

AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

March 10, 2004

APTA 
  Transit Systems 
 Search:

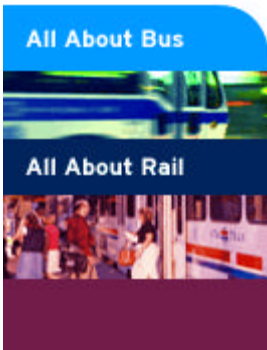
- WHAT'S NEW
- ABOUT APTA
- FOR MEMBERS
- COMMITTEES
- CONFERENCES & CALENDAR
- SERVICES & PROGRAMS
- GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
- RESEARCH & STATISTICS
- MEDIA CENTER
- E-BUSINESS
- PASSENGER TRANSPORT
- BOOK STORE
- LINKS
- CONTACT US
- SITE MAP
- HOME

[APTA](#) > [Research & Statistics](#) > [Information Center](#) > [Online Publications and Databases](#)

# The Benefits Of Public Transportation - An Overview

[Public Transportation: The Need is Now](#)

Public transportation is undergoing a renaissance in the U.S., but more is needed. An overview of the benefits provides a powerful rationale for investing



in its  
future.

[Links](#)  
[to](#)  
[National](#)  
[Goals](#)  
[and](#)  
[Policies](#)

Public  
transportation  
is  
vital  
in  
helping  
the  
U.S.  
enhance  
safety  
and  
security,  
protect  
the  
environment  
and  
public  
health,  
and  
conserve  
energy.

[Benefits](#)  
[for](#)  
[Individuals](#)  
[and](#)  
[Families](#)

Access,  
choice  
and  
economic  
opportunity  
for  
millions  
of  
Americans.

[Benefits](#)  
[to](#)  
[Business](#)  
[and](#)  
[Industry](#)

Employers throughout the U.S. are taking advantage of public transportation to attract larger and more reliable work forces and save in a variety of ways.

[Benefits for Communities and Local Governments](#)

Communities that invest in public transportation realize enhanced development and prosperity in the form of more jobs, revitalized business and

activity  
centers,  
and  
an  
expanded  
tax  
base.

[Benefits  
for  
Public  
Programs  
and  
Community  
Services](#)

Public  
transportation  
means  
savings  
for  
human  
services  
programs,  
more  
access  
to  
healthcare  
and  
education,  
and  
a  
vital  
link  
for  
seniors,  
the  
disabled  
and  
children.

[Benefits  
for  
Metropolitan  
America,  
Small  
Urban  
and  
Rural  
Areas](#)

With  
public

transportation,  
metropolitan  
areas  
can  
remain  
economic  
engines,  
small  
urban  
communities  
help  
maintain  
their  
character,  
and  
residents  
in  
the  
rural  
heartland  
have  
critical  
access  
to  
jobs  
and  
more.

[Benefits  
of  
Partnership  
and  
Collaboration](#)

Government  
and  
the  
private  
sector  
have  
been  
successfully  
working  
together  
to  
fund,  
develop  
and  
upgrade  
the  
U.S.  
public

transportation  
network.

**Public  
Transportation:  
The  
Need  
is  
Now**

Throughout  
the  
U.S.,  
public  
transportation  
is  
undergoing  
a  
renaissance.

Steady  
increases  
in  
transit  
investment  
have  
dramatically  
improved  
and  
expanded  
public  
transportation  
services,  
attracting  
record  
numbers  
of  
riders  
on  
state-of-the-art  
systems  
in  
metropolitan,  
small  
urban  
and  
rural  
areas  
alike.

In  
the  
last  
five

years  
alone,  
public  
transportation  
use  
has  
risen  
21  
percentâ€”faster  
than  
vehicle  
miles  
traveled  
on  
our  
roadways  
and  
airline  
passenger  
miles  
logged  
over  
the  
same  
period.  
In  
2000,  
Americans  
used  
public  
transportation  
9.4  
billion  
timesâ€”the  
highest  
ridership  
level  
in 40  
years.

Communities  
across  
the  
country  
are  
rehabilitating  
and  
expanding  
public  
transportation  
systems  
and

constructing  
new  
ones.  
Currently:

- 556  
local  
public  
transportation  
operators  
provide  
services  
in  
319  
urbanized  
areas  
with  
a  
population  
of  
over  
50,000.
- 1,260  
organizations  
provide  
public  
transportation  
in  
rural  
areas.
- 3,660  
organizations  
provide  
services  
to  
elderly  
and  
disabled  
individuals.

Through  
improved  
mobility,  
safety,  
security,  
economic  
opportunity  
and  
environmental  
quality,  
public  
transportation  
benefits  
every  
segment  
of



American societyâ€™ individuals, families, businesses, industries and communities â€™and supports important national goals and policies.

At the same time, the growing problem of traffic congestion continues to choke Americaâ€™s roadways and restrain community and business development.

This fact-filled report provides an overview of the benefits public transportation brings to America.

Public transportation is taking on an increasingly important role in America's multimodal transportation network. Its broad reach extends to all of America's communities, large and small, and all of Americans' diverse lifestyles, providing freedom and mobility for citizens across the country. It also supports the country's critical national goals and policies, including helping to

conserve  
energy  
resources,  
thereby  
decreasing  
the  
dependence  
on  
foreign  
oil.

