

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**Date: March 12, 2007****Contact: Michele Joseph**  
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## **Americans Take More Than 10 Billion Trips on Public Transportation in 2006**

TUCSON, Ariz. – If you thought you were seeing more riders during your daily public transit trip, it's not your imagination. Americans took 10.1 billion trips on public transportation nationwide in 2006 – the most in 49 years, announced the American Public Transportation Association. Over the last decade, public transportation's growth rate outpaced the growth rate of the population and the growth rate of vehicle miles traveled on our nation's highways.

In the Tucson Metropolitan area, Sun Tran ridership has continued to increase over the past four years, specifically experiencing a 7.3 percent increase from 2005 to 2006. Daily ridership, another key indicator of performance, has shown strong growth as well. During the month of February, Sun Tran recorded approximately 63,000 passenger trips each weekday, and roughly 44,000 during each weekend.

"Reaching this milestone is a result of the quality of service we provide in helping people get to destinations important to them," said Katrina Heineking, Sun Tran General Manager. "In addition, many riders realize the benefits of saving money from rising fuel costs and avoiding congestion. They also like knowing that riding Sun Tran is contributing to help reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and global warming."

Nationally, public transit use is up 30 percent since 1995. That is more than double the growth rate of the population (12 percent) and higher than the growth rate for the vehicle miles traveled on our roads (24 percent) during that same period. In 2006, public transit ridership grew 2.9 percent over 2005. To put the 10.1 billion public transportation trips in perspective, transit trips outnumber domestic airline trips by 15 to one.

Sun Tran is Tucson's award winning regional public transportation system, which is operated by the City of Tucson and managed by Professional Transit Management, Ltd. (PTM). With more than 520 employees, 37 fixed routes and a fleet of 196 buses, Sun Tran's mission is to provide safe, reliable, well maintained and cost effective public transportation with a team of innovative and diverse employees, dedicated to our customers, the environment and the community.

B-roll footage of transit systems across the country and the announcement with sound bites are available for media via satellite:

Mon 3/12  
3:00-3:15 PM ET  
GA 26C, Tr. 9, DL 3880V