



PRFSC May 7,2018 Meeting Minutes

On Monday May 7, 2018 PRFSC hosted Bruce Detweiler and Tomeka Monterville of Lynx along with Tom Phillips of Citrus Connection to speak at our meeting about Poinciana bus service and in particular their plans for bus service to connect with the opening of the new SunRail station in Poinciana.

Polk Citrus Connection

Tom Phillips, Executive Director of Polk County Citrus Connection made the first presentation. Tom described how Polk County Citrus Connection contracts with Lynx to provide the bus service for the Polk Poinciana villages (3,7 and 8) plus Solivita. The buses themselves are Lynx logo buses but they are paid for by Citrus Connection Polk County to provide the service. The bus routes Polk County pays for are the 603 Neighborhood Link route and the 416 fixed service route between the Poinciana Walmart bus depot and Haines City with a stop at Poinciana medical center. The combination between the 603 and 416 provides everyone in Poinciana with access to anywhere in Polk County including Posner Park to the north, Lakeland, Winter Haven and Bartow to the west and southwest. Because of its proximity to the rest of Poinciana the Solivita people actually are serviced by the 601 Osceola Neighborhood link instead of

the 603. Tom Phillips stated that Polk Citrus Connection was most interested in working with Lynx to do anything they could to enhance the overall bus service for all of Poinciana.

Lynx plans

Tomeka Monterville, Lynx Director of Planning and Development and Bruce Detweiler, Lynx Manager of Service Planning then made their presentation which was primarily focused on their plans for supporting the new Poinciana SunRail Station. They started out by presenting the current plans for SunRail and their current plans for enhancing the existing 306 and neighborhood link 604 routes to extend service to the new Poinciana SunRail Station. They then described their existing 26 service route connecting Poinciana Walmart to downtown Kissimmee using Pleasant Hill road. They described plans to start the 26 route earlier to allow connection for Poinciana SunRail passengers to the new SunRail Station in downtown Kissimmee.

For the 604 Neighborhood link service serving northern Poinciana they described how it would be extended southward on Poinciana Blvd to allow connections at Poinciana High School and Crescent Lakes to connect to and from trains at the new Poinciana Sunrail station. This was very well received by the members of the audience who were from Crescent Lakes looking for bus service to allow them to connect to the new Poinciana SunRail Station.

Their proposals were not so well received by members of the audience from Solivita and Poinciana Villages 1,2 and Cypress Woods. They were told that their options for direct

connection to SunRail would be either to use the existing Disney 306 Bus leaving one time early morning to go up Poinciana Blvd to meet the SunRail train at the Kissimmee station instead using the 26 route .

Reaction

It was interesting that on the very afternoon of the Poinciana Bus meeting, the Osceola County Commission met to discuss the SunRail Connections for Poinciana. The discussion from that meeting may be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Gqm7qI9wKJE> . The Lynx services to be provided discussed at the county commission meeting were the same as described at the Poinciana evening meeting.

Commissioner Brandon Arrington stated at the meeting that in his earlier discussion with the CEOs of SunRail and Lynx that they had pointed out that the travel time from the new Poinciana Valencia Campus to the downtown Kissimmee SunRail Station would be approximately the same as to the new Poinciana SunRail station. While that may be a true statement and while it also may be true that the new Poinciana Valencia campus is centrally located within Commissioner Arrington's county commission district 3, it seems to ignore the fact that the majority of Poinciana residents, totaling more than 60,000 people, live in Poinciana Villages 1,2 and 5 on the Osceola side, 3,7 and 8 on the Polk side plus Solivita. For those 60,000 potential SunRail users, there will be no bus connection to the Poinciana SunRail station other than the once daily in each

direction 306. This was very disappointing to the audience attending the meeting. For those who have worked and supported the idea of a Poinciana SunRail station this was an even bigger letdown. While the option still exists for the Poinciana Residents to drive their cars to and from the new Poinciana SunRail station the Poinciana traffic situation is already bad enough. There has to be a better solution?

PRFSC wants to thanks the executives from Lynx and Citrus Connection for coming to Poinciana to share their plans. We hope that we will be able to work with both transit organizations and both counties to come up with a solution that can provide better access to the Poinciana SunRail station for the 60,000 Poinciana residents who wish to access the new Poinciana Sunrail Station by bus so as to help make SunRail a financial success for Central Florida?