The  
rebirth  
of  
public  
transportation  
is a  
critically  
important  
part  
of  
America's  
future,  
providing  
more  
capacity,  
creating  
more  
choices  
and  
helping  
address  
the  
needs  
of a  
growing  
and  
changing  
population.

These  
myriad  
benefits  
of  
public  
transportation  
provide  
a  
powerful  
rationale  
for  
investing

in  
the  
future  
upgrade  
and  
expansion  
of  
the  
nation's  
public  
transportation  
network.

*For  
companion  
documents  
that  
describe  
in  
greater  
detail  
the  
varied  
benefits  
that  
public  
transportation  
provides  
you  
and  
residents  
of  
your  
community,  
contact  
your  
transit  
agency  
or  
APTA.*

**Links  
to  
National  
Goals  
and  
Policies**  
*Public  
transportation  
helps  
lead  
the*

*nation  
towards  
its  
goals  
and  
policies  
of  
protecting  
the  
environment,  
conserving  
energy,  
and  
providing  
for  
the  
health,  
safety  
and  
security  
of  
its  
citizens.*

**Safety  
and  
Security**

Compared  
to  
road  
systems,  
transit  
systems  
are  
significantly  
safer.  
Trips  
with  
similar  
destinations  
result  
in  
200,000  
fewer  
deaths,  
injuries  
and  
accidents  
when  
made  
by  
public

transit  
than  
by  
car,  
adding  
up  
to  
between  
\$2  
billion  
and  
\$5  
billion  
per  
year  
in  
safety  
benefits.

The  
National  
Safety  
Council  
estimates  
that  
riding  
the  
bus  
is  
over  
170  
times  
safer  
than  
automobile  
travel.

Featuring  
new  
visual,  
voice  
and  
data  
communications  
systems  
linking  
vehicles,  
stations  
and  
riders  
with  
state-of-the-art  
operations

centers,  
transit  
systems  
also  
provide  
more  
security  
than  
roadways.

In  
fact,  
many  
transit  
systems  
now  
formally  
serve  
as  
safe  
havens  
for  
children  
and  
students  
moving  
throughout  
communities.

Systems  
on  
the  
leading  
edge  
include:

- Cincinnati's  
SORTA,  
one  
of  
many  
that  
is  
installing  
state-of-the-art  
cameras  
throughout  
its  
bus  
system
- Washington,  
DC's  
WMATA,  
which  
is  
deploying

stateof-  
the-art  
chemical  
sensors  
on  
the  
Metro  
rail  
system

**Increased  
resiliency  
and  
redundancyâ€”  
helping  
in  
emergencies**

Time  
and  
time  
again,  
the  
availability  
of  
public  
transportation  
in  
times  
of  
emergency  
â€”  
both  
natural  
and  
manmade  
â€”  
has  
proven  
to  
be  
critical  
in  
maintaining  
basic  
access,  
mobility  
and  
safety  
for  
individuals  
who  
come  
in



harmâ€™s  
way.  
The  
value  
of  
public  
transportation  
services  
in  
providing  
essential  
redundancy  
and  
resiliency  
in  
our  
transportation  
network  
cannot  
be  
overstated.

- By  
midday,  
September  
11,  
2001,  
New  
Yorkâ€™s  
MTA  
subway  
and  
commuter  
trains  
and  
buses  
were  
evacuating  
millions  
of  
commuters  
from  
Manhattan.  
Following  
the  
attack  
on  
the  
Pentagon,  
Washington,  
DCâ€™s  
WMATA  
moved  
hundreds  
of  
thousands  
of  
commuters

safely  
and  
provided  
buses  
to  
deploy  
police  
and  
to  
serve  
as  
shelters  
for  
rescue  
workers.  
And  
public  
transportation  
systems  
around  
the  
country  
aided  
passengers  
stranded  
by  
the  
air  
system  
shut  
downs.

- In  
1999,  
public  
transportation  
systems  
in  
North  
Carolina  
transported  
volunteers,  
evacuated  
residents  
and  
raised  
funds  
across  
the  
state  
for  
victims  
of  
Hurricane  
Floyd  
and,  
in  
Flint,  
MI,  
evacuated  
a  
senior

citizenâ€™s  
complex  
after  
a  
gas  
explosion.

- In 1998, public transportation systems transported firefighters to wildfires in Florida and evacuated tornado victims in Nashville.
- San Franciscoâ€™s BART system supported commuters and the regional economy following the collapse and reconstruction of major road segments after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.



## A cleaner environment

Emissions from road vehicles are the largest contributors to smog. Over 200 million passenger cars and light trucks log almost 2 trillion miles on American roads every year. These vehicles account for about 50% of air pollution nationwide

even  
higher  
in  
polluted  
cities.

The  
smog-filled  
air is  
devastating  
to  
the  
environment,  
reducing  
growth  
and  
survival  
of  
tree  
seedlings,  
and  
heightening  
the  
susceptibility  
of  
plants  
to  
disease  
and  
pests,  
among  
other  
damages.

In  
addition,  
surfaces  
paved  
to  
accommodate  
more  
traffic  
result  
in  
increased  
urban  
runoff,  
which  
is  
responsible  
for:

- 55%

of environmentally impaired ocean shorelines

- 46% of impaired estuary miles
- 21% of impaired lake miles

Increased investment in and use of public transportation provides significant, direct environmental benefits and helps meet national air quality standards. By reducing smog-producing pollutants, greenhouse gases, and run-off from paved surfaces that degrades the water supply,

and  
by  
conserving  
ecologically  
sensitive  
lands  
and  
open  
spaces,  
public  
transportation  
reduces  
pollution,  
thus  
protecting  
the  
environment  
and  
promoting  
better  
health.

