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PSTA One of Only Three Transit Agencies in U.S. to Earn Consecutive Gold Standard Awards

Who: [Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority \(PSTA\)](#)

What: Honored by the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) for outstanding security measures

When: Presentation made at PSTA Board meeting, 9:00 am, February 25, 2015. Assessment period for award: 2013 - 2014

How: By meeting TSA's highest standards for transit agency security

Where: Pinellas County, Florida

Of the 137 agencies across the country that applied for the TSA's prestigious Gold Standard award, only PSTA and two others have won it more than once. "It takes a lot of hard work to win this award and it's reflective of the dedication of your agency," said TSA Director of Surface Transportation Division Sonia Proctor as she presented the award to PSTA Board Members and staff Wednesday.

Proctor was part of a small group of TSA officials who attended the February PSTA Board meeting to participate in the award presentation. In a special letter to PSTA CEO Brad Miller, TSA Acting Administrator Melvin Carraway wrote, "Your system attained high scores across all categories. We consider this caliber of performance as deserving of special attention. I commend you and your organization for the commitment and hard work that this level of achievement requires."

The "Gold Standard" designation is based on TSA's [Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement](#) (BASE) pertaining to PSTA's dedication to building a strong security program. Only four other transit agencies earned the Gold Standard for the most recent evaluation period, which was 2013-2014 and only two of those joined PSTA as back-to-back winners. This year PSTA scored 99 out of 100 improving one percentage point over the agency's previous high of 98 set back in 2011.

The TSA's BASE program is a voluntary comprehensive review of transit agency security programs focusing on multiple categories such as an agency's security plans, training, drills/exercises, preparedness, public outreach and background check programs.

For interviews or additional information, please contact:

[PSTA B-Roll](#)



TSA Director of Surface Transportation Division Sonia Proctor (right) presents PSTA Board Chair Bill Jonson (center) and CEO Brad Miller (left) with PSTA's second consecutive Gold Standard Award.

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The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority is the public transit provider for Pinellas County, providing more than 14.5 million rides per year. PSTA operates nearly 40 bus and trolley routes with a fleet of 203 vehicles. To learn more about the services offered by PSTA, or for schedule and fare information, passengers are invited to call the PSTA InfoLine at (727) 540-1900, or visit www.PSTA.net. PSTA is an equal opportunity employer.