

26 content clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall
 27 have the meanings set forth below:

28 (6) "Public transit" means transportation of passengers
 29 for hire by means, without limitation, of a ~~street railway,~~
 30 ~~elevated railway, subway,~~ motor vehicle, bus, or other means of
 31 conveyance ~~operating as a common carrier within the public~~
 32 ~~transit area as provided, and charter service originating~~
 33 ~~therein.~~

34 Section 3. Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; status and
 35 governing body.—

36 (2) (a) The governing body of the authority shall consist
 37 of 11 ~~15~~ members, serving and selected as provided in this
 38 paragraph.

39 1. Four members shall be appointed by the Pinellas County
 40 Board of County Commissioners from their membership.

41 2. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of
 42 the City of St. Petersburg from their membership.

43 3. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of
 44 the City of Clearwater from their membership.

45 4. Two members shall be appointed by the municipal
 46 governing bodies of Tarpon Springs, Safety Harbor, Oldsmar,
 47 Dunedin, Belleair, Belleair Beach, and Belleair Bluffs on a
 48 rotating basis. The order of rotation shall be determined by
 49 population size in descending order.

50 5. Two members shall be appointed by the municipal

51 governing bodies of Largo, Seminole, South Pasadena, Gulfport,
 52 Kenneth City, and Pinellas Park on a rotating basis. The order
 53 of rotation shall be determined by population size in descending
 54 order.

55 6. One member shall be appointed by the municipal
 56 governing bodies of Belleair Shore, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian
 57 Shores, North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington
 58 Shores, Madeira Beach, Treasure Island, and St. Pete Beach on a
 59 rotating basis. The order of rotation shall be determined by
 60 population size in descending order.

61 ~~1. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~
 62 ~~the City of Clearwater from its membership.~~

63 ~~2. One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of~~
 64 ~~the City of Dunedin from its membership.~~

65 ~~3. One member shall be appointed by the City Commission of~~
 66 ~~the City of Largo from its membership.~~

67 ~~4. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~
 68 ~~the City of Pinellas Park from its membership.~~

69 ~~5. Two members shall be appointed by the City Council of~~
 70 ~~the City of St. Petersburg from its membership.~~

71 ~~6. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~
 72 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and~~
 73 ~~Tarpon Springs from their membership.~~

74 ~~7. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~
 75 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs,~~

76 ~~Gulfport, Kenneth City, Seminole, and South Pasadena from their~~
 77 ~~membership.~~

78 ~~8. One member shall be appointed by the combined municipal~~
 79 ~~governing bodies of the Cities of Belleair Beach, Belleair~~
 80 ~~Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Madeira Beach, North~~
 81 ~~Redington Beach, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, St. Pete~~
 82 ~~Beach, and Treasure Island from their membership.~~

83 ~~9. Four members shall be appointed by the Pinellas County~~
 84 ~~Commission from its membership.~~

85 ~~10. One member shall be appointed by the Pinellas County~~
 86 ~~Commission, and this member may not be an elected official.~~

87 ~~11. One member shall be appointed by the City Council of~~
 88 ~~the City of St. Petersburg, and this member may not be an~~
 89 ~~elected official.~~

90 Section 4. Purposes and powers.-

91 (1) The authority created and established by the
 92 provisions of this act is hereby granted and shall have the
 93 right and power to purchase, own, and/or operate transit
 94 facilities;; to contract for transit services;; to exercise
 95 power of eminent domain if approved by a two-thirds vote of the
 96 Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board in a public meeting
 97 with a 30-day public notice and shall be reported to the
 98 Pinellas Board of County Commissioners semiannually in public
 99 meetings with a 30-day public notice; to conduct studies;; and
 100 to contract with other governmental agencies, private companies,

101 and individuals.

102 (2) The authority is hereby granted, and shall have and
 103 may exercise all powers necessary, appurtenant, convenient, or
 104 incidental to the carrying out of the aforesaid purposes,
 105 including, but not limited to, the following rights and powers:

106 (a) To sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and
 107 complain and defend in all courts.

108 (b) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

109 (c) To acquire, purchase, hold, lease as a lessee, and use
 110 any franchise, property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or
 111 intangible, or any interest therein, necessary or desirable for
 112 carrying out the purposes of the authority, and to sell, lease
 113 as lessor, transfer, and dispose of any property or interest
 114 therein at any time acquired by it. Any sale, lease, or transfer
 115 of any property or interest shall be upon competitive bid except
 116 that the authority may sell, lease, or transfer any real
 117 property or interest therein to another governmental entity
 118 without competitive bid and may sell, lease, or transfer surplus
 119 personal property, tangible or intangible, in accordance with
 120 chapter 274, Florida Statutes.

