



May 25, 2016

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

RE: BP Settlement Funds

Dear Chairman Justice:

I would like to express my gratitude to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for consideration using BP Settlement funds for one-time funding of zero-emission electric bus charging needs (including an in-route charging station, installation, and a depot charger) for a proposed PSTA electric bus pilot project at the cost of:

\$589,000

PSTA is committed to sustainability practices, which includes deploying alternative fuel technology when possible, while maximizing the amount of transit service PSTA provides to Pinellas County residents, employees, and visitors. As such, PSTA is seeking funding partners to advance a zero-emission, electric bus pilot project that would lower the emissions of our bus fleet. PSTA currently has funding identified for the base cost of 2 PSTA diesel buses and is actively seeking funding for the remaining \$1.4 million needed to upgrade to electric buses, including:

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|--|--------------------|
| In-Route Charging Station (BP Settlement Request) | \$349,000 |
| Engineering & Installation of Charger in St. Petersburg (BP Settlement Request) | \$200,000 |
| Depot Charger at PSTA Headquarters (BP Settlement Request) | \$40,000 |
| One-Time Training & Tool Purchases for Electric Bus Pilot Program | \$25,000 |
| Incremental Cost of 2 Electric Buses (Over the cost of 2 Diesel Buses) | \$800,000 |
| Total Incremental Cost of Pilot Program | \$1,414,000 |

Utilizing BP Settlement funds to help fund the charging components of PSTA’s electric bus project would be a good investment and use of funds for the following reasons:

- The proposed route served by the electric buses would serve downtown St. Petersburg where it helps to provide access to jobs, healthcare, and the community for seniors and lower-income residents.
- Electric buses would be a good fit in downtown St. Petersburg where people regularly enjoy outdoor entertainment, walking and bicycling.
- Advancing the use of low emission fuel technology will help to protect the environment, including Pinellas County’s award-winning beaches, by reducing the demand for crude oil and off-shore drilling.
- Electric bus purchases have been endorsed by the Sierra Club and local environmental leaders.

Thank you again for your consideration of funding for this project. We hope that you will approve this request to partner with PSTA in advancing the use of electric buses in Pinellas County.

Sincerely,

Brad Miller, CEO
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)

Cc: PSTA Board
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
Mayor Rick Kriseman, City of St. Petersburg
Mark Woodard, Pinellas County Administrator