- Public transportation use in America prevents the emission of 126 million pounds of hydrocarbons, the primary cause of smog, and 156 million pounds of nitrogen oxides.
- Rail transit emits 75% less nitrogen oxide than automobiles

with  
one  
occupant  
and  
almost  
no  
hydrocarbons  
or  
carbon  
monoxide.

- Full  
buses  
are  
6  
times  
more  
fuel  
efficient  
than  
cars  
with  
one  
occupant;  
full  
rail  
cars  
are  
15  
times  
more  
efficient.
- Expanded  
public  
transportation  
services  
are  
preserving  
public  
access  
to  
and  
the  
environmental  
quality  
of  
the  
nation's  
national  
parks,  
including  
Zion  
and  
Bryce  
in  
Utah,  
Rocky  
Mountain  
in  
Colorado,  
Yosemite



in  
California,  
and  
Denali  
in  
Alaska.

## Public health

People  
across  
America  
are  
suffering  
from  
air  
polluted  
to a  
large  
degree  
by  
vehicle  
emissions.

- Every  
summer,  
high  
smog  
levels  
cause  
some  
159,000  
trips  
to  
the  
emergency  
room,  
53,000  
hospital  
admissions  
and  
6,000,000  
asthma  
attacks.
- One  
out  
of  
every  
three  
people  
in  
the  
U.S.  
â€”  
including  
active  
children,

adults with respiratory or cardiovascular disease and senior citizens " are at higher risk of experiencing ozone-related health problems.

## Energy conservation

The supply of oil is finite. Public transportation is crucial in helping to save energy and use it wisely.

- Each year, public transportation saves 1,500 million gallons in auto fuel consumption " 150 times the 10 million gallons

spilled  
by  
the  
Exxon  
Valdez.

- For every 10,000 solo commuters who leave their cars at home and commute on an existing public transportation service for one year, the nation reduces fuel consumption by 2.7 million gallons.
- A bus with as few as seven passengers is more fuel efficient than the average car with one occupant used for commuting.

- The fuel efficiency of a fully occupied rail car is 15 times greater than that of the typical commuter's automobile.

## **Benefits for Individuals and Families**

*In community after community, public transportation is making a real difference in the daily lives of individuals and households.*

**Improves mobility**  
Transit systems throughout the U.S. are providing

choices  
and  
luring  
riders  
from  
their  
cars.  
For  
example,  
in  
Denver,  
nearly  
50%  
of  
light  
rail  
riders  
previously  
used  
cars,  
and  
nearly  
60%  
of  
new  
riders  
on  
the  
city's  
Southwest  
LRT  
extension  
are  
new  
to  
transit.  
Over  
25%  
of  
commuters  
to  
the  
city  
center  
use  
transit  
and  
light  
rail  
is  
56%  
ahead

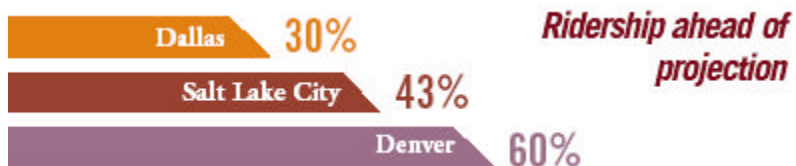
of  
projections.  
The  
LRT  
systems  
in  
Denver,  
Salt  
Lake  
City  
and  
Dallas  
have  
attracted  
60%,  
43%  
and  
30%  
more  
riders,  
respectively,  
than  
projected.

For  
others,  
public  
transportation  
is a  
necessity.  
Recent  
ridership  
figures  
indicate  
that  
public  
transportation  
is  
critical  
for  
many  
Americans.

- Of  
current  
transit  
riders,  
over  
20%  
would  
not  
have  
made  
the

trip without transit, and nearly 70% do not have access to cars at the time their trip is made. One-third have yearly household incomes below \$15,000 â€” well below \$17,600, the poverty level for a family of four in 2000.

- Nearly 94% of public assistance recipients do not own cars and rely on public transportation.



**Reduces road congestion**

If all Americans who take transit to work drove alone, they would fill a nine-lane freeway from Boston to Los Angeles.

Public transportation takes cars off the road.

According to Maryland DOT's estimates, that reduction amounts to 60 cars for a full bus, 12 cars



for a  
full  
van,  
and  
up  
to  
200  
cars  
for a  
full  
commuter  
rail  
car.  
In  
St.  
Louis,  
a full  
MetroLink  
light  
rail  
train  
removes  
125  
cars  
from  
the  
roads,  
and  
the  
entire  
system  
removes  
12,500  
cars  
from  
daily  
rushhour  
traffic.

30,000 passengers can be carried on a single U.S. subway line in one hour.

10 additional highway lanes would be needed if these riders drove instead.

**Reduces  
travel  
time**  
Fewer  
cars  
on  
the

road  
would  
significantly  
reduce  
the  
commuting  
time  
of  
urban  
drivers,  
who,  
in  
1999,  
spent  
an  
average  
of 36  
hours  
â€”  
nearly  
5  
work  
days  
â€”  
in  
traffic  
delays.  
In  
the  
68  
urban  
areas  
it  
studied,  
the  
Texas  
Transportation  
Institute  
found  
that  
one-third  
of  
daily  
travel  
occurs  
under  
congested  
conditions.

