



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

Office of the Mayor

RICK KRISEMAN, Mayor

December 11, 2015

Ms. Therese W. McMillan, Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
East Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. McMillan,

On behalf of the City of St. Petersburg, I am writing to encourage you to approve the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority's (PSTA's) request to enter Small Starts Project Development for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. The proposed project, located primarily within St. Petersburg, is along Pinellas County's busiest transit corridor. It would be a tremendous boost to our economy, industry, and quality of life while also serving as a vision of what preferred transit service could be throughout our community.

The Central Avenue corridor links many of our strong, traditional neighborhoods with several key commercial districts, our world-famous beach communities, and our Downtown core. Accordingly, the City of St. Petersburg remains steadfast in our dedication to the continued investment along the corridor as it is a primary urban redevelopment focus area that spans the entire width of St. Petersburg. Its success is vital to our sustained growth which allows St. Petersburg to be a city of opportunity where the sun shines on all who come to live, work and play.

Our commitment to this project is evidenced by our willingness to dedicate the exclusive use of a motor vehicle lane to the BRT on our city-owned streets of First Avenue North and First Avenue South during the peak hours as required to provide the premium service that is expected of bus rapid transit. The City will also work to provide enhanced pedestrian connections from the First Avenues to Central Avenue such that the facility is seamlessly integrated into our urban fabric for the city's 256,681 residents and the nearly six million visitors to Pinellas County each year.

For many years now our county has struggled to meet the demands for improved transit service. This project would have a major impact on helping to meet that growing demand. It provides a hefty return on investment that leverages the considerable investment the City has made in the Central Avenue corridor. Therefore, we are proud to partner with PSTA on this

project, and look forward to the successful implementation of BRT for the residents and visitors of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Kriseman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Kriseman, Mayor
City of St. Petersburg

Cc: Yvette Taylor, Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Region IV
Bill Jonson, Chairman, PSTA Board of Directors
Brad Miller, Chief Executive Officer, PSTA