

**FORWARD PINELLAS**

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310 Court Street

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May 3, 2017

Pinellas County  
Board of County Commissioners  
315 Court Street  
Clearwater, FL 33756

**RE: Prioritization of Penny for Pinellas Funds to Complete the Pinellas Trail Loop**

Honorable Chairwoman Long and Commissioners,

Forward Pinellas continues to work collaboratively with Pinellas County to develop solutions to our most pressing transportation challenges. We share many common goals and have worked together in the past to expand transportation options and increase accessibility to many of our employment centers, neighborhoods, educational institutions, and tourist destinations. Both of our organizations also share a strong, purposeful commitment to accessibility for everyone, including those who walk or bicycle, and believe that strategic investments in transportation infrastructure can have a measureable impact upon access to economic opportunities and quality of life.

It is in this context that the Forward Pinellas Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) engaged in a discussion at its March 20, 2017 meeting about the upcoming Penny for Pinellas referendum. This discussion led to a recommendation from the BPAC requesting the Forward Pinellas Board send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners supporting the prioritization of Penny for Pinellas funding to complete the Pinellas Trail Loop. As part of our established advisory committee process, the Forward Pinellas Board considered the BPAC's recommendation at its April 12, 2017 meeting and unanimously approved a motion requesting Pinellas County prioritize funding to complete the Pinellas Trail Loop using Pinellas for Pinellas revenues, should the referendum be approved by the voters this November.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued commitment to expanding transportation options for the visitors and residents of Pinellas County.

Respectfully,

Whit Blanton, FAICP  
Executive Director

cc: Mark Woodard, County Administrator

*BCC 5-9-17  
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