



**FORWARD
PINELLAS**
Integrating Land Use & Transportation



Waterborne Transportation Committee Recommendations

Forward Pinellas Board Meeting
March 9, 2022

Committee Charge and Purpose

Charge:

The goal of the Forward Pinellas Waterborne Transportation Committee is to support the success and expansion of the waterborne transportation system within Pinellas County.

Purpose:

Discuss the role of the public sector in providing continuing support for the development, operation and monitoring/reporting of waterborne transportation services.



Source: <https://thecrossbayferry.com/>



Source: <https://www.clearwaterferry.com/>



Waterborne Committee: Key Actions

- Reviewed existing service and future service
- Identified system plan vision
- Developed cost estimates and ridership
- Developed restart of service plan
- Developed waterborne policy for route phasing
- Developed revised LRTP waterborne section
- Developed recommendations to FP Board





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Advantage Pinellas Updates

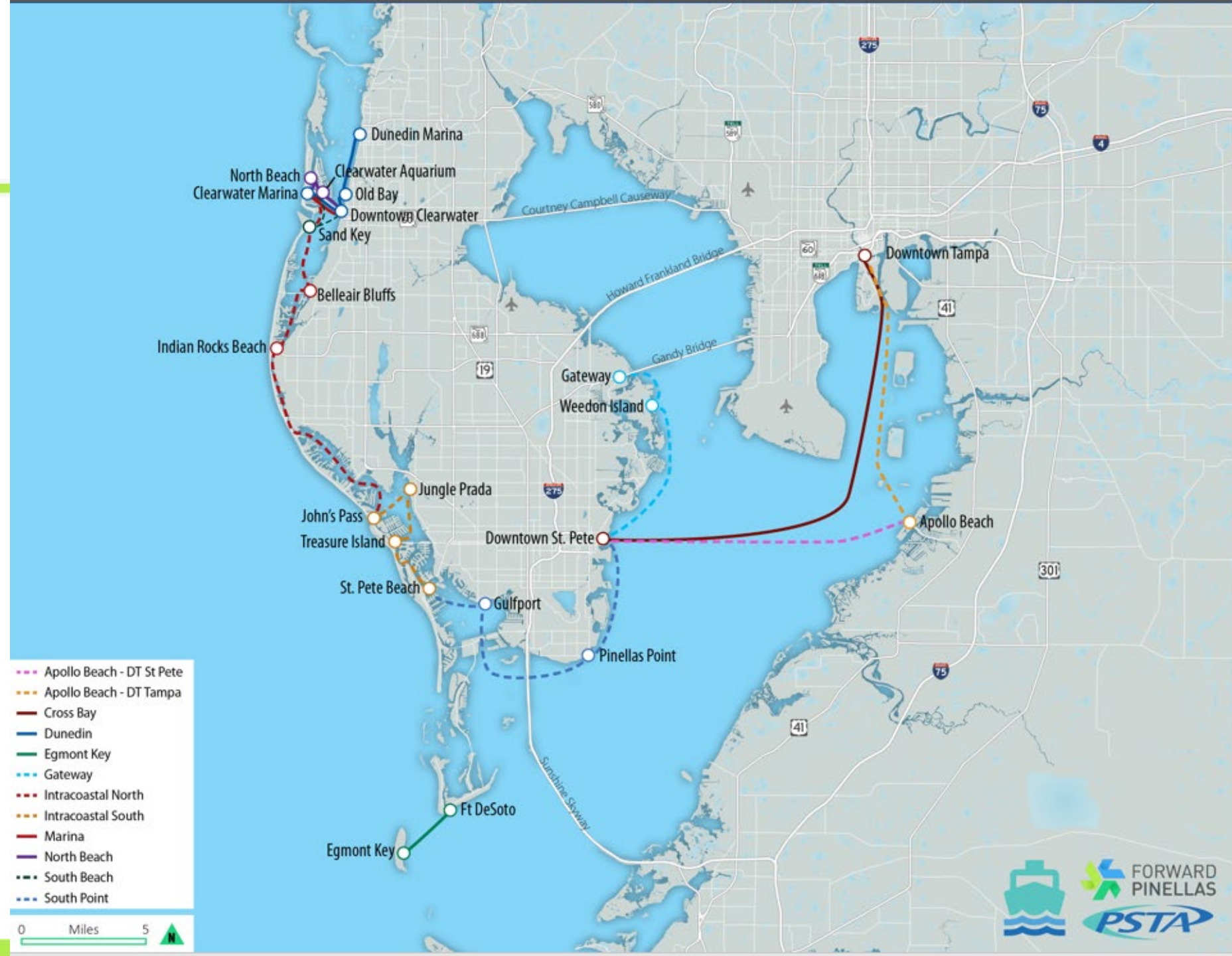


Advantage Pinellas Waterborne Section

- Provides an overview of existing waterborne routes within the county
- Outlines importance of waterborne transportation service
- Includes the System Plan for waterborne service
 - Includes existing and future unfunded needs
 - Aids in prioritizing funding for future service
- Provides an overview of the Waterborne Transportation Committee charge and purpose



System Plan Vision





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Proposed Countywide Waterborne Policy Framework

