

Public Transportation Facts

Public transportation transforms communities and the lives of the people living in them by spurring economic development, promoting sustainable lifestyles and providing a higher quality of life. Every segment of American society—individuals, families, communities, and businesses—benefits from public transportation.

Public transportation consists of a variety of modes:

- buses
- light rail
- subways
- commuter trains
- streetcars and trolleys
- van pool services
- ferries and water taxis
- monorails and tramways
- cable cars
- paratransit services for senior citizens and people with disabilities

QUICK FACTS

- In 2017, Americans took 10.1 billion trips on public transportation.
- 34 million times each weekday, people board public transportation.
- Since 1995, public transportation ridership has increased by 30%—a growth rate higher than the 22% increase in U.S. population.
- Public transportation is a \$71 billion industry that employs more than 430,000 people.
- 6,800 organizations provide public transportation in the United States.
- 45% of Americans have no access to public transportation.
- Millennials consider public transportation as the best option for digital socializing and among the best for connecting with communities.

Get on Board for Economic Opportunities

- Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates \$4 in economic returns.
- Every \$1 billion invested in public transportation supports and creates more than 50,000 jobs.
- Every \$10 million in capital investment in public transportation yields \$30 million in increased business sales.
- Every \$10 million in operating investment yields \$32 million in increased business sales.
- 70% of public funding for public transportation flows to the private sector, creating and supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs.
- Home values in areas located near high-frequency public transit performed 42% better than other areas.
- Hotels in cities with direct rail access to airports raise 11% more revenue per room than hotels in those cities without.

Get on Board for a Safer Way to Travel

- A person can reduce his or her chance of being in an accident by more than 90 percent simply by taking public transit as opposed to commuting by car.
- Traveling by public transportation is 10 times safer per mile than traveling by automobile.

Get on Board for Saving Money

- The average household spends 16 cents of every dollar on transportation, and 93% of this goes to buying, maintaining, and operating cars, the largest expenditure after housing.
- A household can save nearly \$10,000 by taking public transportation and living with one less car.

Get on Board to Reduce Gasoline Consumption

- Public transportation's overall effects save the United States 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually.

Get on Board for a Better Environment

- Communities that invest in public transit reduce the nation's carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually.

Get on Board for Enhanced Personal Opportunities

- Public transportation provides personal mobility and freedom for people from every walk of life.
- Access to public transportation gives people transportation options to get to work, go to school, visit friends, or go to a doctor's office.
- A total of 87% of trips on public transit have a direct impact on the local economy.
- Of all riders, 71% are employed and 7% are students.
- More than two-thirds of riders walk to their stop or station.