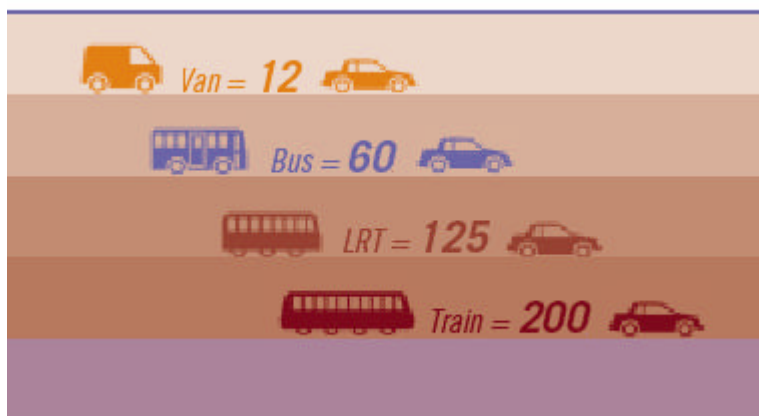
State-of-the-art  
public  
transportation

systems  
are  
reducing  
travel  
times  
for  
the  
10  
million  
Americans  
who  
use  
transit  
each  
working  
day,  
on  
every  
mode  
of  
travel.

- In Atlanta, travelers and airline workers rely on MARTA rail service for a 16-minute ride from downtown to Hartsfield International Airport.
- San Francisco's high-speed catamarans have cut travel time for Bay-area commuters by 30% and

have  
posted  
a  
50%  
increase  
in  
ridership.

- In  
Minneapolis,  
155  
miles  
of  
the  
freeway  
system's  
busonly  
shoulder  
lanes  
speed  
transit  
riders  
and  
improve  
traffic  
flow  
on  
adjacent  
lanes.
- In  
New  
York  
City,  
the  
30-year-old  
Lincoln  
Tunnel  
Exclusive  
Bus  
Lanes  
accommodate  
1,700  
buses  
and  
60,000  
passengers  
a  
day.



### **Connects and extends transportation networks**

The most successful systems are those that provide easy-access links within and among all forms of modern travel — highway, air, water, bus and train. Across the U.S., multimodal transit systems are reaching greater

numbers  
of  
people,  
providing  
travelers  
with  
optimum  
choices.

- A new downtown bus terminal in Waco, TX, links local, intercity, senior and rural bus services.
- The Secaucus Transfer Station links 11 of Northern New Jersey's 12 rail lines.
- Bikes-on-buses programs are successfully linking riders with different transportation modes. For example, in the San Francisco area, 2,000 bicyclists commute

each  
day  
between  
San  
Francisco  
and  
Silicon  
Valley  
on  
commuter  
trains  
equipped  
with  
bike  
racks.  
In  
Phoenix,  
buses  
equipped  
with  
bike  
racks  
attract  
more  
than  
1.5  
million  
bicyclists  
a  
year.

**Enhances  
economic  
opportunity**  
Public  
transportation  
use  
lowers  
household  
expenses  
and  
frees  
up  
more  
income  
for  
other  
needs.

Automobile  
expenses  
are  
considerable:

- For every dollar earned,

the average household spends 18 cents on transportation, 98% of which is for buying, maintaining and operating cars, the largest source of household debt after mortgages.

- For the poorest households, transportation costs can exceed 35% of income.
- Household transportation costs rise in areas with sprawl and few transportation services.

Americans who live in transit-intensive areas save \$22 billion each year by using public transportation. This savings can buy four-year public college educations for half a million students.

Savings  
with  
public



transportation  
are  
substantial.  
Americans  
living  
in  
transit-intensive  
metropolitan  
areas  
save  
\$22  
billion  
annually  
in  
transportation  
costs.  
Savings  
add  
up  
for  
everyone:  
every  
\$10  
million  
invested  
in  
public  
transportation  
saves  
more  
than  
\$15  
million,  
for  
both  
highway  
and  
transit  
users.  
This  
includes  
savings  
of  
about  
\$1,500  
and  
200  
gallons  
of  
gas  
â€”  
per

year.  
Plus,  
transit  
availability  
can  
reduce  
the  
need  
for  
additional  
cars,  
a  
yearly  
expense  
of  
between  
\$4,800  
and  
\$9,700.

Silicon  
Valley  
commuters  
are  
excellent  
examples.  
Riding  
the  
Santa  
Clara  
Valley  
Transit  
Authority's  
Altamont  
Commuter  
Express,  
the  
daily  
80-mile  
commute  
by  
train  
saves  
each  
commuter  
over  
\$2,500  
annually  
â€”  
\$2,688  
by  
train

compared  
to  
\$5,282  
by  
car.

