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## **DHS Officials Commend PSTA for Second Consecutive Gold Standard Award**

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

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

*When:* 2013 - 2014

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

*Where:* Pinellas County, Florida



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration is, once again recognizing PSTA as one of the nation's best transit systems when it comes to safety and security. 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.

PSTA is one of only five agencies in the United States to be recommended for the prestigious Gold Standard designation. (Virginia Railway Express, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Metropolitan Transit Authority's Long Island Railroad and the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit.) "This is the highest achievement a transit agency can receive through the program," says PSTA Chief Operations Officer James Bradford. "TSA has a special matrix for measuring a transit agency's threat levels, vulnerabilities, and preparedness in the face of an emergency, or disaster. This year PSTA scored 99 out of 100 improving one percentage point more than our previous high of 98 set back in 2011."

TSA officials will be presenting their Gold Standard recommendation to the PSTA Board of Directors at 9:00am Wednesday morning as part of the Board's monthly meeting at PSTA headquarters located at 3201 Scherer Drive St. Petersburg, FL.

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.

PSTA leaders say their agency has long been dedicated to providing the highest level of safety and security for employees and every one of the more than 14.5 million rides provided annually. They say this award is a testament not only to the hard work of our safety staff, but to each one of our more than 500 professional operators and maintenance technicians who make safety and security a daily priority.

PSTA's Safety, Security and Training Division works closely with Pinellas County Emergency Management to continually prepare for emergencies or disasters such as hurricanes as well as coordinating drills and activities with the Department of Homeland Security, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and other local emergency response agencies.

For interviews or additional information, please contact:

[PSTA B-Roll](#)

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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](http://www.PSTA.net). PSTA is an equal opportunity employer.