

RESOLUTION NO. 17-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL
SUPPORTING THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT
AUTHORITY (PSTA) IN ITS EFFORTS TO DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCT A BUS WAY ON THE MEMORIAL
CAUSEWAY AND BRIDGE CONNECTING DOWNTOWN
CLEARWATER TO CLEARWATER BEACH;
REQUESTING ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH PSTA,
FORWARD PINELLAS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO
FINALIZE ENGINEERING AND COST ESTIMATES;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Clearwater Beach is one of the top beaches in the world attracting visitors and residents alike; and

WHEREAS, Maximizing access to beach hotels, restaurants, events and employment opportunities are key to the vitality of the economy of Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, PSTA and the City of Clearwater (City) desire a more robust and innovative public transportation system that incorporates evolving technologies to benefit the residents, employees and visitors in Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to a vision for better public transportation options as demonstrated through its partnership with PSTA for the beach trolley services and the Clearwater Beach Bus Way as well its contract with the Clearwater Ferry; and

WHEREAS, PSTA has received a grant of \$1.0 million in SFY18 from the State Legislature to complete the design of the Clearwater Beach Bus Way from the base of the Memorial Causeway Bridge to the planned Clearwater Beach Transit Center (under construction); and

WHEREAS, the City and PSTA are working in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation to develop up to two concepts for consideration in the design process; and

WHEREAS, PSTA will submit the Project to the United States Department of Transportation - Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program by a deadline of October 16, 2017 with the anticipation of construction to begin no later than the end of FY2020; and

WHEREAS, PSTA and City representatives will continue discussions with stakeholders through the design and construction of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project would benefit visitors and residents by providing congestion free public transportation services across the bridge in addition to being

regularly available for use by first responders and available for emergency/hurricane evacuation by residents, as needed; and

WHEREAS, the construction of an exclusive running way would lend itself for use by future projects and technologies such as autonomous or driverless vehicles; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA:

Section 1. City Council recognizes the benefits of improved transit connections to the City's and County's economic vitality and hereby supports the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority in its efforts to design and construct the Clearwater Beach Bus Way connecting downtown Clearwater to Clearwater Beach in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation.

Section 2. City Council requests City administration to work with PSTA, Forward Pinellas and other stakeholders to finalize engineering and cost estimates for the Clearwater Beach Bus Way.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____,
2017.

George N. Cretekos
Mayor

Approved as to form:

Attest:

Matthew Smith
Assistant City Attorney

Rosemarie Call
City Clerk