

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

May 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of Pinellas County as it seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program for its Pedestrian and Bicyclist Action Plan.

Pinellas County is one of the largest counties in Florida, consisting of the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg, and the Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is home to nearly a million residents and a prime tourist destination. Between 2017 – 2021, 339 people were killed due to traffic accidents, and more than 1,200 pedestrians were injured on the county's roadways.

If awarded, funds would be used to address the county's high rate of crashes and fatalities on its roadways by expanding its Forward Pinellas Vision Zero Action plan to study correlations between its pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities, as more than 67 percent of these were reported to be caused by those under the influence of alcohol, drugs or in some cases, both intoxicants. This would provide the county with better information as it works to limit the number of injuries and fatalities in the years ahead.

I applaud Pinellas County's efforts to improve safety on its roadways and better connect residents and visitors traveling through the county. I ask for your full and fair consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Rubio', is positioned above the printed name.

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



The Florida House of Representatives

Representative Berny Jacques

District 59

June 08, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Pinellas County's application to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant opportunity through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Pinellas County's application will focus on addressing one of the nation's top locations for fatal and serious injury crashes. Every day, two people are killed or seriously injured in traffic collisions in Pinellas County. Between 2017 to 2021, 339 people lost their lives, and thousands more sustained life-altering injuries on Pinellas County roadways, excluding the interstate system.

In a 2021 toxicology report, **over 67% of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities were reported to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both.** The County's application takes a data-driven approach to study this correlation and expand the Forward Pinellas Vision Zero Action Plan. Pinellas County's application will plan, analyze, and engage with local stakeholders, medical examiners, and industry leaders to study this epidemic while testing low-cost, context-sensitive solutions in historically disadvantaged and underserved areas to reach the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries. Additionally, the proposed plan will identify contributing factors that can be extrapolated on a national scale to minimize all pedestrian and bicycle fatalities.

The County's application will significantly impact the methodology of looking at pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injuries, further supporting the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy and goal of zero roadway deaths. For these reasons, I offer my full support to Pinellas County's Public Works Planning and Demonstration grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "BJ" followed by a stylized flourish.

Berny V. Jacques
State Representative, District 59

CC: Tom Washburn, Transportation Division Director, Pinellas County Public Works

District Address

Suite 207
4625 East Bay Drive
Clearwater, Florida 33764-6867
(727) 519-0560

Tallahassee Address

1301 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
(850) 717-5059

KATHY CASTOR
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DATA
AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE
AND GRID SECURITY

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THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST
PARTY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0914

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ST. PETERSBURG DISTRICT OFFICE:

136 FOURTH STREET NORTH
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ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701
(727) 369-0201

www.castor.house.gov

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary. Buttigieg,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Pinellas County and its application to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant opportunity through the U.S. Department of Transportation

Pinellas County hopes to utilize funding through the SS4A initiative to address one of the nation's top locations for fatal and serious injury crashes. Heartbreakingly, two people are killed or seriously injured every day in traffic collisions in Pinellas County. In a 2021 toxicology report, over 67% of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities were reported to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both.

According to Pinellas County, its application takes a data-driven approach to study this correlation and expand the Forward Pinellas Vision Zero Action Plan. Pinellas County's application would plan, analyze, and engage with local stakeholders, medical examiners, and industry leaders to study this epidemic while testing low-cost, context-sensitive solutions in historically disadvantaged and underserved areas to reach the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries. Additionally, the proposed plan will identify contributing factors that can be extrapolated on a national scale to minimize all pedestrian and bicycle fatalities.

The County's application aims to significantly impact the methodology of looking at pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injuries, further supporting the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy and goal of zero roadway deaths.

For the reasons above, I respectfully offer my support for the application submitted by Pinellas County, and I hope it will be given every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Castor".

Kathy Castor
United States Representative
Florida, District 14



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Pinellas County Pedestrian Bicycle Action Plan
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant
Funding Opportunity Number: DOT-SS4A-FY23-01

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter as an acknowledgement that Pinellas County's Pedestrian Bicycle Action Plan project is consistent with the 2045 Transportation Plan and the Florida Department of Transportation's mission, vision, and values.

FDOT is confident this project will achieve its intended goals. Your consideration in this project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
David Gwynn
282623A862FE4AC...

David W. Gwynn, P.E.
District Seven Secretary



Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"

May 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) is pleased to offer this letter of support for Pinellas County's application to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant opportunity through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Pinellas County's application will focus on addressing one of the nation's top locations for fatal and serious injury crashes. Every day, two people are killed or seriously injured in traffic collisions in Pinellas County. Between 2017 to 2021, 339 people lost their lives, and thousands more sustained life-altering injuries on Pinellas County roadways, excluding the interstate system.

