



Tampa Bay Rays  
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September 12, 2019

**K. Jane Williams**  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Pinellas County's first Bus Rapid Transit project**

Dear Administrator Williams:

On behalf of the Tampa Bay Rays and Tampa Bay Rowdies, I would like to express strong support for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in southern Pinellas County.

The Central Avenue corridor is one of the fastest growing areas of Pinellas County, with redevelopment and infill development moving from downtown St. Petersburg westward. The various districts along Central Avenue have become desirable destinations for professional sports, arts, local retail, distinctive culture and housing in a walkable, accessible environment. Many residents and people visiting St. Pete Beach's highly desirable beaches use the corridor to travel between their hotels or homes to downtown St. Pete to experience all that these districts have to offer.

The other communities in the corridor also have redevelopment plans to bring about desired development in a scale suited to their community character. The trend toward redevelopment is expected to continue, and the advent of the BRT project will help guide growth in a sustainable, environmentally friendly and affordable manner.

As a team that draws attendance from the entire Tampa Bay area, we are also excited about the Central Avenue BRT project serving as the first BRT and the catalyst for a planned regional rapid transit network and further development in Pinellas County and Tampa Bay.

We applaud PSTA's efforts to work with residents, the business community, and the tourism industry on the development of this important project and hope the Federal Transit Administration will continue its support.

Sincerely,

Matt Silverman  
President and Vice Chair  
Tampa Bay Rays and Tampa Bay Rowdies