121 (d) To fix, alter, charge, and establish rates, fares, and
 122 other charges for the services and facilities of the Pinellas
 123 Suncoast Transit System, which rates, fees, and charges shall be
 124 equitable and just and sufficient to meet the operating
 125 requirements of the system along with other revenue that may be

126 | available.

127 | ~~(e) To regulate other operators of public transit in the~~
 128 | ~~Pinellas Suncoast Transit Area as to franchises, permits, fares,~~
 129 | ~~and other charges to establish rules and regulations pertaining~~
 130 | ~~to these matters for distribution to the operators and public~~
 131 | ~~transit facilities in said area.~~

132 | (e)~~(f)~~ To make contracts of every name and nature and to
 133 | execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the carrying
 134 | on of its business.

135 | (f)~~(g)~~ To enter into management contracts with any person
 136 | or persons for the management of a transit system owned or
 137 | controlled by the authority for such period or periods of time,
 138 | and under such compensation and other terms and conditions as
 139 | shall be deemed advisable by the authority.

140 | (g)~~(h)~~ Without limitation, to borrow money and accept
 141 | gifts or grants or loans of money or other property and to enter
 142 | into contracts, leases, or other transactions with any federal
 143 | agency, the state, any agency of the state, the County of
 144 | Pinellas, or with any other public body of the state.

145 | (h)~~(i)~~ To do all acts and things necessary or convenient
 146 | for the conduct of its business and the general welfare of the
 147 | authority in order to carry out the powers granted to it by this
 148 | part or any other law.

149 | (i)~~(j)~~ To prescribe and promulgate rules and regulations
 150 | as it deems necessary for the purposes of this act.

151 Section 14. Window coverings and advertisements.—
 152 (1) Any new window covering or advertisement must adhere
 153 to requirements provided in section 316.2954, Florida Statutes.

154 (2) The authority shall not engage in any non-paid
 155 advertising, promotion, or messaging on their assets; however,
 156 this subsection does not apply to any acknowledgement of
 157 veterans as defined in section 1.01, Florida Statutes, or any
 158 acknowledgement of a holiday listed in section 110.117, Florida
 159 Statutes.

160 Section 15. Best budget practices.—The authority must
 161 abide by the best budgetary guidelines as outlined by, but not
 162 limited to, the Florida Government Finance Officers Association
 163 and the Government Finance Officers Association.

164 Section 16. Lane elimination, lane repurposing, lane diet,
 165 or bus lane allocation requests, recommendations, or
 166 applications.—

167 (1) Any lane elimination, lane repurposing, lane diet, or
 168 bus lane allocation request, recommendation, or application
 169 relating to a public transit project or any change in the
 170 current use or functionality of a roadway must be approved by a
 171 two-thirds vote of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board
 172 in a public meeting with a 30-day public notice and then
 173 presented to the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners prior to
 174 a final two-thirds vote of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit
 175 Authority.

176 (2) The authority shall not have a lane elimination, lane
177 repurposing, lane diet, or bus lane allocation office, board,
178 employee, or any other actor whose purpose is to eliminate,
179 reallocate, or repurpose public lanes for the usage of the
180 authority.

181 (3) This section does not apply to any local or
182 municipally owned roadway.

183 (4) This section shall include any new service of any
184 design or name that would include plans for lane elimination,
185 lane repurposing, lane diet, or bus lane allocation calling for
186 the loss of an existing lane of a vehicular roadway to bus only
187 use or Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes.

188 Section 17. Semiannual reporting.—

189 (1) The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority shall
190 semiannually report the following to the Pinellas Board of
191 County Commissioners:

192 (a) Any gifts accepted in exchange for contracts.

193 (b) Any contract over \$500,000.

194 (c) Any sale, lease, or transfer of any property or
195 interest over \$500,000.

196 (d) Ridership performance and metrics.

197 (2) The Pinellas Board of County Commissioners may call
198 for in-person presentations of these reports at a minimum of
199 once a year.

200 Section 18. Severability clause.—

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201 (1) This act is not intended, nor may it be construed, to
202 conflict with existing, relevant state or federal law.

203 (2) If any provision of this act or its application to any
204 person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not
205 affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be
206 given effect without the invalid provision or application, and
207 to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

208 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.