

Council Discussion Item – PSTA Millage Increase Proposal

1. The council is invited to provide comments relating to the upcoming PSTA Board vote on September 29 on a staff proposal to increase the PSTA millage from 0.7305 to 0.7500
2. The request for Council input is consistent with Clearwater Council Policy C which reads in part:
 - a. Whenever possible, a Council representative on a board or committee will receive Council input prior to taking a position regarding issues coming before that board. The representing Councilmember shall vote in accordance with the stated position of the majority of the Council. If it is not possible to obtain Council input the Councilmember is to act to the best of their ability in the city's interest and with prior Council positions in mind.
3. Background Information
 - a. PSTA's current millage rate is 0.7305 (last changed in 2012).
 - b. PSTA's maximum millage rate is 0.7500 (limited by state statute that established PSTA)
 - c. PSTA'S roll back millage rate is 0.6838
 - d. The 0.0195 increase will provide PSTA an additional \$1.1 Million revenue
 - e. The increase equates to \$1.95 increase for each \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year.
4. Use of proposed increase
 - a. Staff is proposing to extend hours of service and increase frequency on eleven (11) routes as detailed on the attached chart.
 - i. Three routes go from one hour service frequency on Saturday to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour frequencies. Four routes on Sunday also have frequency increased.
 - ii. As an example the route from Westfield Countryside back to downtown Clearwater would now be after the Mall closing hour on each day.
 - b. The prime purpose is to provide transit access to workers working later shifts and on weekends. Most retail businesses operate seven days a week.
5. Even with the proposed increased service PSTA will still have
 - a. Weekdays – 51% of service has greater than or equal to 60 minutes headways and 58% of service ends before 8 PM.
 - b. Saturdays – 58% of service has greater than or equal to 60 minutes headways and 41% of service ends before 7PM.
 - c. Sundays – 73% of service has headways of 60 minutes or more and 43% of service ends before 6 PM.
6. Impact of change: estimated additional 300,000 trips a year