



The Benefits of Public Transportation

Transportation is the lifeblood of a nation's economy, moving and connecting people, goods and services. For many Americans, talk of our transportation system may bring to mind our expansive highway system, undoubtedly the largest in the world. But increasingly, studies are showing that Americans want alternatives to driving to their destinations.

Public transportation can answer that call, and can play a significant role in solving a number of other challenges facing our nation today. Public transportation:

- **Creates jobs and stimulates economic growth**
- **Benefits families and improves our quality of life**
- **Protects our environment**
- **Moves America toward energy independence**

Research from around the country supports public transportation investment not only to reduce traffic congestion, but also to create healthier communities.

Public transportation creates jobs

- For every \$1 billion spent, public transportation investments generate 31 percent more jobs than new construction of roads and bridges.
- For every \$1 billion invested in public transportation, more than 41,000 jobs are created.

Public transportation stimulates economic growth

- For every \$1 invested in public transportation, \$6 is generated in economic returns.
- For every \$10 million in capital investment in public transportation, up to \$30 million in business revenues are generated.

Public transportation benefits families

- Public transportation provides access to job opportunities and other places people need to go, including schools, community events, grocery stores or doctor's offices.
- Using public transportation increases a household's disposable income. A family that uses public transportation can save more than \$8,000 per year -- even more as price of fuel rises -- just by driving one less car.

Public transportation improves quality of life

- Public transportation eases traffic congestion. Public transportation saves an estimated \$541 million worth of hours in travel time and 340 million gallons of fuel annually.
- Public transportation is a vital link for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Public transportation improves air quality and protects our environment

- Public transportation prevents the release of 37 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually – equivalent to emissions from electricity use of 4.9 million households.
- Switching to public transportation from a 20-mile car commute will reduce carbon emissions by 4,800 pounds every year
- For every mile traveled, fewer pollutants are emitted by transit vehicles compared to a single-passenger automobile; buses emit eighty percent less carbon monoxide than a car.

Public transportation moves America toward energy independence

- Public transportation saves the U.S. the equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually.
- Households near public transportation drive an average of 4,400 fewer miles annually compared to those without access to public transportation.
- Greatly reducing oil imports will make the U.S. less vulnerable and dependent on foreign oil.

Sources: American Public Transportation Association, Surface Transportation Policy Project, Victoria Transport Policy Institute