



KENNETH T. WELCH
CHAIRMAN

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PHONE (727) 464-3614 • FAX (727) 464-3022 • 315 COURT STREET • CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
www.pinellascounty.org • kwelch@pinellascounty.org

March 8, 2018

Mr. D.J. Gribbin
Special Assistant to the President for Infrastructure Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Gribbin:

I am writing to encourage you to fully fund and award grants to meritorious projects under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. This program is critical to the economic vitality of the Tampa Bay region, just as it is throughout the country. The Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit in St. Petersburg, Florida is the Tampa Bay Region's first-ever CIG eligible project and we are hopeful that it will receive federal funding in FY 2019. This cost effective Small Starts project is an unprecedented achievement for the Tampa Bay region:

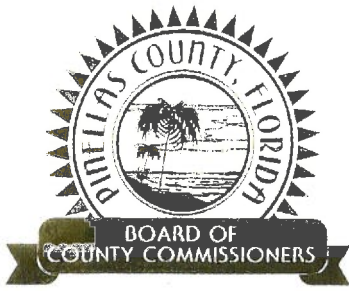
- Bipartisan support from state, regional and local leaders
- Support from transit agencies and planning organizations throughout Tampa Bay as well as the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
- Recognized as an essential priority project by the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA)
- Will provide a fast, efficient and needed transit alternative for one of the country's fastest growing populations where there is no room to build new roads
- Will serve the increasing transit needs between Pinellas County's award-winning beaches and downtown St. Petersburg in a corridor heavily used by both workers and millions of tourists
- Will connect economically disadvantaged communities to booming job markets in St. Petersburg and along the gulf beaches
- Received a MEDIUM-HIGH rating in the FY19 CIG Report released in February, 2018
- Financial commitment from the City of St. Petersburg to achieve HIGH financial rating

I ask that you to support this important grant program and help our region reach a transportation milestone that has been decades in the making. With its efficient design and unprecedentedly broad support from the community, governmental agencies, and elected officials, the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project can become an FTA showcase for lean, successful, modern transit.

Sincerely,

KENNETH T. WELCH, Chairman
Pinellas Board of County Commissioners





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March 8, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

I am writing to encourage you to fully fund and award grants to meritorious projects under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. This program is critical to the economic vitality of the Tampa Bay region, just as it is throughout the country. The Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit in St. Petersburg, Florida is the Tampa Bay Region's first-ever CIG eligible project and we are hopeful that it will receive federal funding in FY 2019. This cost effective Small Starts project is an unprecedented achievement for the Tampa Bay region:

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March 8, 2018

Ms. E. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Williams:

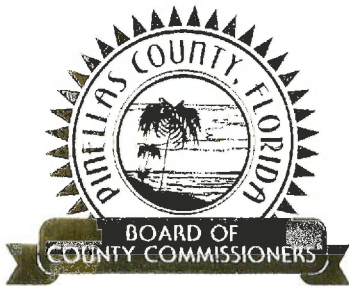
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March 8, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to encourage you to fully fund and award grants to meritorious projects under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. This program is critical to the economic vitality of the Tampa Bay region, just as it is throughout the country. The Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit in St. Petersburg, Florida is the Tampa Bay Region's first-ever CIG eligible project and we are hopeful that it will receive federal funding in FY 2019. This cost effective Small Starts project is an unprecedented achievement for the Tampa Bay region:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth T. Welch".

KENNETH T. WELCH, Chairman
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