

Support Pennsylvania Transit

Independence Starts Here

Fact Sheet

PA Public Transit...

Saves Money

- By using public transportation on a regular basis, a person can save between \$300 and \$3,000 in fuel costs per year.
- The average household spends 19 cents of every dollar earned on transportation.
- After housing, transportation is the second highest cost for American families outpacing both food and health care costs.
- Since January 2003, gas prices have increased by 100 percent.

Eases Traffic Congestion

- Public Transportation helps to alleviate the congestion on our nation's increasingly crowded network of roadways.
- One bus removes 40 cars from the road; one train removes 120 vehicles.

Provides Access to Jobs

- A large percentage of riders use the bus to get to work and it is there only means of transportation.
- Public assistance agencies use public transportation to help more people enter the work force.
- Public transit employs 15,000 men and women throughout the Commonwealth.

Provides Mobility to Seniors

- By the year 2025, 18 percent of the U.S. population will be 65 and over. One-fifth of persons 65 and older do not drive.
- The 2005 White House Conference on Aging ranked transportation options for older Americans to be among the top three priorities facing seniors.
- Throughout most of Pennsylvania, registered seniors 65 and over ride the bus for free on fixed route service.

Improves Air Quality/Environmental Benefits

- Public transportation produces 95 percent less carbon monoxide and nearly half as much carbon dioxide for every passenger mile traveled as compared to traveling with private vehicles.
- Transit reduces annual emissions of pollutants that create smog - - volatile organic compounds (70,000+ tons) and nitrogen oxides (27,000 tons).

- Some PA transit systems use biodiesel in vehicles which is known for being biodegradable, nontoxic and producing lower emissions.
- The use of biodiesel not only improves air quality, but stimulates the economy through soy-based diesel demand. It is also produced domestically, thereby reducing dependence on foreign oil.

Reduces Energy Consumption

- Public transit use saves 855 million gallons of gasoline each year.
- If Americans used public transportation for roughly 10 percent of daily travel needs, the U.S. would reduce its dependence on foreign oil from the Persian Gulf by more than 40 percent.
- Public transit uses about one-half the fuel of private autos, SUV's and light trucks, freeing fuel for moving goods and use in industry and agriculture.

Stimulates the Economy

- Public transit spends over \$1 BILLION each year with Pennsylvania businesses.
- Public transit does business with more than 2,000 Pennsylvania businesses.
- Public transit buys thousands of "Made in Pennsylvania" products and services from steel to foam seating.
- Public transit returns up to \$6.00 in economic benefits to the region for every \$1.00 of public funds invested.

Increases Safety

- Riding a transit bus is 79 times safer than car travel.

Sources: American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association (PPTA)