

Transit links by state:

Select State

Knowledge Hub

Buyers Guide

Contact Us



About APTA
Standards

Join APTA

search ...



Sign
in

Events

Advocacy, Legislation, & Policy

Research & Technical Resources

News & Publications

Member Resources

Every segment of American society—individuals, families, communities, and businesses—benefits from public transportation. It is a lifeline for millions of Americans connecting them to people, places and possibilities. It also builds thriving communities, creates jobs, eases traffic congestion and promotes a cleaner environment. Investment in public transportation spurs both local and the national economy.

Public Transportation Consists of a Variety of Modes

- Buses
- Light rail

Every segment of American society—individuals, families, communities, and businesses—benefits from

- Subways
- Commuter trains
- Streetcars and trolleys
- Cable cars
- Van pool services
- Ferries and water taxis
- Paratransit services for senior citizens and people with disabilities
- Monorails and tramways

Quick Facts

- In 2019, Americans took 9.9 billion trips on public transportation.
- 34 million times each weekday, people board public transportation.
- Public transportation is a \$74 billion industry that employs more than 435,000 people.
- Approximately 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.

Public Transportation Provides Economic Opportunities

- Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates \$5 in economic returns.
- Every \$1 billion invested in public transportation supports and creates approximately 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.

- An estimated \$39 billion of public transit expenditures flow into the private sector.
- Home values were up to 24% higher near public transportation than in other areas. Hotels in cities with direct rail access to airports raise 11% more revenue per room than hotels in those cities without.

Public Transportation Is a Safer Way to Travel Than by Automobile

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

Public Transportation Saves 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.

Public Transportation Reduces Gasoline Consumption

- Public transportation's overall effects save the United States 6 billion gallons of gasoline annually.

Public Transportation Reduces Carbon Footprint

- Communities that invest in public transit reduce the nation's carbon emissions by 63 million metric

tons annually.

Public Transportation Enhances Personal Opportunities

- 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.](#)

For more public transportation facts, see the [Public Transportation Fact Book](#) or APTA's full [research library](#).



1300 I Street NW
Suite 1200 East
Washington, DC
20005
Telephone: (202)
496-4800
Fax: (202) 496-4324

[Logo Usage](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Events
2021
Meetings &
Conferences

**Advocacy,
Legislation,
& Policy**
Advocacy

**Research &
Technical
Resources**
Covid-19
Resource

**News &
Publications**
Passenger
Transport

**Member
Resources**
Member
Benefits

Future
Meetings

Congressional
Testimonies

Hub

APTA's
Podcast:
The Transit

APTAcconnect
Committees