

Public Transportation in the United States

Federal Funding, National Transit Database, & Livability



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Federal Transit Administration

A Brief History of Public Transportation in the United States

- **Transit Ridership peaked in 1926 at 17.2 billion trips**
- **Fell to 11.3 billion trips in 1933 during the Great Depression**
- **Topped out in 1946 at 23.4 billion trips**

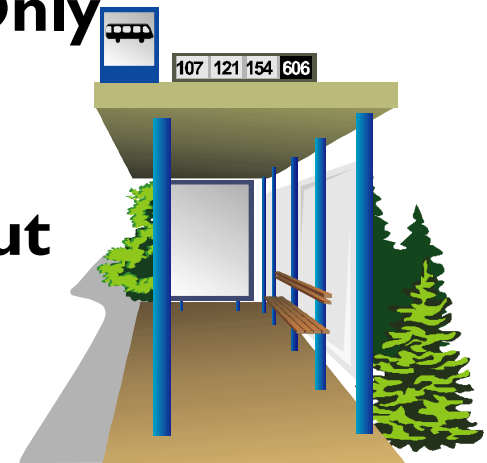
- **For the next 26 years there was just one year of ridership growth:**

	1946	1972	% Change
Ridership	23.4 billion	6.6 billion	- 72%
Population	131 million	210 million	+ 60%
Employment	42 million	73 million	+ 76%



Fuel Shocks and Federal Support for Growth

- **1961 – First Federal Support for Transit**
- **1972 – 1980: Ridership Up 30% to 8.6 billion Trips**
- **1980 – 1990: Ridership Grows By Only 3% - Total**
- **Only 8.8 billion Trips in 1990 – about same as in 1980**

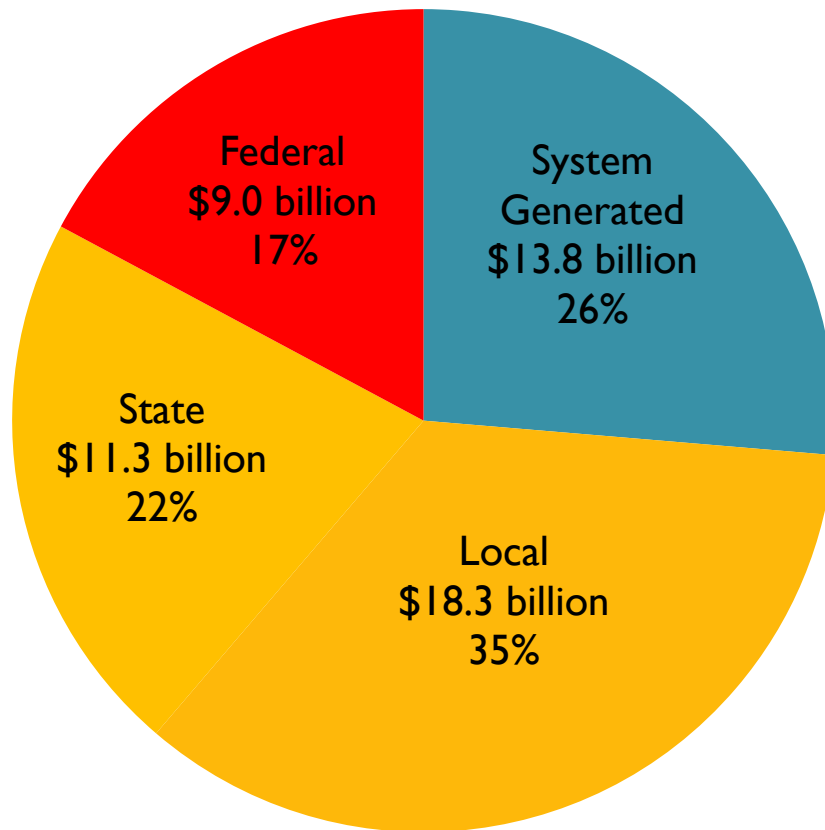


Other Historical Notes

- 1968: UMTA is moved from Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to Dept. of Transportation
- 1981: Mass Transit Account is established in the Highway Trust Fund – creates dedicated funding for transit
- 1991: UMTA is renamed as the Federal Transit Administration



Total US Transit Spending - \$54.3 Billion



- System-generated revenue covers 38% of operating expenses
- Federal spending focuses on capital investment (\$6.4 billion)
- State funding varies significantly by State



Highway Trust Fund

- 1981: \$0.09 tax per gallon of gasoline
 - \$0.024 per liter
 - \$.08 for Highways and \$.01 for Transit
- 1993: \$0.184 per gallon
 - \$0.049 per liter
 - \$0.158 for Highways and \$0.026 for Transit
- Has Not Been Indexed for Inflation
- Highway Trust Fund Ran Out in 2008