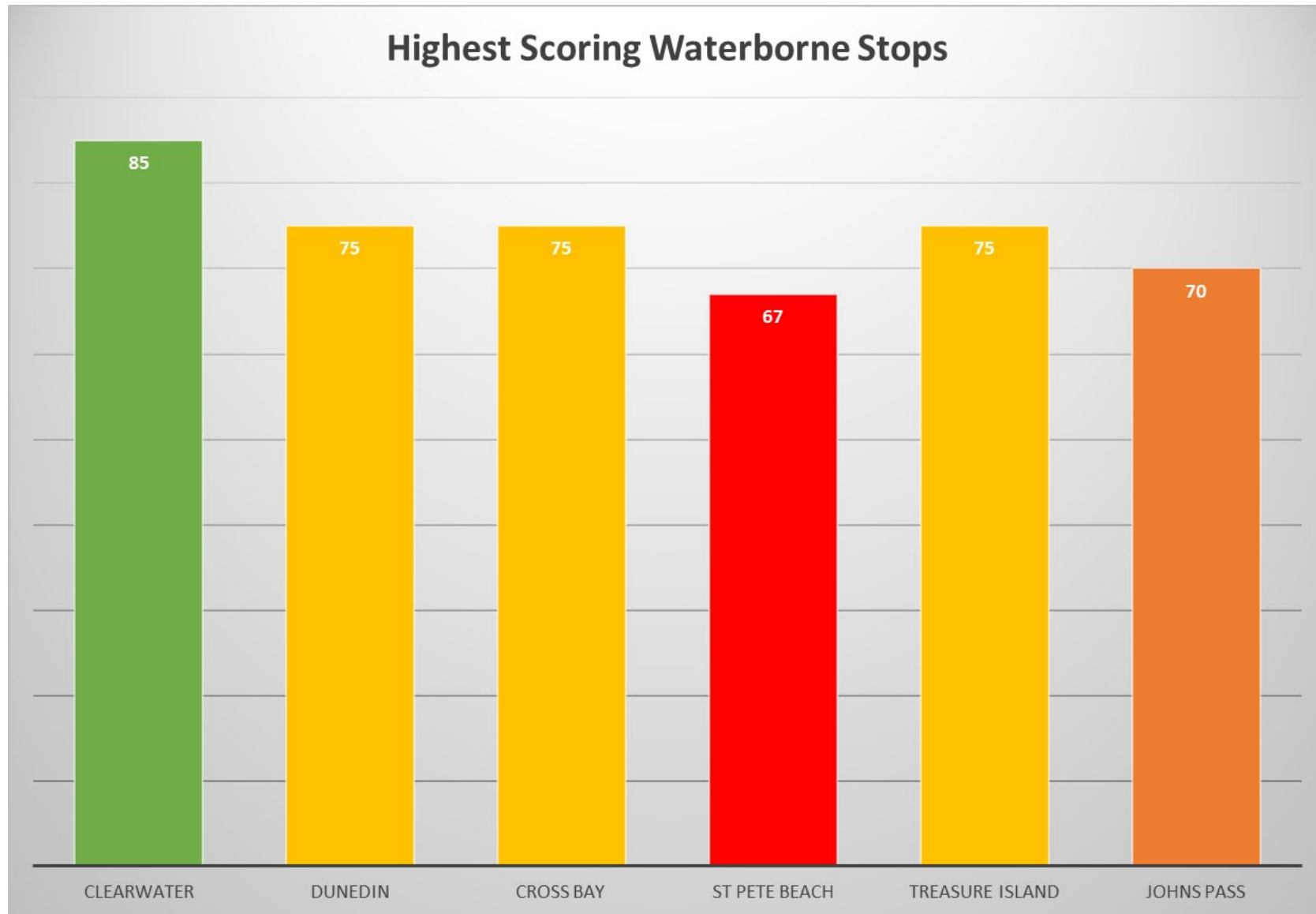


Overview

- Waterborne assets serve as a viable means of resident and tourist mobility during peak seasons, positioning waterborne transportation as a key economic driver
- Policy aims to establish clear criteria for the continued phasing and expansion of waterborne transportation options
- Eligible Expenditures
 - Service must be identified in the System Plan
 - Service is scored based on the following criteria:
 - Contributes to local redevelopment efforts
 - Contributes to a reduction in local congestion
 - Has proximity to transit
 - Provides decent frequency
 - Is near major attractors
 - Has bike/ped infrastructure
 - Resides in major tourist destination
 - County and/or local gov match of funds



