



WATERBORNE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

August 27, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.

Florida Botanical Gardens; Magnolia Room
12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33774

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

COMMITTEE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Forward Pinellas Staff have developed the following recommendations for consideration by the Waterborne Transportation Committee:

- The Forward Pinellas Waterborne Transportation Committee recommends the establishment of a sustainable funding strategy that uses federal and state grants to support waterborne service development and expansion as an integrated component of the public transportation system. The funding strategy will require local operating commitments and a match for capital grants, which is a condition for expanding service. Identification of viable funding options will be facilitated through continued coordination with federal, state, regional and local government partners. The Committee requests that Forward Pinellas authorize staff to secure local government funding commitments from participating local entities to receive future waterborne transportation service.
- The Forward Pinellas Waterborne Transportation Committee recommends that the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority serve as the administrative and contracting entity for waterborne transportation service within Pinellas County. PSTA is an eligible recipient of federal, state, and local funds, enabling the agency to contract with one or more private operators for service delivery.
- The Forward Pinellas Waterborne Transportation Committee recommends a phased approach to the incorporation of routes that will increase intermodal connectivity between the beach communities and mainland. Identified routes will be strategic and based on the needs of residents, employees, and tourists. Determination of feasibility will be based on funding availability and a multi-year commitment; operational and infrastructure cost estimates; and ridership forecasts for proposed routes identified in the systemwide plan. Prioritization will be based on evaluation criteria previously identified by the Committee.
- The Forward Pinellas Waterborne Transportation Committee recommends continued monitoring and reporting of waterborne transportation services and their cost-effectiveness through staff coordination efforts. These continued efforts will play a key role in implementation of a systemwide plan for waterborne transportation services throughout the County. The goal is to create an integrated transportation network that provides quick, accessible, and reliable service for the entire County.

Please provide any comments on the above recommendations by **Friday, September 10th**. Please send any comments to Christina Mendoza, at cmendoza@forwardpinellas.org.