



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

RICK KRISEMAN, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

January 24, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Justice
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Commissioner Justice:

This letter is to follow-up on our earlier communications regarding funding electric bus charging equipment. In response to your December 20th, 2016 letter requesting that the City contribute 20% of the capital cost that PSTA requested from the County, I indicated my support and willingness to contribute pending appropriation. Additionally, I indicated that I would meet with PSTA to learn more about the proposed project. Earlier this month I met with Brad Miller, CEO of PSTA and staff and learned more about the impacts it could have on the City, both from a service and financial perspective. During the meeting I learned that PSTA desires that the City contribute ongoing operating expenses toward the routes that the electric buses will be running in the future.

As you are aware, the City's residents and business owners participate in Ad Valorem tax contributions towards PSTA's operating and capital costs. You may not be aware that the City also contributes funds above and beyond these normal contributions for what is considered enhanced service. Currently the City contributes \$75,000 annually towards the Central Avenue Trolley, directly to PSTA. Additionally, the City contributes approximately \$200,000 in cash and in-kind services to the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership to operate the Looper Trolley. While we are already contributing a significant amount of operating subsidy above and beyond Ad Valorem, I'm supportive of providing additional operating subsidy towards the proposed electric vehicle transit service. With this in mind, I respectfully request that the County consider funding 100% of the one-time capital request that PSTA made of the County.

Sincerely,

Rick Kriseman, Mayor

cc: St. Petersburg City Council
✓ Mark S. Woodard, Pinellas County Administrator
Brad Miller, CEO, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority