

ST. PETE HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Evan Mory
Transportation & Parking Management Director
City of St. Petersburg

Dear Evan:

On behalf of the St. Pete Heights Neighborhood Association, and with the backing of the full Neighborhood Association Board, please accept our enthusiastic support of the efforts by the PSTA, Forward Pinellas and City of St. Petersburg for the Complete Streets and Central Avenue BRT projects.

Our neighborhood leadership has been grateful to have been included in some of the discussions surrounding making our City and our communities more transit-equitable and multi-modal and we strongly feel that these projects will support and strengthen our residents, our City—and our Tampa Bay region as a whole. We see the clear benefits of the BRT for the entire City of St. Petersburg given that this service will provide our residents with high quality, frequent, rapid and affordable rail-like transit along the most important East-West corridor in our City. We were also thrilled to learn that the Central Avenue BRT is part of a much larger plan to eventually connect St. Petersburg along a North-South corridor and over to Tampa International Airport and beyond. Though these efforts will take time and require patience, we understand that this will be a huge benefit and convenience for our neighbors in and around St. Pete Heights.

Our association is thrilled that thanks to the recent addition of bike lanes along 30th Avenue North, our neighborhood is now bordered almost entirely by bicycle lanes, which have helped to connect us better to local businesses and the greater St. Petersburg community. More and more residents are using these bike lanes and we are grateful for them.

In our view, what Complete Streets and the Central Avenue BRT have in common is that they will greatly improve the quality of life for residents of St. Pete Heights and St. Petersburg.

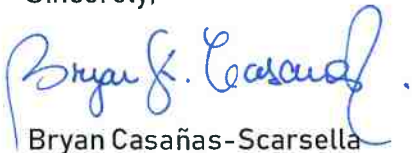
Both residents who are choice riders and those who are not, will have more transportation options, not to mention the added benefit for those residents with disabilities who are unable to drive. These projects will also increase safety by keeping those for whom it would be unsafe to drive out of the driver's seat. The environmental, physical health (including increased mobility and physical activity) and placemaking benefits that improved pedestrian, bicycle and transit infrastructure will provide are invaluable and we are excited to be a part of this new path forward.

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We wish to clearly state that supporting Complete Streets and the Central Avenue BRT does not in any way mean that we do not support vehicular transit. In fact, it amounts to quite the opposite because we understand that both of these projects will lead to fewer cars on the road, thus promoting less congestion and improved conditions for drivers, not to mention healthier air quality for all citizens.

The St. Pete Heights Neighborhood Association recognizes the financial commitment by federal, state and local governments in funding Complete Streets and the Central Avenue BRT Project. We appreciate this commitment and look forward to the services and opportunities they will provide our residents and businesses.

Sincerely,



Bryan Casañas-Scarsella

President

St. Pete Heights Neighborhood Association