

For Immediate Release  
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## **ST.PETERSBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ENDORSES GREENLIGHT PINELLAS PLAN**

**December 4, 2013 (St. Petersburg, FL)** - At its monthly meeting on November 7, 2013, the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors unanimously supported a motion to endorse the Greenlight Pinellas plan. The proposed plan seeks; the expansion and improvement of current bus services in Pinellas County, the future implementation of a light rail system and a connection to Hillsborough County across the Howard Frankland Bridge. “Economic Development is the #1 priority of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce and our community needs a public transportation system that meets the growing needs of employers and the labor force, while providing a foundation for economic expansion”, said Chair, David Punzak.

Along with the endorsement by the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the Greenlight Pinellas Plan has been endorsed by various other entities, including the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors, Advisory Committee for Pinellas Transportation (ACPT), and The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA).

Greenlight Pinellas was founded to engage the community in a conversation about how to create a 21st-century transit system for Pinellas County residents and visitors. The Greenlight vision is to significantly improve the current bus system and to build a light rail system in the near future, and connect the entire system to the Tampa Bay region. GreenLight means growth in the economy, promotion of community vitality and an increase in employment opportunities - a vision that the St. Petersburg Area Chamber supports.

On November 4, 2014, Pinellas County residents will vote on referendum to approve a County-wide plan to improve public transportation in Pinellas County. If approved, this would change the method of transit funding in Pinellas County from property tax to a one cent county sales that takes effect on January 1, 2016 and the current PSTA ad valorem property tax will no longer be collected as of October 1, 2015. The 1 cent sales tax is limited to the first \$5,000 spent and does not apply to groceries and medical products. The Chamber supports this question being put before the voters in November of 2014.

To learn more about this comprehensive transit improvement plan, along with supporting study documentation, visit [www.greenlightpinellas.com](http://www.greenlightpinellas.com).

The St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, originally founded in 1899, now serves almost 900 member businesses. Finding ways to create and enhance opportunities to do business in St. Petersburg, the Chamber works to improve the local economic climate and to build a thriving business environment. The Chamber is the voice of local business in St. Petersburg, providing leadership on important business and community issues.

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