pasco residents. They would pay as much as Hillsborough residents and have to be in mixed traffic. She leaned more towards 8b. Scott Pringle informed the Board that it would cost roughly \$30-40 million to add the express lanes in Pasco.

- Mayor Kriseman reminded the Board that this is a regional project so all counties should pay for dedicated lanes. He preferred alternative 8b but questioned the convertibility if we went with 8c.
- Cliff Manuel reminded the Board that they are voting on a TBARTA RRT option and need to move forward. He preferred that we tweak alternative 8c to include the \$30 million to extend the RRT into Pasco and Hernando.
- Jim Holton preferred alternative 8c.

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

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

Motion passes 7-0.

#### US 19 BRT Feasibility Study (Brian Pessaro)

The Governing Board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to issue a task work order to WSP for a US 19 Regional Rapid Transit Feasibility Study. This study will evaluate the feasibility of a freeway-based bus rapid transit (BRT) service transitioning to an arterial based BRT service on US 19 in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. The study area includes the US 19 corridor from State Road 52 in Pasco County to Ulmerton Road in Pinellas County, as well as a portion of Pinellas Gateway area located to the east of US 19. The final report will include a 10% Conceptual Design of the preferred alignment, preliminary station locations, a preliminary concept of operations, and preliminary capital and operating costs divided by county. The fee for the study is \$327,492 and is included in the FY 2022 operating budget

Motion made by Commissioner Starkey, Seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

#### Regional Mobility-on-Demand Feasibility Study (Bill Ball, Tindale Oliver)

The Governing Board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to issue a task work order to WSP for a Regional Mobility-on-Demand Feasibility Study. This study will evaluate the feasibility of regional on-demand shared-ride mobility service to connect persons to the regional transit network. The overarching concept is to target and serve mobility markets that largely straddle county boundaries with the intent to attract and connect riders to regional and local transit services. The final report will include the purpose of the feasibility study, describe each defined on-demand zone and the associated on-demand operating concepts, and document the findings and feasibility recommendations for each zone. The feasibility study is expected to take four months to complete and will be performed by Tindale Oliver as a subconsultant from the WSP project team. The fee for the study is \$84,911 and is included in the FY 2022 operating budget.

Motion made by Commissioner Starkey, Seconded by Rich McClain.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

Election of Board Officers (Alan Zimmet)

**Chair Cliff Manuel, Jr.**

Motion made by Commissioner Flowers, Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

**Vice Chair Commissioner Starkey**

Motion made by Commissioner Flowers, Seconded by Rich McClain.

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

Motion passes 7-0.

**Secretary Treasurer Commissioner Flowers**

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

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

Motion passes 7-0.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as Chair for the last four years. He emphasized that we are here to deliver a good product for all of the people in this area to get around in a seamless way. Let's try to deliver this.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Thanked Chair Holton for his leadership.

He provided a follow up on the regional TDP annual report update from last month. We added a new call to action under the policy action recommendation due to sustainability and resiliency being a priority for the current administration. The updated report will be forwarded to FDOT next week.

We are currently working on possible dates for a strategic planning workshop request with Commissioner Long's office.

Met with the Executive Director of the Regional Planning Counsel to discuss a joint meeting. He is very open to it but wants to better understand the goal. Their Board meets the second Monday of each month, and any meeting would need to take place then.

Met with staff at FDOT, the Hillsborough TPO, and PSTA to discuss a regional transport summit. We will need to define what we want to accomplish in order to come up with an agenda. After completed we will share more information. Commissioner Starkey recommended discussing the BRT plan, microtransit, fixed guideway, and possible Liliium partnership. FDOT Secretary David Gwynn recommended discussing the benefits of regional cooperation.

**\*\*NEXT BOARD MEETING\*\***

**September 24, 2021 – 10:00 AM**

**PSTA Board Room**

**3201 Scherer Drive**

**St. Petersburg, FL 33716**

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).