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PSTA awarded \$9.5 million for Bus Rapid Transit project

St. Petersburg, Fla – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced today that the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) is being awarded \$9.5 million through FDOT’s state New Starts Transit Program for the Bus Rapid Transit project being developed in the Central Avenue corridor in St. Petersburg.

The state New Starts Transit Program provides FDOT funding to assist Florida transit systems who have been approved into the Federal Capital Investment Grant program, which fund rapid transit projects across the country. PSTA’s Central Avenue BRT project is the first rapid transit project in Tampa Bay history to be approved into this program. These state funds will provide approximately 25% of the project’s overall funding.

“This is an important project for both Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay region. We applaud the local funding commitments from both PSTA and the City of St. Petersburg and we want to solidify our support to this project through the programming of state funds,” says David Gwynn, DOT District 7 Secretary.

The 11-mile Bus Rapid Transit project is an premium rapid transit service that will connect downtown St. Petersburg with St. Pete Beach. The service, which will primarily run along 1st Avenues North and South, will feature uniquely branded stations and vehicles, and operate on semi-dedicated lanes every 15 minutes from 6 a.m. until midnight.

“We’re so thankful to have received very positive support for this rapid transit program from local, state, and federal leaders. We’ve always had a great partnership with FDOT and this announcement puts us one big step closer to finally getting rapid transit in the Tampa Bay area,” says Brad Miller, PSTA CEO

PSTA recently awarded a contract to initiate final design of the project, which is anticipated to open to riders in late 2020/early 2021.

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