



For Immediate Release

February 23, 2017

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Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority Enlists Suppliers to Bring Connected Vehicle Technology to Downtown Tampa

Tampa, FL – The Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) is preparing to test and deploy new technology designed to improve transportation in downtown Tampa as part of its Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment project. The agency’s vehicle systems integration partner—Brandmotion, of Southfield, Michigan—has selected three companies to provide the cutting-edge communications equipment that will make the project possible: Commsignia, of Santa Clara, California; Savari, also of Santa Clara; and SiriusXM, of New York City.

Later this year, the Tampa Connected Vehicle Pilot will begin equipping buses, streetcars, and privately owned vehicles with technology that will enable them to communicate with each other and with traffic signals, crosswalks and other elements of the transportation infrastructure. Pedestrians may also participate by downloading and using a smartphone app. The goal is to provide equipped drivers, transit riders and pedestrians in downtown Tampa a range of safety and mobility benefits, including crash prevention, enhanced traffic flow, and greenhouse gas reductions.

Vehicles participating in the pilot project will require in-vehicle displays, antennas and radio communication devices called onboard units. Commsignia, Savari and SiriusXM will supply the onboard units, which communicate with each other and with roadside equipment. Brandmotion is responsible for systems integration and testing. Researchers will compare the units’ performance and measure the effectiveness of the overall system.

Tampa was one of just three sites in the nation to be selected for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program, which seeks to spur innovation among early adopters of connected vehicle applications. The four-year effort began in September 2015, when USDOT awarded THEA a \$17 million contract to implement its winning proposal. The project reached another milestone in September 2016, when USDOT authorized THEA and its partners to proceed with the second phase, which includes design, testing and deployment. The third and final phase, expected to begin in mid-2018, will involve the full-scale operation of connected vehicle technology throughout downtown Tampa.

To implement the pilot project, THEA has assembled a team that includes HNTB, Siemens, the University of South Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research and Global-5 Communications. Key partners include the Florida Department of Transportation, the City of Tampa, the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART), the TECO Line Streetcar System and Hillsborough Community College.

For more information on the Tampa Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment, visit www.TampaCVpilot.com.

About the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority

The Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) is a user-financed public agency led by a board of local citizens. Operating with no tax dollars, THEA develops and owns toll highways, including Lee Roy Selmon Expressway. THEA also owns and maintains non-tolled roads, including Brandon Parkway and Meridian Avenue, and the Selmon Greenway, a bicycle and pedestrian path through downtown Tampa. All tolls collected by THEA are reinvested into projects in Hillsborough County. For more information, visit www.tampa-xway.com.

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