Eligible Expenditure Criteria (Cont.)



Reporting and Evaluation

- Important to establish a series of reporting and evaluation metrics to determine the effectiveness of funded waterborne projects
- Evaluation Mechanisms:
 - Projects must be implemented within 3 years of being funded
 - Annual ridership survey for the first three years, then as needed
 - Waterborne Monthly Reporting
 - Reevaluation of “Eligible Expenditures” scoring matrix
 - Effectiveness assessment
 - Dedication of funding within 5 years of restored service
 - Subsidy profile provided annually by Forward Pinellas and PSTA





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Waterborne Restart and Phasing



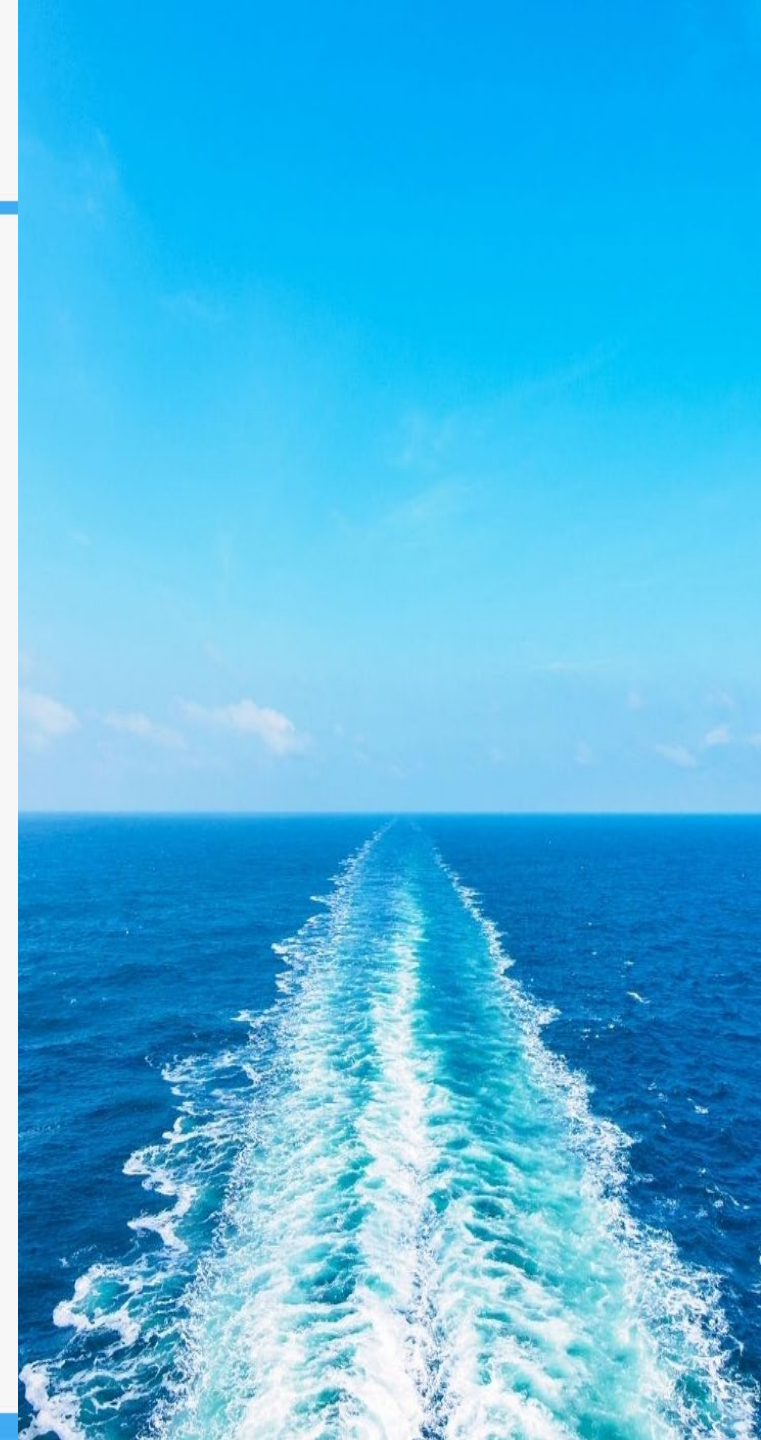
Transit Priorities: Waterborne Service – Phase 1

