

TAMPA BAY AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-07

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
CENTRAL AVENUE BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (“TBARTA”) is an agency of the State of Florida created to plan, develop, finance, construct, own, operate, maintain and manage multimodal systems in Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties; and

WHEREAS, TBARTA’s purpose is to improve mobility and expand multimodal transportation options throughout its five-county region; and

WHEREAS, TBARTA has developed a Regional Transportation Master Plan (“Master Plan”) which identifies major corridors of transit throughout the region for development of alternative forms and modes of transit such as light rail, dedicated highway lanes, bus rapid transit, high speed ferry service, and interconnection of existing transit; and

WHEREAS, TBARTA is required to develop a Regional Transit Development Plan (“Regional TDP”) guided by Sections 339.135 and 339.155, Florida Statutes, which will identify regional transit service needs and opportunities over a period of 10 years, and will include funded and unfunded needs throughout the five-county region, considering the results of the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan (“RTFP”), the local TDPs of transit agencies within the region, the Florida Transportation Plan, the Strategic Intermodal System, and other transit plans and regionally significant studies, as applicable; and

WHEREAS, TBARTA has participated in development of planning and project development as a partner with the Florida Department of Transportation, the Forward Pinellas Metropolitan Planning Organization (“Forward Pinellas”), and Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (“PSTA”); and

WHEREAS, in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation, the City of St. Petersburg, and other regional stakeholders, PSTA has proposed and received Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) approval to enter into the project development phase for a 10-to-14-mile bus rapid transit (BRT) line, the Central Avenue BRT, from downtown St. Petersburg through Tyrone Square Mall to the Gulf Beaches including Madeira Beach, Treasure Island, St. Pete Beach, and South Pasadena; and

WHEREAS, local officials approved the Central Avenue BRT as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the corridor extending from Downtown St. Petersburg to 75th

Avenue and Gulf Boulevard on St. Pete Beach, based on its ability to meet the stated objectives of attracting strong ridership, potential to reduce traffic congestion, and promoting a stronger economy, while protecting the environment; and

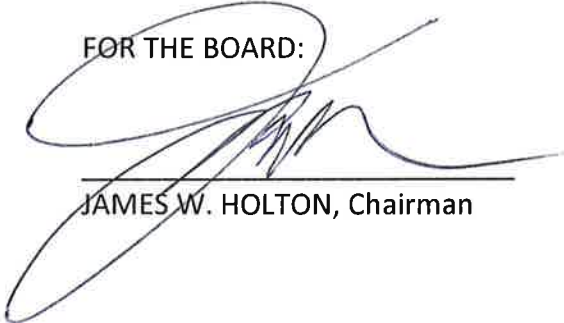
WHEREAS, the Central Avenue BRT provides a direct benefit for residents and visitors in the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, as well as general benefits for residents and visitors throughout the region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the TBARTA Governing Board that:

1. TBARTA recognizes the Central Avenue BRT project as an important first-step in developing a regional transit network, and the importance of local involvement and funding contributions to moving like projects forward; and
2. TBARTA respectfully requests that the public, business and community leaders, and local jurisdictions in Pinellas County continue their involvement in the implementation of the Central Avenue BRT project; and
3. TBARTA supports the planning and development elements of the Central Avenue BRT project through to completion, in a manner that is consistent with the TBARTA Master Plan, Pinellas Alternatives Analysis (AA) Bus Network, the PSTA 2014 Community Bus Plan, and Forward Pinellas 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the TBARTA Governing Board on this 8th day of December 2017.

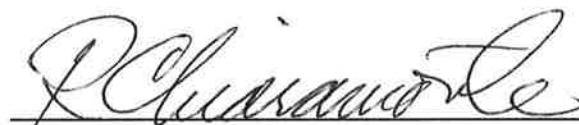
FOR THE BOARD:



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JAMES W. HOLTON, Chairman

ATTEST:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Chiaramonte', with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

RAMOND CHIARAMONTE, Executive Director