

Date

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

Dear Administrator Williams,

On behalf of the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners, I am writing to encourage you to approve the Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program (Low-No) grant request submitted by our county's transit agency, the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA).

My colleagues and I believe your approval of this request would be a wise investment and a fine example of outstanding stewardship of public funds on behalf of the FTA, Pinellas County and PSTA. Here are a few reasons why:

- PSTA is requesting matching funds to help the agency purchase two new all-electric BYD buses as well as two new depot chargers for the PSTA maintenance facility.
- The buses will add to PSTA's growing fleet of all-electric buses and will be used on the agency's newly revised Downtown Looper route, and the agency's route 11, which operates in the heart of St. Petersburg's Community Redevelopment Area. The bus service to this area increases access to jobs and opens new economic opportunities for lower income residents.
- Pinellas County's award-winning beaches draw millions of visitors from around the country and the world. Tourism is the lifeblood of our local economy, which is why our community works so hard to enact policies and measures that preserve our white-sand beaches and crystal blue waters. Protecting our environment and reducing the demand for crude oil and off-shore drilling are always foremost in those efforts.
- Electric bus purchases have been overwhelmingly endorsed by the Sierra Club and our local environmental leaders.

In closing, we hope that you will approve this modest request and help our community improve its economic vitality, and create new opportunities for fiscally disadvantaged residents.

Sincerely,

Karen Williams Seel
Chair
Pinellas Board of County Commissioners