## **Benefits to Business and Industry**

*More  
than  
ever  
before,  
public  
transportation  
is an  
essential  
element  
for  
maintaining  
a  
vibrant  
business  
community  
and  
economic  
climate.  
In  
fact,  
business  
leaders  
are  
often  
the  
driving  
force  
behind  
local  
efforts  
to  
increase  
public  
transportation  
investment  
and  
use.*

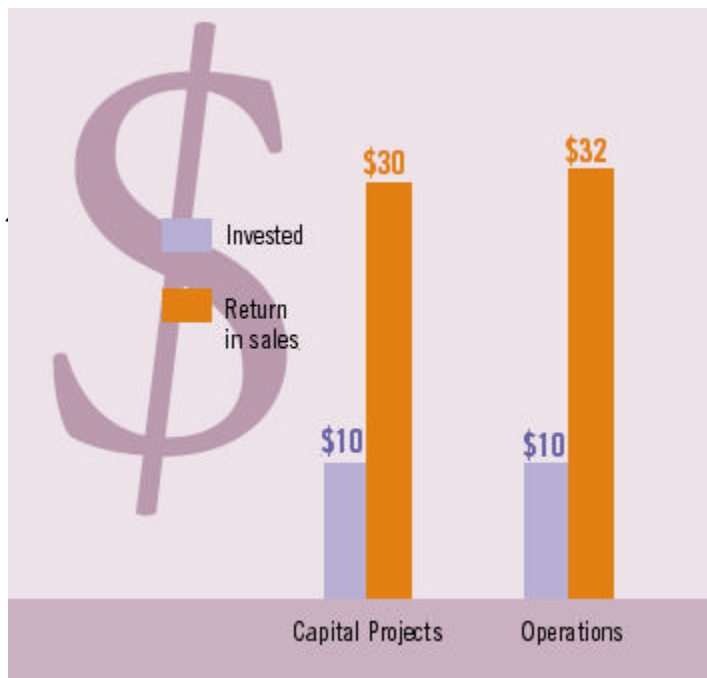
**Generates  
impressive  
return**

**on investment**  
An investment in public transportation translates into significant increases in business revenues and profits. Every \$10 million invested in transit capital projects yields \$30 million in business sales, and the same investment in transit operations generates \$32 million.

- In St. Louis, a 25-year transit modernization plan is expected to generate a

\$2.3 billion return in business sales.

- A 20-year "good-repair" strategy in Chicago would yield an anticipated \$4.6 billion.



expanded labor pool that public transportation provides. Almost half of the nation's Fortune 500 companies, representing over

\$2  
trillion  
in  
annual  
revenue,  
are  
headquartered  
in  
America's  
transit-intensive  
metropolitan  
areas.

- Motorola's  
new  
cellular  
phone  
plant  
at  
the  
end  
of  
Chicago's  
Metra  
draws  
on  
a  
large  
labor  
pool  
with  
Metra  
access.
- BellSouth  
in  
Atlanta  
is  
consolidating  
all  
of  
its  
suburban  
offices  
into  
three  
downtown  
locations  
convenient  
to  
Atlanta's  
MARTA  
rail  
system.
- In  
Dallas,  
proximity  
to

DART was cited as a key factor in the location decisions of prominent firms.

In addition to enhancing employee recruitment, businesses tied to public transportation are experiencing more employee reliability and less absenteeism and turnover.

- In Lafayette, IN, businesses in outlying areas help underwrite the cost of employee bus commutes because of the link to willing

workers.

- Increased OWL service in Oakland, CA, meets the critical transportation needs of shift workers.

Public assistance agencies are also using public transportation to help more people enter the work force.

- The FTA's Job Access and Reverse Commute program provides grants to support transportation for thousands.
- Through NJ TRANSIT's "WorkPass" program, public agencies provide



passes  
and  
tickets  
to  
welfare  
recipients  
for  
work-related  
travel.

- In Myrtle Beach, SC, Pee Dee RTA, in coordination with the County Department of Social Services, runs a 24-hour-per-day commute service linking rural residents with entry-level jobs in the city.
- The Albuquerque, NM, Transit Department provides reduced-rate, curb-to-curb subscription services for low-income workers whose jobs are not accessible by bus.

**Helps  
the  
bottom  
line**

Businesses  
that  
support  
public  
transportation  
options  
are  
realizing  
substantial  
savings  
in  
several  
ways.  
For  
example:

- Businesses  
save  
on  
employee  
time  
lost  
to  
delay,  
accident  
and  
injury  
on  
the  
road.  
In  
2000,  
there  
were  
23.8  
million  
accidents  
involving  
passenger  
cars,  
light  
trucks  
and  
SUVs;  
motor  
vehicle  
injuries  
resulted  
in  
the  
loss  
of  
\$71.5

billion  
in  
wages  
and  
productivity.

- By relieving roadway congestion, public transportation helps speed freight and commerce. Transit-oriented brownfield redevelopment in New Jersey is focused on reducing freight travel times and truck volumes on local roads.

Traffic congestion causes an annual loss of \$40 billion to U.S. business. If all U.S. public transportation commuters drove instead, that loss would increase by over 37%.

- The 1,200 firms that have joined NJ TRANSIT's "BusinessPass" program reduce payroll costs and taxes for both the companies

and  
their  
employees.

- Businesses in transit-intensive areas save on land required for parking and its associated costs. Where public transportation is a factor, the number of parking spaces required for offices and retail businesses can be reduced by 30% and 50%, respectively â€” saving between \$2,000 and \$20,000 per parking space.
- By reducing vehicle emissions, public transportation can reduce the

need  
for  
higher-cost  
emissions  
reductions  
from  
stationary  
plants  
and  
equipment.

