

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
January 21, 2021

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the mayor of the City of Clearwater, I am writing to urge you to fully fund the upcoming 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant request from the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA). This project is our most pressing countywide transportation need and is among our adopted transportation funding priorities: a new intermodal terminal in downtown Clearwater to replace the current nearly 40-year old facility. Despite being undersized and obsolete, this facility has long been one of the busiest transit hubs in the Tampa Bay Region. **The City of Clearwater is committed to this project and has pledged to make the land needed available to PSTA. This land, valued at \$3.6M, will be exchanged with PSTA's existing Park Street Terminal facility site which is valued at \$1.8M. The difference of \$1.8M in assessed valuation of City owned lands will be donated by the City to supplement the \$2.3M committed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The value of the land being conveyed by the City of Clearwater to the PSTA, \$3.6M, will comprise approximately 12% of the total project value.**

I believe your approval for this request would be an outstanding investment and proof of exemplary stewardship of public funds for the following reasons:

- The existing Park Street Terminal is functionally obsolete with structural components that cannot be kept in a state of good repair. It is also over-capacity, forcing many routes to use adjacent roads for stop locations, which makes riding far more difficult for people with disabilities.
- The proposed facility would increase the number of bus bays from the nine currently at Park Street Terminal, finally allowing for long-awaited transit improvements. Plus, getting bus stops off of nearby roads will also help ease local traffic congestion.
- The City of Clearwater is a major employment center and our award-winning beaches draw millions of visitors from around the world every year. In fact, there are more than 20,000

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jobs in Downtown Clearwater and in Clearwater Beach alone. Those jobs, along with our millions of visitors will be better served by improved transit thanks to the new transit center.

- The new facility will be designed and built as a state-of-art sustainable transit center, incorporating electric bus induction charging stations, a “green” roof, and dozens of other resilient features to highlight public transit’s key role in sustainability for our community.
- Multimodal features such as a designated TNC staging area, an inductive charger for all-electric buses, and expanded bicycle parking will also be included. In addition, the new location will also allow for future transit center expansion.

The city strongly believes that providing our residents with sustainable multi-modal options will enhance our continued growth and is key to improving both the quality of life for our residents and enhancing our economy through a superior visitor experience. I ask you to approve this request and help our community finally upgrade one of Tampa Bay’s busiest and most obsolete public transportation facilities. I am fully confident that it will be valued as a wise investment of public dollars and complement our investment in a stronger downtown for the community.

Sincerely,

Frank V. Hibbard
Mayor of Clearwater