In a 2021 toxicology report, **over 67% of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities were reported to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both.** The County's application takes a data-driven approach to study this correlation and expand the Forward Pinellas Vision Zero Action Plan. Pinellas County's application will plan, analyze, and engage with local stakeholders, medical examiners, and industry leaders to study this epidemic while testing low-cost, context-sensitive solutions in historically disadvantaged and underserved areas to reach the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries. Additionally, the proposed plan will identify contributing factors that can be extrapolated on a national scale to minimize all pedestrian and bicycle fatalities.

The County's application will significantly impact the methodology of looking at pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injuries, further supporting the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy and goal of zero roadway deaths. For these reasons, PCSO offers our full support to Pinellas County's Public Works Planning and Demonstration grant.

Sincerely,

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

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Pinellas County, Florida

BG/cm

cc: Tom Washburn, Pinellas County Transportation Director

Pinellas County Opioid

Task Force Goals:

Increase Education and Awareness
Reduce Opioid Deaths
Connect to Effective Treatment
Decrease the Supply of Opioids
Integrate and Collaborate Data Sources



Marianne Dean, MS, REI
Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Chair

May 12, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Pinellas County Opioid Task Force is pleased to offer this letter of support for Pinellas County's application to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant opportunity through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Data presented at the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Quarter 1 meeting discussed that over 67% of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities were reported to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or both. These fatalities are of concern to the task force and the community.

The Pinellas County Opioid Task Force supports the County's application to significantly impact the methodology of looking at pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injuries, further supporting the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy and goal of zero roadway deaths. For these reasons, the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force offers our full support to Pinellas County's Public Works Planning and Demonstration grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Dean".

Marianne Dean, MS, REI
Office of Overdose Prevention Program Manager
Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Chair

CC: Tom Washburn, Pinellas County Transportation Director

FORWARD PINELLAS

P: (727) 464.8250

F: (727) 464.8212

forwardpinellas.org

310 Court Street

Clearwater, FL 33756



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for Pinellas County's Safe Streets and Roads Action Plan application, aimed at enhancing safety by reducing fatal crashes associated with drug and alcohol intoxication. As the countywide land use and metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Pinellas County, Forward Pinellas is deeply invested in the safety of the transportation network, and we believe that addressing this pressing issue is of at least equal importance to the role of street design in transportation safety. Furthermore, the Pinellas County application will complement the planning being done through the Safe Streets Pinellas program, including with previously awarded Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant funding.

The devastating consequences of impaired driving are well-known and felt across our society. Each year, countless lives are lost, families are shattered, and communities are left grieving because of these tragic incidents. It is imperative that we take proactive measures to mitigate the risks posed by intoxicated driving and create a safer environment for all road users, which will be made possible by the activities included in the Pinellas County application.

By conducting a comprehensive transportation study focused on reducing fatal crashes involving drug and alcohol impairment, we have an invaluable opportunity to identify effective strategies and implement evidence-based measures that can make a tangible difference in saving lives. Such a study will help us understand the underlying causes, analyze patterns and trends, and devise targeted interventions to prevent and deter impaired driving incidents.

Furthermore, I applaud the potential of this study to raise awareness about the severe consequences of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. It can serve as a catalyst for educational initiatives, community outreach programs, and public awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of responsible

decision-making and encourage individuals to choose safe alternatives to impaired driving.

The success of this transportation study will not only be measured by the reduction in fatal crashes involving intoxication but also by the positive impact it has on our community's overall safety, well-being, and quality of life. By taking proactive measures to address this issue head-on, we send a strong message that we prioritize the safety of our residents and visitors, and we are committed to creating a transportation system that upholds the highest standards of safety and accountability.

I believe that this study will yield invaluable insights, inform evidence-based policies, and lead to the implementation of effective strategies aimed at reducing fatal crashes associated with drug and alcohol impairment. Therefore, I urge you to allocate the necessary resources and support the initiatives proposed in this study to ensure its success.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to improving the safety of our community. I am confident that by working together, we can create a transportation system that protects the lives and well-being of all individuals. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you require any further information or assistance.

Thank you,



Whit Blanton, FAICP
Executive Director



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4336

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
OF POLICE

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Clearwater Police Department is pleased to offer this letter of support for Pinellas County's application to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant opportunity through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Data presented at the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force Quarter 1 meeting discussed that over 67% of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities were reported to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both. These fatalities are of concern to our agency and our community.

The Clearwater Police Department supports Pinellas County's application to significantly impact the methodology of looking at pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and serious injuries, further supporting the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy and goal of zero roadway deaths. For these reasons, the Clearwater Police Department offers our full support to Pinellas County's Public Works Planning and Demonstration grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Walek", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Walek
Interim Chief of Police

cc: Tom Washburn, Pinellas County Transportation Director