## **Benefits for Communities and Local Governments**

*Increased  
congestion  
on  
the  
roadways  
threatens  
the  
economic  
future  
and  
the  
quality  
of  
life  
for  
urban  
residents.  
Even  
the  
extensive  
public  
transportation  
networks  
already  
serving  
many  
major  
metropolitan  
regions  
are  
being  
taxed  
to  
the  
limit  
by*

*demand  
that  
exceeds  
their  
capacity.*

Residents  
and  
community  
leaders  
are  
recognizing  
that  
fully  
functional,  
high-capacity,  
region-wide  
public  
transportation  
services  
are  
essential  
to  
keep  
America  
moving.

Communities  
that  
invest  
in  
public  
transportation  
realize  
enhanced  
development  
and  
prosperity.

**Reduces  
investment  
required  
for  
expansion  
of  
roadway  
network**  
Urban  
rail  
systems  
can  
provide  
more

capacity  
in a  
100-foot  
right-of-way  
than  
a  
six-lane  
freeway,  
which  
requires  
a  
300-  
foot  
right-of-way.

According  
to a  
recent  
study,  
public  
transportation  
use  
reduces  
roadway-related  
costs  
“  
traffic  
enforcement,  
emergency  
services,  
right-of-way  
acquisition  
“  
by  
an  
estimated  
\$1  
billion  
to  
\$1.7  
billion  
per  
year.  
From  
1980  
to  
1994,  
it is  
estimated  
that  
Atlanta’s  
MARTA

system  
saved  
\$2.2  
billion  
by  
providing  
motorists  
with  
a  
public  
transportation  
alternative.

Thatâ€™s  
significant  
for  
cities  
throughout  
the  
U.S.  
The  
Texas  
Transportation  
Institute  
(TTI)  
estimates  
that  
an  
average  
of 64  
more  
lane  
miles  
(27  
miles  
of  
freeway  
plus  
37  
miles  
of  
principal  
arterial  
streets)  
is  
needed  
to  
meet  
a  
single  
yearâ€™s  
increase



in  
traffic  
in  
the  
cities  
it  
studied.

**Creates  
and  
sustains**

**jobs**

Every  
\$10  
million  
invested  
in  
public  
transportation  
capital  
projects  
generates  
300  
jobs,  
and  
the  
same  
amount  
invested  
in  
transit  
operations  
generates  
600  
jobs.  
Here  
are  
some  
examples  
of  
how  
public  
transportation  
helps  
create  
and  
sustain  
jobs:

- In San Diego, nearly

7,000 workers would be stranded without transit. Their direct contribution to the local economy is \$140 million, and their spending supports an additional 3,200 jobs.

- Riders on southern Illinoisâ€™ RIDES program, which serves 11 counties, contribute a combined payroll of over \$1 million per year to this rural area.
- Since its inception in 1999, the Guaranteed Ride Home Program run

by Outreach, Inc., the Santa Clara Valley (CA) Transportation Authority's paratransit agency, has enrolled over 1,700 participants and provided more than 47,900 rides to work.



**Helps  
revitalize  
business  
districts  
and  
activity  
centers**

Developers  
in  
places  
as  
diverse  
as  
northern  
Virginia,

Portland,  
San  
Diego,  
Denver,  
Chicago,  
Baltimore,  
Los  
Angeles,  
Dallas,  
St.  
Louis,  
northern  
New  
Jersey  
and  
New  
York  
are  
investing  
millions  
in  
corporate  
buildings,  
sports  
facilities  
and  
entertainment  
complexes  
around  
transit  
stations.

- Transit villages like those in South Orange, NJ, and North Hollywood, CA, are becoming hubs for new business and cultural activities.
- The Washington

Metro has generated nearly \$15 billion in surrounding private development. Between 1980 and 1990 alone, 40% of the region's retail and office space was built within walking distance of a Metro station.

- St. Louis's MetroLink system has sparked the construction of the \$5.8 million Jackie Joyner Kersee Sports Complex, the \$60 million Performing Arts Center, and the \$266 million Convention Center

Hotel.  
The  
Busch  
Stadium  
station  
provides  
access  
to  
the  
\$646  
million  
Ballpark  
Village,  
the  
largest  
single  
development  
in  
St.  
Louisâ€™  
history.

- State-of-the-art  
regional  
public  
transportation  
systems  
in  
Atlanta  
and  
Salt  
Lake  
City  
were  
essential  
to  
those  
citiesâ€™  
successful  
Olympics  
bids.

**Helps  
increase  
tax  
base  
and  
public  
revenues**

The  
\$27  
billion  
U.S.  
public  
transportation  
industry  
generates  
up  
to a

6-to-1  
net  
return  
on  
investment  
â€”  
which  
translates  
into  
higher  
revenues  
for  
cities  
and  
states.

- Between 1994 and 1998, the increase in the taxable value of properties located near Dallasâ€™ DART rail stations was 25% more than elsewhere in the metropolitan area.
- Through 2010, Washingtonâ€™s Metrorail system will generate \$2.1 billion in revenues for the Commonwealth of

Virginia.

**Benefits  
for  
Public  
Programs  
and  
Community  
Services**

*Public  
transportation  
produces  
savings  
in  
public  
programs  
and  
services  
such  
as  
human  
services,  
healthcare  
and  
education.*

**Roadway-related**

**costs**

A  
recent  
study  
estimates  
that  
transit  
use  
reduces  
roadwayrelated  
costsâ€”traffic  
enforcement,  
emergency  
services,  
right-of-way  
acquisitionâ€”by  
as  
much  
as  
\$1  
billion  
to  
\$1.7  
billion  
per



year.

