

For immediate release: January 7, 2015

PSTA to Help Train Guide Dogs Saturday

Who: [Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority](#) (PSTA) and [Southeastern Guide Dogs](#)

What: Partnering with Southeastern Guide Dogs for a special guide dog training session

When: January 10, 2015, 10:00 am – Noon

Where: 3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg

Why: To help guide dogs in training become accustomed to the sights, sounds and feel of riding public transit

How: PSTA Staff will simulate transit rides as trainers teach their puppies to properly board, alight and ride on transit vehicles



Southeastern Guide Dogs

GuideDogs.org

Members of the media are invited to join PSTA and puppy raisers from Southeastern Guide Dogs for a special transit training exercise at PSTA headquarters this Saturday morning January 10, 2015. Puppy raisers will be teaching their “trainees” how to properly board and ride transit buses as they travel in and around the PSTA facility. Training is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am and last for approximately two hours. Training will include familiarizing the dogs with the noises, vibrations and feel that they will experience when riding transit buses. Officials from Southeastern Guide Dogs say that this experience and exposure to transit helps the dogs become confident guides and companions for people with disabilities.

For those not familiar with Southeastern Guide Dogs, it’s an organization that trains dogs to help people with visual impairments lead independent, vibrant and joyous lives. Through their programs Paws for Independence™, Paws for Patriots™, and Gifted Canines™, they have more than 400 active guide dog teams across the nation and continue to add more than 70 teams annually. This is done at no charge to the guide dog recipient, thanks to the generous support of donors and volunteers. Visit www.guidedogs.org for further information.



The morning promises to be a productive and heart-warming event, I hope that our partners in the media will be able to join us.

[Video from previous training session.](#)

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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.

About Southeastern Guide Dogs: Established in 1982, Southeastern Guide Dogs' mission is to create and nurture a partnership between a visually impaired individual and a guide dog, facilitating life's journey with mobility, independence and dignity. Through their programs Paws for Independence™, Paws for Patriots™, and Gifted Canines™ they have more than 400 active guide dog teams across the nation and continue to add more than 70 teams annually, all at no charge to the guide dog recipient, thanks to the generous support of donors and volunteers. Visit www.guidedogs.org for more information.