



December 15, 2015

Victor Crist  
County Commissioner  
Hillsborough County  
601 E Kennedy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Commissioner Crist,

The Tampa Downtown Partnership serves as a steward of downtown Tampa, cultivating public and private collaborations and encouraging downtown's physical and economic development. As a proactive leadership organization, the Tampa Downtown Partnership acts as an advocate for the downtown community, including over 225 member companies, 8,100 residents, and 58,000 employees.

For the past two years our Downtown Transportation Committee, including members of our Board of Directors, have closely followed the Transportation for Economic Development Policy Leadership Group. We were impressed by such a thorough exploration of the ties between transportation and our county's economic health and future growth as well as the extensive intergovernmental cooperation.

We all benefited from a comprehensive look at the various funding sources available to improve transportation options in our community. On behalf of our 48 person Board of Directors we are writing to urge each commissioner to continue to pursue all feasible funding sources as outlined in the Go Hillsborough Plan including a sales tax referendum, gas taxes and mobility fees. The plan strikes a fair balance between the sometimes disparate needs in urban, suburban and rural areas. The distribution of funds amongst the cities, unincorporated county and HART seems equitable.

This comprehensive approach seems to be the only path that affords a real impact toward multiple mobility options. For downtown, Go Hillsborough will provide increased bus service linking downtown with the entire county, build on and improve our complete streets and walkable connections, provide funding to build a rail link to the airport. These improvements are essential as we work toward building a region that remains relevant in this global society we now live in.

Our organization has focused on increased transportation options both within and to downtown for many years. We have attempted to position the TECO Line Streetcar's

potential to be the starter system of a more regional rail system. This was analyzed as part of our joint Transit Assets and Opportunities study with the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization. We look forward to the conclusions drawn from the more in-depth streetcar study being funded by FDOT and the City of Tampa. We also recently partnered with HART and the Airport to discuss a direct link from Tampa's downtown to the airport. These are all consistent with the Go Hillsborough plan.

Thank you for all that you do for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Minder".

Greg Minder  
Chairman  
Board of Directors

CC: County Administrator Mike Merrill  
Mayor Bob Buckhorn  
Mayor Frank Chillura  
Mayor Rick Lott  
Councilman Mike Suarez