**Human services**

According to a recent study, savings to social programs from transit use may be as high as \$1.3 billion to \$2 billion per year.

Human services-oriented transit programs can be found in communities around the country.

- Clallam Transit in Port Angeles, WA, coordinates services with 14 other agencies to reduce transportation

costs  
of  
public  
programs.

- CitiLink  
in  
Ft.  
Wayne,  
IN,  
joined  
a  
consortium  
of  
human  
service  
agencies  
in  
the  
Community  
Transportation  
Network  
to  
meet  
local  
needs  
at  
a  
lower  
cost.

- The  
Los  
Angeles  
LAMTA  
underwrites  
transit  
travel  
and  
taxi  
vouchers  
for  
clients  
of  
600  
Los  
Angeles  
social  
service  
agencies.

### **Healthcare**

The  
availability  
of  
public  
transportation  
can  
reduce  
costly

duplication  
in  
transportation  
services.  
This  
helps  
agencies  
avoid  
medical  
institutionalization  
of  
the  
indigent  
and  
associated  
public  
costs,  
reduce  
demand  
for  
more  
expensive  
and  
oversubscribed  
paratransit  
services,  
provide  
an  
option  
to  
the  
costly  
use  
of  
ambulance  
and  
EMS  
services,  
and  
relieve  
other  
public  
agencies  
of  
transportation  
responsibility,  
thereby  
increasing  
their  
productivity.

- According

to  
CTAA,  
costs  
could  
be  
significantly  
reduced  
if  
public  
transportation  
were  
available  
for  
many  
types  
of  
medical  
trips.  
Monroe  
County,  
NY,  
for  
example,  
reimburses  
providers  
\$10.55  
each  
way  
for  
car  
or  
van  
trips  
and  
\$192.91  
each  
way  
for  
advanced  
life  
support  
ambulance  
trips.

- In  
Florida,  
the  
use  
of  
Metro  
Dade  
transit  
passes  
saves  
the  
Dade  
County  
Medicaid  
agency  
over  
\$500,000  
a

month  
and  
gives  
Medicaid  
clients  
unlimited  
travel  
for  
\$1  
a  
month.

Public  
transportation  
reduces  
health-care  
costs  
in  
other  
ways  
as  
well.  
Maryland  
estimates  
that  
public  
transportation  
saves  
\$70  
million  
annually  
in air  
pollution-related  
health  
costs  
by  
reducing  
vehicle  
emissions.

**Education**  
Approximately  
12%  
of  
public  
transportation  
users  
are  
en  
route  
to  
schools  
of  
various

types;  
and  
school  
districts,  
educators  
and  
concerned  
parents  
are  
finding  
that  
greater  
reliance  
on  
expanded  
public  
transportation  
services  
helps  
improve  
educational  
systems.  
Across  
the  
country,  
"Unlimited  
Access"  
transit  
pass  
programs  
at  
35  
universities  
provide  
free,  
system-wide  
service  
to  
825,000  
college  
students,  
faculty  
and  
staff,  
expanding  
access,  
reducing  
autorelated  
expenditures,  
and  
saving  
universities

millions.

- Salt Lake City, UT's University TRAX LRT line serves 46,000 students and faculty, relieving campus congestion and reducing university parking costs.
- The Worcester, MA, Regional Transit Authority connects 26 training facilities and two GED test centers, as well as 26 major employers and 24 childcare facilities.
- In Duluth, MN, the U-Pass program allows access to the TA

system,  
easing  
parking  
costs  
and  
congestion  
at  
three  
area  
colleges  
and  
universities.

In  
addition,  
many  
public  
transportation  
agencies  
and  
educational  
institutions  
â€”  
in  
areas  
such  
as  
Waukegan,  
IL,  
Orlando,  
FL,  
Syracuse  
and  
Albany,  
NY,  
Madison,  
WI,  
and  
Flint,  
MI  
â€”  
have  
established  
cost-saving  
partnerships.

**More  
access  
for  
children  
and  
young  
adults**  
The



need  
for  
increased  
access  
and  
mobility  
also  
ties  
into  
the  
emerging  
lifestyle  
needs  
of  
children  
and  
young  
adults.  
As  
their  
activities  
become  
more  
extensive  
and  
widespread,  
public  
transportation  
plays  
an  
increasingly  
important  
role  
in  
linking  
young  
Americans  
to  
the  
larger  
community.

By the year 2020, 40% of the U.S. population will be senior citizens; many will be unable to drive.

**Mobility  
for  
seniors**  
By  
2020,  
40%  
of

the  
U.S.  
population  
will  
be  
senior  
citizens;  
many  
will  
be  
unable  
to  
drive.  
In  
fact,  
one-fourth  
of  
today's  
75+  
age  
group  
does  
not  
drive.  
Meeting  
the  
transportation  
needs  
of  
seniors  
is a  
major  
community  
objective  
as  
well  
as a  
national  
goal.  
Public  
transportation  
and  
related  
travel  
options  
represent  
a  
lifeline  
for  
seniors,  
linking  
them

with  
family,  
friends  
and  
a  
changing  
society.  
Mini-buses  
in  
Miami,  
for  
example,  
serve  
areas  
with  
unique  
geography  
and  
character,  
connecting  
residents  
with  
critical  
neighborhood  
facilities  
and  
services.

