Public Transportation: The Solution

Public transportation is leading the charge against traffic congestion. It reduces the number of vehicles on the road and the demand for new roads. The annual increase in travel in traffic congestion without public transportation would have been 1.5 trillion dollars. Accessible, convenient public transportation benefits as a result of public transportation. Thus, where public transportation is available, it makes roads work better.

To undue congestion, investment priority must shift toward dramatic expansion of high-capacity public transportation systems, including light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit (bRT), express bus services and transit-highway elements. The benefits are substantial. These improvements must be coupled with targeted investments and better management of the current highway network.

Without public transportation, congestion would have increased by 27 percent. Public transportation saved $18.2 billion in additional congestion costs.

In the 15 largest areas of the 85 urban areas studied, the average savings is about $1.2 billion annually. The TTI report concluded that without public transportation:

1. Congestion delays in the 85 urban areas would have increased 27 percent.

2. Residents in the major urban areas would have lost an additional $32 billion in wasted time and fuel.

3. Public transportation is one of the best ways our major urban centers can fight congestion. Public transportation reduces delays of urban vehicles, public transportation use reduces delays for both public transportation riders and highway users. According to a U.S. Transportation Department (DOT) study of six urban centers served by high-capacity road transit,

4. Public transportation passengers saved 17,600 hours daily auto travel in the six cities.

5. Remaining road users in the six cities traveled an additional 22,000 hours of delay per day due to the absence of vehicles from public transportation users.

6. Public transportation in the corridor saved an additional 16,700 daily auto efficiency was congestion reduced, these reductions represent an annual savings of $225 million in the six cities analyzed.

The Benefits of Public Transportation

Relieving Traffic Congestion

Public transportation is essential in helping to reduce congestion and provide sustained relief on our roadways. Longer and more delays, lost opportunities, higher costs, more accidents, reduced competitiveness and pollution are a result of our current traffic congestion crisis.

The facts are clear: providing fast, affordable and reliable public transportation is essential in helping to reduce congestion and provide sustained relief on our roadways.

While relieving traffic congestion, public transportation:

1. Increases personal freedom, choice and mobility
2. Enhances access to opportunity
3. Protects our communities and the natural environment
4. Relieves traffic congestion
5. Protects our communities and the natural environment

Public Transportation is essential in helping to reduce congestion and provide sustained relief on our roadways.

The Benefits of Public Transportation

Relieving Traffic Congestion

Public transportation is essential in helping to reduce congestion and provide sustained relief on our roadways.
The Consequences

The U.S. Department of Transportation states in May 2006 in the National Stategic to Reduce Congestion and the Consequences of Congestion that congestion is one of the biggest threats to our economic prosperity and way of life. 

Suggesting costs in lost travel time and traffic, the 2007 Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) Urban Mobility Report found that 89 percent of drivers in the United States commute 25 or more minutes each day. Traffic congestion costs 102 billion hours of travel time in the United States, 50 billion hours in the United Kingdom, and 70 billion hours in France. 

Costs to individuals and families. Congestion and the growing vulnerability of highway-based transportation are creating enormous costs to individuals and families. Since 1982, traffic congestion increased 25 percent in medium and large urban areas while the population grew 30 percent, in the use of motor vehicles. From 1980 to 2005, the U.S. economy grew 180 percent and the number of households has access to subway service. 

In 1988, 19 percent of American communities, congestion delays increase costs of an estimated $71 billion per year. Of these costs, the public transportation user shoulders $21.5 billion, or 30 percent. 

Transportation Network

In the absence of alternative travel options and Americans cannot use what they lack of travel alternatives reinforce private vehicle use. 

Congestion and the Consequences of Congestion

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Motor vehicle travel has increased 60 percent and the number of motor vehicles increased 60 percent and the number of motor vehicles increased 60 percent. 

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