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PSTA Sets New Ridership Record – In Surprising Fashion

Who: [Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority](#)

What: Carried more riders in January, 2015 than any previous January in agency history

When: January, 2015

Where: Throughout Pinellas County and to Tampa

How: By providing a record-setting 1,258,631 rides to area transit users

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority set its second consecutive all-time monthly ridership record last month, making for seven new records in the past eight months. January's record, however, was a bit of a surprise for PSTA leaders, because it happened during a period when gasoline prices dramatically dropped. Typically transit ridership will also drop during periods of low fuel prices, but PSTA's ridership not only bucked that trend, but it did so in astonishing fashion – by posting a 7.8% increase over January, 2014.



Riders Boarded PSTA buses more often in last month than any other January in agency history.

“It’s one of the biggest jumps in ridership that I’ve seen in my 14 years of service with this agency,” says PSTA Board Chair and Clearwater City Council member Bill Jonson. “It really contradicts the misconception that people in Pinellas County don’t use public transit.” Officials say the 7.8% increase translates to 100,326 additional trips taken last month as over January, 2014. When asked about reasons for the increased ridership, PSTA leaders said that it’s most likely the result of a combination of factors including an improving economy, higher employment, record tourism and the agency’s new UPASS programs with the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg College and the City of St. Petersburg.

To plan a trip on PSTA, prospective riders can use the agency’s [Google Trip planner](#) located on agency’s home page at www.psta.net or they can call the PSTA InfoLine at (727) 540-1900 to speak with a live Customer Service Representative.

[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. PSTA is an equal opportunity employer.