



Staff Report

File #: 16-477A, **Version:** 1

Agenda Date: 3/29/2016

Subject:

Other Administrative matters:

- Support for the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority's joint application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant.

Recommended Action:

Approve a letter of support for the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) and the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority's (HART) joint Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application.

Strategic Plan:

Deliver First Class Service to the Public and Our Customers

5.1 Maximize partner relationships and public outreach

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources

Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality

4.5 Provide safe and effective transportation systems to support the efficient flow of motorists, commerce, and regional connectivity

Summary:

Pinellas County's support of the joint application from PSTA and HART will demonstrate the regional importance of this project. In order to emphasize this importance, Pinellas County will not be submitting an application of our own this year.

Background Information:

The TIGER grant program through the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) is in its eighth funding cycle. The TIGER program is highly competitive and last year \$10.1 billion of requests were received, over 20 times the available budget of \$500 million. Pinellas County has, in the past, submitted applications for projects that compete with applications from our partners. Due to the highly competitive nature of the TIGER grant process, and Pinellas County's strategic plan goal of maximizing partner relationships, the Board will consider refraining from submitting an application of our own and fully supporting the joint application of PSTA and HART. Regional support will help to strengthen the application and improve the chance of a grant being awarded to the Tampa Bay region.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Staff Member Responsible:

Mary Scott Hardwick, Intergovernmental Liaison, Office of the County Administrator

Partners:

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority

Attachments:

Letter of Support

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20590

March 30, 2016

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Pinellas County Commission, I am pleased to support the Pinellas Suncoast Transportation Authority (PSTA) and Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) Authority's joint application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for the Regional Fare Box System. This project will transform the way citizens across eight counties can access public transit. For several years, Pinellas County has submitted our own application for TIGER funding, but this year we are withholding our application in order to put our full support behind this regional priority.

The implementation of the regional fare box system will allow riders to use the latest technology in order to seamlessly move throughout the entire Tampa Bay region to access educational, cultural and employment opportunities. This project is an unprecedented partnership between eight local transit agencies with the support of numerous other local government entities and shows the region's commitment to working together in order to improve our transportation system. The regional fare box system will save money for each of the transit agencies due to reduced overhead costs and will save time on the road, as the bus will not have to sit idle while riders purchase passes onboard. Most importantly, it will dramatically improve rider experience and convenience.

The Pinellas County Commission strongly encourages your support of this TIGER grant application.

Sincerely,

Charlie Justice
Chairman, Pinellas Board of County Commissioners

cc: Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
Darden Rice, Chairman, PSTA
Mike Suarez, Chairman, HART

Attachment: Board of County Commissioners Agenda Item