



# **FTA: Helping to Build Sustainable Communities**

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## **DOT- HUD- EPA Partnership**

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate policies and leverage investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

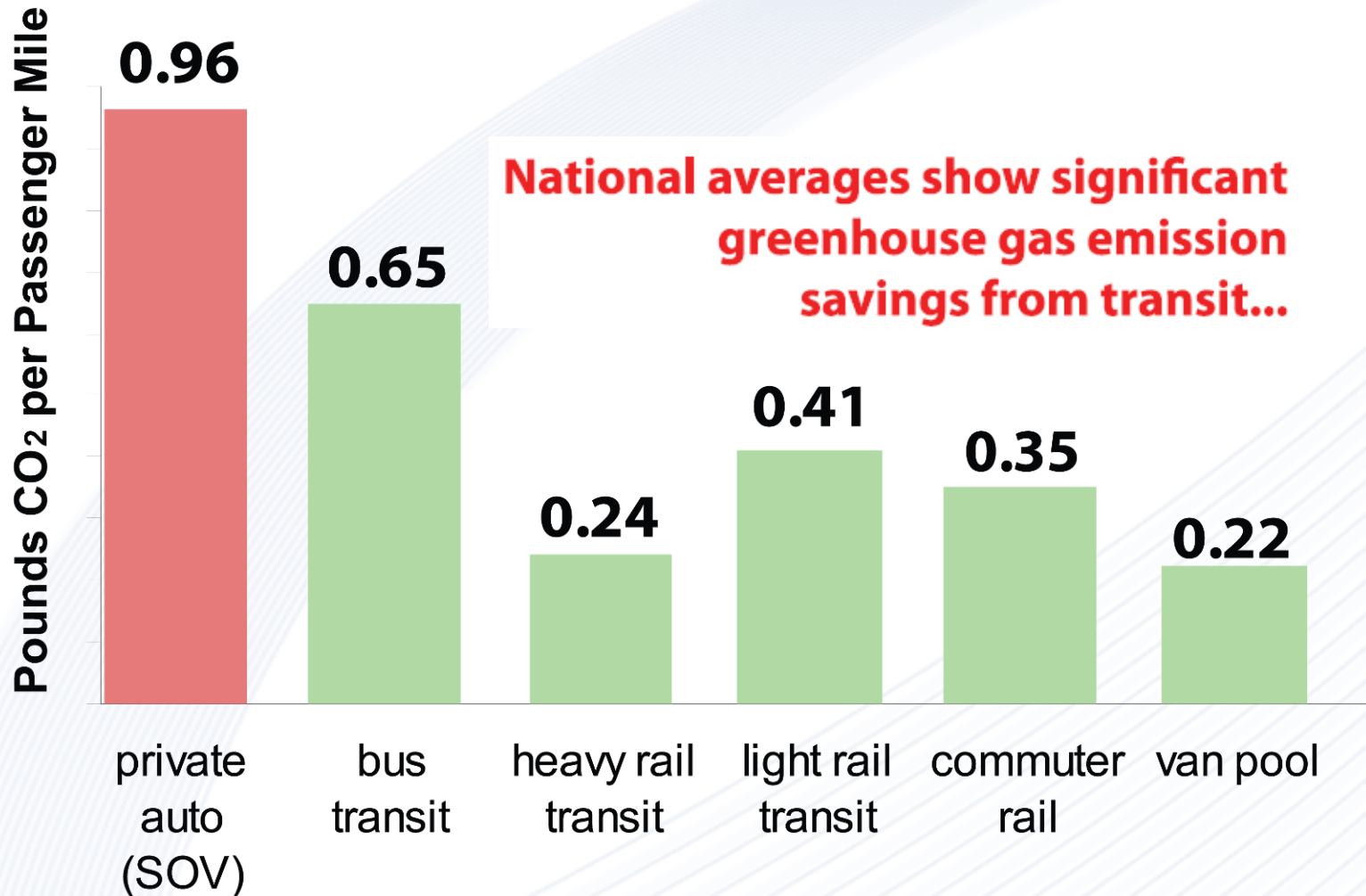


## **FTA: Building Sustainable Communities**

- We've been at this a long time.
- Key federal transit initiatives supporting sustainability:
  - Improving mobility and accessibility
  - Promoting transit-oriented development and joint development
  - Improving housing affordability
  - Coordinating land use- transportation planning



## CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions per Passenger Mile



Data Sources: Federal Transit Administration 2007 National Transit Database, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency





*"All segments of the population must have access to safe transportation services to get to work, housing, medical services, schools, shopping, and other essential activities"*

Secretary Ray LaHood



# What is Transit-Oriented Development

- Compact, mixed-use development near transit facilities and high-quality walking environments.
- Leverages transit infrastructure to promote economic development and smart growth.
- Boosts transit ridership and reduces automobile congestion.
- When physically or functionally related to a transit project – it is joint development.



