

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Project
St. Petersburg, Florida
Small Starts Project Development
Information Prepared April 2016

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation, the City of St. Petersburg, and other regional stakeholders, proposes 10- to 14-mile bus rapid transit (BRT) line from downtown St. Petersburg through Tyrone Square Mall to the Gulf Beaches including Madeira Beach, Treasure Island, St. Pete Beach, and South Pasadena. The proposed project includes 12 to 16 stations, exclusive bus lanes, transit signal priority and five to seven branded articulated hybrid buses. The current estimated capital cost of the project ranges between \$16.0 million and \$16.5 million. PSTA may seek between \$8.0 and \$8.25 million from the Small Starts program.

PSTA indicated the project is expected to improve transit accessibility within downtown St. Petersburg and provide more frequent mobility options between downtown St. Petersburg and the Gulf Beaches area. The corridor currently has five local bus routes, but no direct transit service linking central St. Petersburg with attractions to the west. Additionally, bus travel times are slowed by automobile congestion and the absence of transit signal priority or any other preferential treatments. PSTA stated the project is also expected to enhance the corridor's economic development.

Local officials plan to formally select BRT as the corridor's locally preferred alternative (LPA) and include the LPA in the region's fiscally-constrained long range transportation plan in early 2017. PSTA expects to complete the environmental review process in early-to-mid 2017, receive a Construction Grant Agreement in summer 2019, and begin revenue service in fall 2020.