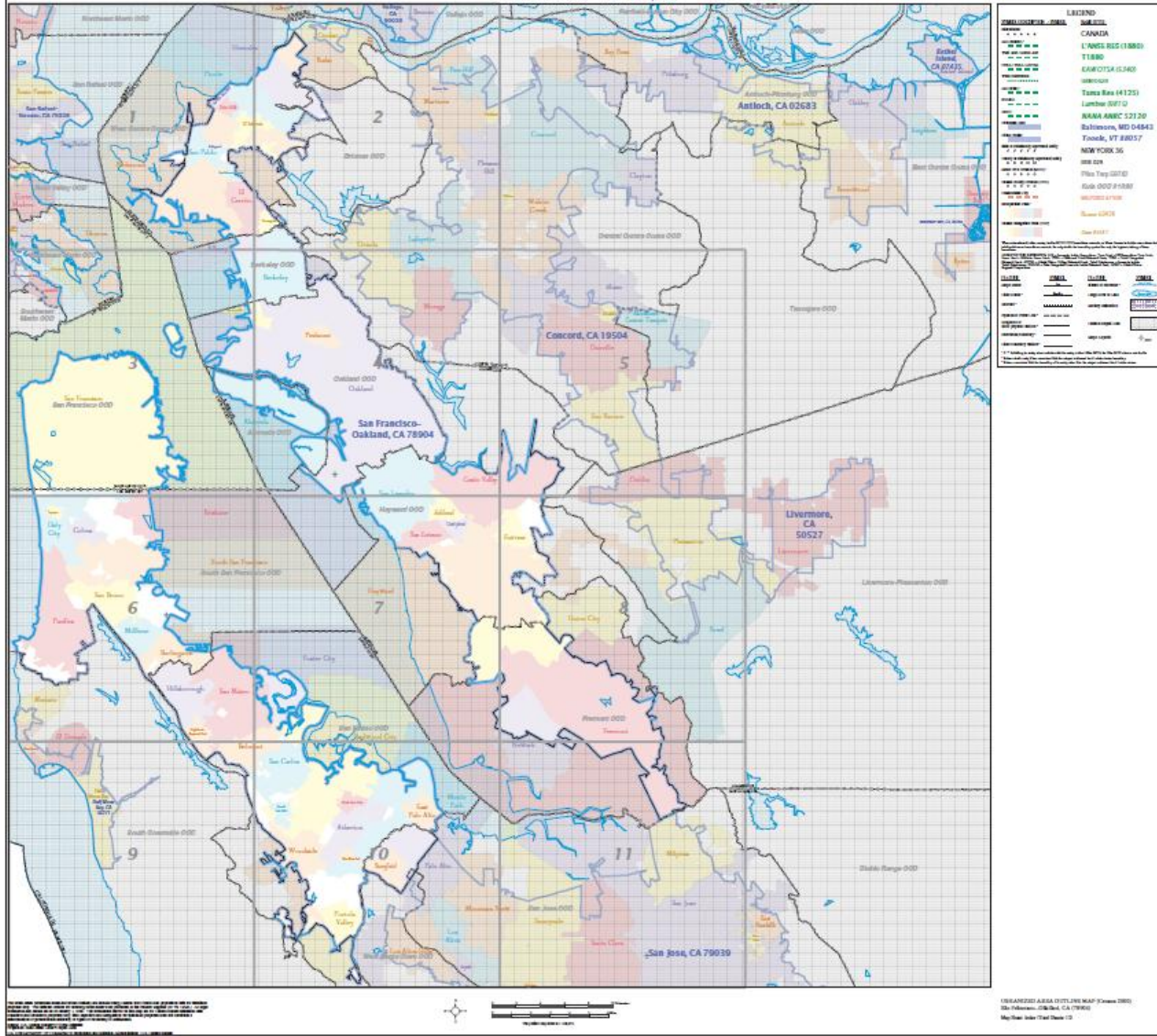


Geography of Transit

- US Census Occurs Every 10 Years - Establishes Urbanized Areas (UZAs)
- Currently 466 Identified UZAs in the US & Territories
- Expanded transit from 383 UZAs in 2000 to 457 in 2010
- What is an Urbanized Area?
 - 50,000 or more total population
 - Core of 1,000 people per square mile (386 per sqkm)
 - Nearby areas of 500 people per square mile (183 per sqkm)
 - Hops and Jumps of up to 2.5 miles (4 km)
 - Exempt Territory up to 5 miles (8 km)



URBANIZED AREA OUTLINE MAP (CENSUS 2000)
San Francisco-Oakland, CA



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Importance of Urbanized Areas

- UZAs are based on geographical data – and do not correspond to political jurisdictions
- Each UZA is required to establish a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for coordinating funding among the various jurisdictions in the area
- Federal formulas are based on UZAs
- Each UZA may have many transit systems – must coordinate through an MPO!



Urbanized Area Formula - \$4.5 billion

- Divided to Urbanized Areas

(Example for UZAs over 1 million in population)

What	Amount
Population	\$3.47
Bus Vehicle Revenue Miles	\$0.42
Fixed-Guideway VRM	\$0.61
Fixed-Guideway Route Mile	\$31,828

- Other Factors Include:

- Population Density
- Operating Expenses per Passenger Miles



Other Formula Funding

- Fixed Guideway Modernization - \$1.7 billion
- Rural Formula - \$537 million
- Small Transit-Intensive Cities - \$42 million
- Various Planning Programs - \$137 million
- Various Human Services Programs - \$275 million



Discretionary Programs

- Major Capital Investment Grants – “New Starts”
 - primarily funds new or expanded rail or BRT systems
 - \$1.6 billion per year in competitive application process
- Discretionary Bus Grants
 - \$1 billion per year to support major capital purchases for bus systems in both UZAs and rural areas



American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- Response to Economic Crisis
- Provided additional \$8 billion to FTA
 - Urban and Rural Formulas
 - New Starts and Fixed Guideway Modernization
 - New Discretionary Programs
 - Multi-modal Discretionary (TIGER)
 - Energy Reduction (TIGGER)



Partnership for Sustainable Communities

- Joint effort of:
 - Department of Transportation
 - Department of Housing & Urban Development
 - Environmental Protection Agency
- Six Principles
 - Provide More Transportation Choices
 - Promote Equitable, Affordable Housing
 - Enhance Economic Competitiveness
 - Support Existing Communities
 - Coordinate Federal Policies & Leverage Federal Investment
 - Value Communities and Neighborhoods
- www.sustainablecommunities.gov