- Waterborne Service: Clearwater/Dunedin Restart Plan
 - Total Cost Over Three Years: \$1,897,448 (FY23\$)
 - Operating: \$1,797,448; Capital: \$100,000
 - Support for ferry service beginning with restart of Clearwater/Dunedin service in FY23
- Waterborne Service: Cross-Bay Ferry Service
 - Cost of Cross-Bay Ferry (Pinellas County and City of St Pete Share Only): \$2,591,633 (for operating)
 - Support for the Cross Bay Ferry to continue to operate between Downtown St. Petersburg to Downtown Tampa



Transit Priorities: Waterborne Service – Phase 2

- Waterborne Service: System Expansion to Madeira Beach and Indian Rocks Beach
 - Total Cost: \$10,964,193
 - Operating: \$7,364,193 over 5 years; Capital: \$3,600,000 (one-time cost)
 - Includes capital investment in vessels and 4 day/week low frequency service
 - Service to Clearwater Beach/Dunedin (beginning in FY24), Madeira Beach and Intracoastal Service to IRB (FY25)
 - Includes new diesel catamarans and annualized hull-out maintenance
 - Local municipalities would be responsible for dock construction and maintenance
 - Capital grant opportunities would require long term operating commitment





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Proposed Recommendations



Proposed Recommendations – Adopt Amendment for LRTP Waterborne Section

- Recommend to amend the Advantage Pinellas LRTP to add:
 - system plan for waterborne transportation
 - expanded section on waterborne transportation
- New section will aid in setting priorities for waterborne projects



Proposed Recommendations – Adopt Countywide Waterborne Policy

- Recommend to adopt Forward Pinellas Policy for Waterborne Transportation
- Aims to establish clear criteria for the prioritization of service
- Given the nature of eligible grant funds for waterborne efforts, it is essential that local dollars are contributed
- Strategies for determining eligible expenditures, phasing, and evaluation of services are included



Proposed Recommendations – Phasing

- Recommend establishing a sustainable phasing strategy that uses grants to support service
- Will require local operating commitments and a funding match
 - This is a condition for expanding service
- Determination of feasibility will be based on:
 - funding availability and a multi-year commitment
 - operational and infrastructure cost estimates
 - ridership forecasts for proposed routes identified
- Identification of funding facilitated by coordination



Proposed Recommendations – PSTA Role

- Recommend that PSTA serve as the administrative and contracting entity for waterborne service
- PSTA is an eligible recipient of federal, state, and local funds
- Agency can contract with one or more private operators for service delivery
- Regional waterborne services may be administered by other entities



Proposed Recommendations – Continued Monitoring/Reporting

- Recommend continued monitoring and reporting through staff coordination efforts
- Will play a key role in implementation of a systemwide plan throughout the County
- Goal is to create an integrated transportation network that provides quick, accessible, and reliable service



Next Steps



REQUEST THE FORWARD PINELLAS BOARD MAKE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE WATERBORNE RECOMMENDATIONS, LRTP SECTION AND WATERBORNE POLICY



COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE MEETING QUARTERLY



MONITOR AND EVALUATE SERVICE SUCCESS AND PHASING





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Questions?

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