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PSTA to Participate in National Rally for Public Transit

Who: Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
What: National **Don't X Out Public Transportation Rally**
When: Tuesday, September 20, 2011
Where: On all PSTA buses
Why: To oppose a planned cut of more than 30% in Federal transportation funding



The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority will partner with transit agencies and transportation supporters across the nation Tuesday, September 20, 2011 as part of the national **Don't X Out Public Transportation Day**. The **Don't X Out Public Transportation Day** campaign encourages Americans to contact Congress and ask legislators to *oppose* planned transportation funding cuts. Currently, there is a proposal in the U.S. House of Representatives to cut highway and public transportation funding by more than 30%. If passed, those cuts will not only cripple transit service throughout the country, but they will hinder our nation's ability to repair crumbling roads, bridges and vital transportation infrastructure.

As part of the **Don't X Out Public Transportation Day**, all PSTA Bus Operators will be encouraged to hand out business sized cards (attached) with information about the campaign and how riders can easily contact legislators. PSTA and transportation agencies around the country will be spreading the word that the proposed cuts will have a drastic impact on millions of Americans who rely on public transit and our transportation infrastructure every day.

"The proposed cuts would severely impact PSTA's ability to maintain current levels of transit service, which already lag behind other similarly sized metropolitan areas," says PSTA CEO Brad Miller. "They would also hinder our ability to replace and repair aging vehicles."

The cuts would also negatively affect the economy. The American Public Transportation Association estimates that the cuts would result in the loss of 614,000 jobs nationwide over the next six years. "As our country looks for ways to strengthen the economy for this generation, and those to follow, investment in public transit provides a viable and sustainable solution," says PSTA Board Chair R.B. Johnson. "Most people don't realize that public transit is one of the best job creators in the nation. In fact, for every billion dollars invested, mass transit creates or supports 36,000 jobs. So I encourage everyone in our region who rides public transit, drives on our roads or wishes to boost the economy, to join us and urge Congress *not* to cut transit funding."

To learn more about the campaign or to participate, visit www.supporttransit.org.

For additional information or interviews, please contact:

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The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority is the public transit provider for Pinellas County carrying more than 13 million riders a year. PSTA operates nearly 40 bus and trolley routes with a fleet of 191 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.