



Florida Department of Transportation

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June 12, 2018

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Florida Department of Transportation Announces Free Streetcar Service for Downtown Tampa

TALLAHASSEE, Fla – Today, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced the funding of a Transit Service Development grant to Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) to eliminate fare for three years for Tampa’s Historic Streetcar. The existing TECO Historic Streetcar includes a 2.7-mile route through downtown Tampa.

Florida Governor Rick Scott said, “The Tampa Bay area is consistently one of the fastest growing areas of our state, adding more than 33,000 new private-sector jobs in the last year. By providing this grant, we are giving Tampa residents another option as they travel around downtown.”

Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Mike Dew said, “The State of Florida and Department of Transportation remain committed to the overall investment in transit. Serving one of the fastest growing cities in the state, expanded service for the TECO streetcar will help to alleviate traffic congestion in downtown area.”

The FDOT grant of \$2,670,000 will help boost ridership and increase efficiency of the system, providing greater opportunity for the system to grow with the growing needs of Tampa’s downtown community. The Streetcar Extension Study from Downtown Tampa to Tampa Heights, also funded by the FDOT, is currently in project development to pursue federal funding.

Tampa Bay’s population growth was 4th highest in the nation in 2016, and downtown Tampa’s residential population doubled between 2008-2016. The City of Tampa has a vision to extend and modernize its historic Streetcar to better serve the mobility needs of a growing population.

The streetcar service will increase frequency of service from every 20 minutes to every 15 minutes and provide extended service hours. Some additional benefits include quicker boarding due to eliminating the need to purchase fare cards/passes and eliminating the cost of maintaining fare boxes and ticket machines.

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