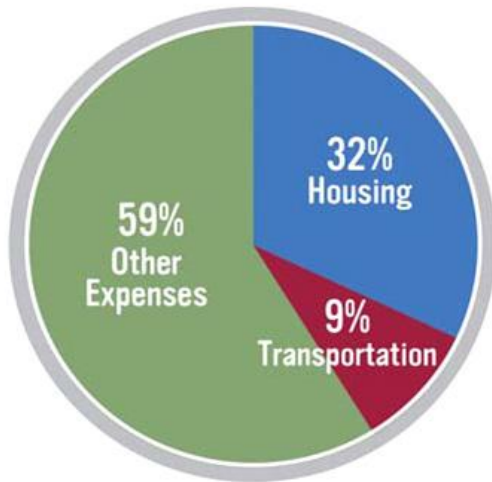
# **Federal Transit Funding**

- TOD or Joint Development activities are eligible under FTA existing programs
  - TOD is an eligible planning expense
  - Transit related components of TOD and Joint Development are an eligible capital expense
- Criteria
  - Public transportation benefit
  - Economic link

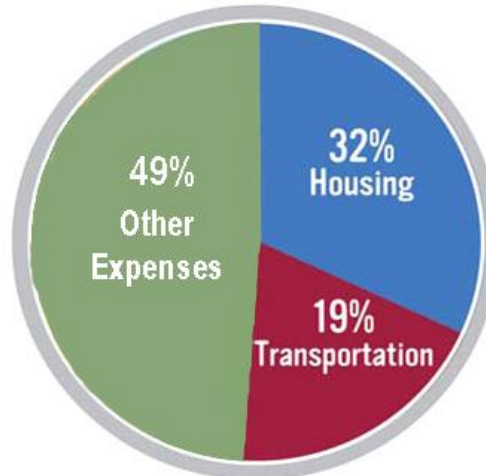


# Linking Housing and Transportation: Comparative Percentages of Household Budgets

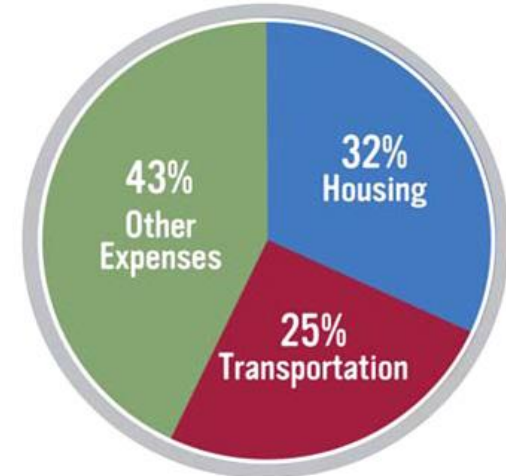
**TRANSIT RICH  
NEIGHBORHOOD**



**AVERAGE AMERICAN  
FAMILY**



**AUTO DEPENDENT  
EXURBS**



Source: Center for Transit Oriented Development

## HUD and USDOT Partnership to give communities:

- More choices for affordable housing near jobs
- More transportation options
- Better coordination of transportation and land uses; and
- Safe, livable, healthy communities.





## **Promoting Affordable Housing Near Transit**

- Improving program coordination at the Federal level
- Improving project and planning coordination at the regional/local level



# The Transit and Housing Linkage

- Land use plays key role in transit usage – live closer, use more often.
- Land use can be key determinant in transit planning and investment decisions (e.g., New Starts criteria).
- Coordinating transit and housing is key in community building.
  - Coordinate to serve diverse needs.
  - Examples: affordability; design for disabled access; provision of housing and transportation for growing elderly population
- TOD *IS* Smart Growth.



## Planning is Fundamental

*“ I think right now we don’t do a lot of effective planning at the regional level when it comes to transportation. That’s hugely inefficient. Not only does it probably consume more money in terms of getting projects done, but it also ends up creating traffic patterns, for example, that are hugely wasteful when it comes to energy use. If we can start building in more incentives for more effective planning at the local level, that’s not just good transportation policy, it’s good energy policy.”*

President Barack Obama



# **Future Challenges:**

- Program Coordination within DOT
- Program Coordination between federal and other governmental programs

**Funding: at all levels**