



**July Policy Committee Meeting**  
Friday, July 15, 2022 – 9:30 AM

Virtual

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**REVISED AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Persons wishing to address the Board can do so in either of two ways:*

*A. Comments no more than 400 words may be sent to [publiccomment@TBARTA.com](mailto:publiccomment@TBARTA.com) and will be read into the record. Written comments must be received no later than the day before the meeting. Comments must include the name, address, organization and topic or agenda item.*

*B. See staff prior to the meeting to complete a comment card. You will be able to provide comment for three (3) minutes when recognized.*

- 4. ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND FUTURE APPROVAL**
  - A. May Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
- 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
  - A. CSX Corridor Assessment (Brian Pessaro)
  - B. State Funding Veto (David Green)
- 6. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*NEXT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING\*\***

**August 26, 2022 – 9:30 AM**

**Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority**

**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).



**May Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, May 27, 2022 – 9:30 AM**  
**Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority**  
**3201 Scherer Drive**  
**St. Petersburg, FL 33716**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

Commissioner Janet Long  
Commissioner Kathryn Starkey  
Commissioner Jeff Holcomb  
Commissioner Rene Flowers  
Commissioner Kimberly Overman (virtual)  
Cliff Manuel, Jr.  
Secretary David Gwynn  
Executive Director David Green  
Legal Counsel Jennifer Cowan  
TBARTA Staff

**ABSENT**

Jim Holton

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Approve April Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the April Policy Committee Meeting minutes made by Commissioner Flowers.  
Seconded by Commissioner Long. Motion passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS**

DBE Program and Goal

Al Burns from PSTA provided an overview of TBARTA's proposed DBE Program and Goal.

DBE Programs are required by grant recipients with federal contract awards greater than \$250,000 in a fiscal year. 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. After evaluating upcoming procurements, staff recommends a program goal of 2% for FYs 2022-2024.

Commissioner Flowers asked for clarification about how the percentage will grow through the years. Mr. Burns advised that the DBE goal would increase as the agency and its procurements grow.

Commissioner Holcomb asked what type of DBE companies TBARTA would contract with. Mr. Burns advised that there are a lot of disciplines in the areas of engineering and planning.

Motion to approve the DBE Program and triennial goal of 2% made by Commissioner Flowers. Seconded by Commissioner Long. Motion passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### State Legislative Update

Ron Pierce with RSA reported that special session ended last night. There is no update on the budget process but he expects Governor DeSantis to receive the budget within the next week or two.

The Tampa Bay Partnership provided a Letter of Support for TBARTA's funding with approximately 13 other organizations. All letters were sent to the Governor's office. TBARTA CAC members also sent letters of support. There is strong support for the TD Tampa Bay program.

Mr. Manuel asked for clarification on the state funding source. Mr. Pierce advised that in prior years TBARTA received funds from the transportation trust fund. This year the funding would come from non-recurring general revenue.

### Federal Legislative Update

Harry Glenn with Van Scoyoc Associates reported the House and Senate are both in recess for Memorial Day. Congress, however, is preparing for FY23 appropriations and he anticipates work being complete by December, if not September. Veronica Vanterpool was appointed FTA Deputy Administrator in May 2022 and the Administration continues to roll out new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant programs. He also reported on Congressional redistricting and the impact it will have in Tampa Bay.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Brian Pessaro provided an update on the CSX Corridor Passenger Rail Study. Staff is working with Al Burns (PSTA) on the procurement with a goal of advertising the Request for Proposals (RFP) in mid-June and awarding a contract at the August Board meeting.

The study will answer four questions:

- How much will it cost to upgrade the Brooksville/Clearwater subdivisions?
- What is recommended passenger rail project?
- What are the upfront capital costs required to implement the project?
- How much will it cost annually to operate and maintain the passenger rail service.

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In January 2022, FDOT met with CSX to explore the possibility of purchasing the Brooksville and Clearwater subdivisions for passenger rail. At that meeting, CSX informed FDOT that they were not interested in selling the subdivisions, but might be interested in leasing them. In May, FDOT had a follow-up meeting with CSX officials, who stated that now is not an appropriate time to discuss passenger rail because they plan to increase their freight rail operations in Florida. Mr. Pessaro stated that CSX expressed a willingness to speak to Tampa Bay area elected officials in either late summer or early fall to make their position clear.

Secretary Gywnn reiterated that CSX was direct about not wanting to consider use of the Brooksville and Clearwater tracks for passenger rail at this time, as they are currently negotiating with Amtrak for passenger rail between New Orleans and Mobile. Those negotiations might be finished by fall, at which time there may be a clearer picture of what passenger rail possibilities exist in Tampa Bay. He added that CSX will mostly determine what upgrades will be needed to the tracks to accommodate passenger rail. If leasing the tracks is the only option CSX will consider, the majority of the funding responsibility would fall on local agencies and not the state.

Commissioner Long asked how much the study will cost. Mr. Pessaro stated he was hesitant to discuss price so as not to influence bids. Commissioner Long replied she cannot not support moving forward without knowing the cost, especially since CSX is not a willing partner.

Commissioner Long commented that public trust and confidence is an issue. It is unreasonable to start a project by leasing tracks. Commissioner Long does not believe the project will qualify for state or federal funds if CSX retains ownership.

Due to time constraints and the need to begin the Board meeting, Committee Chair Starkey suggested continuing the discussion of this topic during the Board meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Policy Committee meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

### **\*\*NEXT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING\*\***

**July 15, 2022 – 9:30 AM**

**FDOT District 7**

**11201 N. McKinley Drive**

**Tampa, FL 33612**

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