

NO TAX FOR TRACKS

STOP PINELLAS LIGHT RAIL



PSTA (Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority) is our Pinellas County property tax funded public transportation agency. But PSTA has lost the trust of many people. Here are some reasons why:

- Due to overspending from 2001 to 2012, PSTA has projected losses of \$6 million for 2013. See back side for chart. A **Taj Mahal** of a headquarters was built in 2005 – we pay for it.
- PSTA was created by merging city bus companies to “improve efficiency” and “cut costs”. Instead, the millage rate keeps going up and **we pay more and more taxes to fund them.**
- Have you noticed the **empty PSTA buses** around town? How can that be when PSTA claims one million riders per month? Well, PSTA counts bus ridership with each transfer counting as a new rider. For instance, for a round trip to the mall a typical rider would board and then transfer 2 times each way. Using their crazy math, that one rider then becomes six riders.
- Now PSTA wants to “replace” the property tax by increasing our sales tax from 7% to 8%. That's a 14% increase! To convince us to vote “Yes”, they are calling it a **“Tax Swap”**.
- By “Tax Swap”, they mean that instead of us paying \$35 million per year, we will pay \$130 million per year. **This is a fourfold (4x) tax increase if we vote yes.**
- They need our approval to increase the sales tax in Pinellas County from 7% to 8%, making **our sales tax the highest in the state.** Again, that is a **14% sales tax increase.** There will be a referendum in November 2014 on this issue, and we are asking you to vote “NO”.
- PSTA warns that 30% of bus routes may be cut if they do not get yet more of your hard-earned dollars. But their own data shows that just 7 bus routes account for 60% of the bus ridership (chart on back). We say: cutting 30% now is the right thing to do.
- According to the 2010 Census, only 1.6% of residents take the bus to work. The average commute time in our county is 23 minutes. What imaginary problem are they trying to solve?
- PSTA and our elected officials won't listen to reason. They want to spend your money in order to please **powerful special interests.** And they **want you to pay for it!** They want more bus routes, longer operating hours, higher frequency (buses every 10 minutes) and a boondoggle rail line. There is no need for more empty buses....or empty trains!



**Vote NO to the PSTA
Greenlight Pinellas Rail Plan
on November 4, 2014**

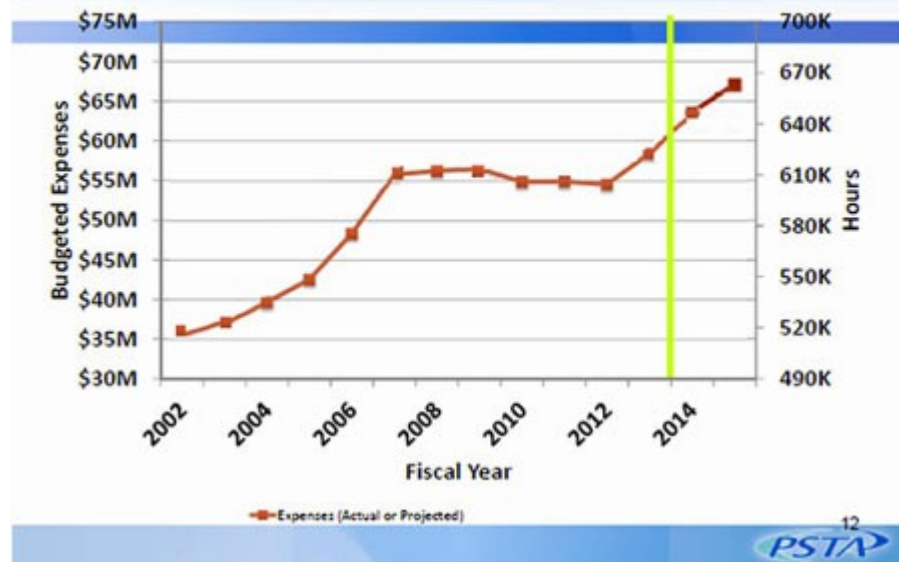
We deserve a better plan !

PSTA does not have a revenue problem, they have a spending problem !

Tell them: no more money! Vote NO!

No Tax for Tracks supports the return of PSTA to a right sized bus system delivering dependable, safe, clean, efficient public transportation to the 1.6% of county residents that need and use PSTA. If you have any questions or want to join us, please visit www.notaxfortracks.com

PSTA Spending, 2002 Forward



Above: PSTA's Spending Binge

Below: PSTA's Ridership, by Bus Routes.
Just a few routes account for 60% of bus ridership.

Weekday Ridership

Weekday Passengers per Route