**A  
vital  
link  
for  
citizens  
with  
disabilities**

Over  
54  
million  
Americans  
have  
disabilities.  
Nearly  
35%  
say  
they  
are  
uninvolved  
in  
their  
communities,  
and  
the

lack  
of  
effective  
transportation  
options  
contributes  
to  
an  
unemployment  
rate  
of  
approximately  
75%.

Nearly  
85%  
of  
today's  
public  
transportation  
vehicles  
are  
accessible  
to  
people  
with  
disabilities.  
However,  
to  
ensure  
that  
disabled  
persons  
remain  
actively  
involved  
in  
their  
communities,  
maintain  
productive  
roles  
in  
the  
economy,  
and  
have  
access  
to  
the  
full  
range

of  
facilities  
and  
services  
needed  
to  
lead  
enjoyable  
and  
productive  
lives,  
the  
reach  
of  
public  
transportation  
to  
this  
population  
needs  
to  
be  
broadened.

**Supports  
diversity**

In a  
world  
with  
fewer  
and  
fewer  
boundaries,  
Americansâ€™<sup>TM</sup>  
travel  
needs  
are  
increasingly  
diverse.  
Transit  
services  
are  
becoming  
more  
agile  
and  
responsive,  
providing  
extraordinary  
value  
and  
benefit

for a  
wide  
range  
of  
lifestyles.

**Benefits  
for  
Metropolitan  
America  
and  
Small  
Urban  
and  
Rural  
Areas**

*The  
broad-based  
benefits  
of  
public  
transportation  
are  
most  
obvious  
in  
metropolitan  
America.  
However,  
public  
transportation  
is  
equally  
important  
to  
the  
nation's  
small  
urban  
communities  
and  
rural  
areas.  
In  
the  
last  
three  
years,  
funding  
for  
small*

*urban  
and  
rural  
public  
transportation  
systems  
in all  
50  
states  
has  
nearly  
doubled  
and  
ridership  
has  
jumped  
15%.*

**Preserving  
small  
urban  
and  
rural  
communities**

Small  
urban  
communities  
throughout  
the  
country  
are  
symbols  
of  
fundamental  
American  
values  
â€”  
a  
hard-work  
ethic,  
self-reliance,  
mutual  
support,  
creativity,  
innovation  
â€”  
as  
well  
as  
emerging  
focal  
points

for today's economy. In light of the fact that nearly 10% of all households in small urban areas are without a car, the freedom, mobility and access that public transportation services provide in these settings are key ingredients in sustaining their character.

- In Des Moines, IA, the MTA's downtown loop shuttle and an 1,800-space



park-and-ride  
lot  
have  
increased  
mobility,  
reduced  
congestion  
and  
enhanced  
access  
to  
the  
downtown  
area.

- The  
Huntington,  
WV,  
downtown  
Intermodal  
Transportation  
Facility  
combines  
access  
to  
local  
and  
interstate  
buses,  
taxis,  
bicycles  
and  
private  
cars.
- In  
South  
Carolina,  
the  
43  
member  
agencies  
of  
the  
Chesterfield  
County  
Coordinating  
Council  
share  
vehicles  
on  
fixed-route  
and  
dial-a-ride  
services  
and  
allow  
adults  
to  
ride  
school  
buses.

- In Lebanon, NH, 65% of the riders on Advance Transit services are commuters going to work.

**Providing access for rural areas**  
Public transportation is equally important to America's rural heartland, where 40% of residents have no access to public transportation services and another 28% have negligible access. Transportation service is vital for rural

America's  
30  
million  
non-drivers,  
who  
include  
senior  
citizens,  
low-income  
families,  
and  
people  
with  
disabilities.

- In rural Illinois, RIDES coordinates transportation needs for clients of 80 agencies to meet job, service and training needs.
- The Sweetwater Transit Authority in Wyoming helps 44,000 residents in a 10,000-square-mile service area reach work sites.
- In the Robertsdale, AL, region, the

Baldwin  
Rural  
Area  
Transit  
System  
(BRATS)  
provides  
more  
than  
400,000  
trips  
per  
year.

Transportation service is vital for rural America—30 million non-drivers.

**The  
Benefits  
of  
Partnership  
and  
Collaboration**

*Many  
of  
the  
benefits  
of  
public  
transportation  
are  
economic,  
both  
direct  
and  
indirect,  
with  
a  
real  
dollar  
value.*

In  
recent  
years,  
government  
and  
private-sector  
groups  
have  
formed  
true  
partnerships  
to

fund  
public  
transportation  
“  
partnerships  
in  
which  
investment  
decisions,  
such  
as  
transitoriented  
developments  
that  
create  
livable  
communities,  
are  
increasingly  
based  
on a  
clear  
sense  
of  
the  
benefits  
that  
can  
be  
realized.

Successful  
in  
getting  
new-start  
systems  
off  
the  
ground,  
as  
well  
as in  
funding  
expansions  
and  
upgrades,  
these  
investments  
have  
taken  
many  
forms,

including:

- More direct public funding for transit and related improvements by federal, state and local agencies
- More public funding for other public services—education, health, human services—to support partnerships with public transportation agencies
- The leveraging of private funds to support public transit facilities, services and surrounding development
- The introduction of effective incentives for shifting public and private investment

to  
transit

Copyright ©

2003 American Public Transportation Association 1666 K Street NW, Washington, DC  
20006

Telephone (202) 496-4800 Fax (202) 496-4321 Logo Usage