



February 8, 2013

The Honorable Ken Welch, Chair
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Ken,

On behalf of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board I am requesting that you establish November 4, 2014 as the date for a voter referendum on a sales tax to support a robust, 21st Century public transportation system for our County citizens.

As Vice Chair of PSTA, you know that the PSTA board voted 15-0 unanimously to make this request to the County at our January 23, 2013 Board Meeting. More than 140 members of the public attended the meeting with an overwhelming majority of public comments supporting moving forward with this referendum.

While it is important that the County set the date for the referendum now, we believe it is also critical that sufficient time and attention be given to developing a thoughtful and comprehensive package of transportation improvements that the voters would consider. PSTA is leading a collaborative effort including the Pinellas MPO, TBARTA, FDOT, and the Pinellas Planning Council to develop the complete plan and return to the County later this calendar year for the final vote to set the ballot initiative. We are proud to participate in the Advisory Committee for Public Transit (ACPT).

With the unanimous 15-0 vote, the PSTA Board strongly determined that our community needs a better mass transit system with improved bus services that are faster, more frequent, and serve the entire county including tourists, students, and seniors. We also believe we need a modern 21st Century system that builds a network of transit services including bus, BRT, and in the future, rail services in the County, all in support of the Pinellas County Economy.

We ask the County to assist PSTA in moving this discussion forward. Thank you for your support and for working with me on this issue that is so important to our region's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JDanner", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Danner
PSTA Chair

cc: PSTA Board
Advisory Committee for Pinellas Transit

3201 Scherer Drive St. Petersburg, FL 33716
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February 7, 2013

The Honorable Ken Welch, Chair
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Ken,

As Chair of the Advisory Committee for Pinellas Transit (ACPT), a collaborative committee made up of appointed elected officials from:

- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
- Pinellas Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)
- Pinellas Planning Council (PPC)

I am writing to request that the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners recognize the ACPT and task the ACPT along with our four appointing organizations with the development and approval of the comprehensive transportation package that the voters may consider in November 2014 as PSTA has recommended.

The ACPT is a multi-agency committee previously known as the Project Advisory Committee that oversaw the most intensive analysis of a more advanced transit system for Pinellas County that has ever been completed. Although the Pinellas Alternatives Analysis has been completed for over a year now, each of our appointing organizations have a strong desire to present a comprehensive transportation package to the citizens, instead of a single transportation project and continue to meet monthly.

The ACPT voted to accept the responsibility to serve as the convening body to assemble the comprehensive transit and transportation package and recommend it to Pinellas County. Later this year, after our plans are completed, the ACPT will build consensus and seek parallel endorsements by PSTA, the MPO, TBARTA, and the PPC in requesting that the County present this package to the voters of Pinellas County for consideration.

As you, Commissioner Seel and Commissioner Latvala are members of the ACPT, I appreciate your dedication to preparing the very best transportation plan for our region's future we possibly can. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the County Commission.

Sincerely,

Harriet K. Crozier
ACPT Chair