

BY THE NUMBERS

30-40% HIGHER
property values

From 2006-2011, homes in transit-rich areas retained their value in a down economy.



\$20 THOUSAND
annual savings

The cost of aging in place and using transit can be much less than moving to an assisted living facility.



29% INCREASE
in jobs from new BRT

A new bus rapid transit corridor increased jobs in Cleveland from 2003 to 2013 despite a 4% decrease in jobs citywide.

71%
of ballot measures passed

Many cities voted to raise local funds to pay for transit investment. Since 2001 the average success of transit ballot measures is 71%.

Public transit systems can improve the community – even for those who never use the bus! Young people, older people, people with disabilities, and those without car access can maintain their independence. Transit can reduce air pollution by taking cars off the road. In addition, transit can boost property values, attract new businesses, and generate tax revenues without raising rates.

**PUBLIC
TRANSIT**

MAKING
CONNECTIONS

What can you do to support your local economy?

Sales tax revenues for public transit have risen recently, pointing to a stronger interest in building or expanding transit service. For new transit consider growing neighborhoods or places that could use a boost in investment. Look at population characteristics to identify potential transit-dependent residents. For some, transit is a lifeline. Meet with staff in churches, senior centers, and community centers who can help get input from residents. In many cases, public transit is reliant on compact development to support ridership – look into your community's zoning regulations and housing policies to learn more about building an equitable and transit friendly neighborhood that supports safe walking and biking to transit.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/health_in_transportation/



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



What are the economic benefits of supporting public transportation?



FOR BUSINESSES

Expanded labor pool

Public transit provides options for job seekers and hiring companies alike. Innovation districts in Los Angeles, Austin, and Research Triangle Park, NC identified that removing transit investment can reduce the combined labor pool by over 2.4 million. Younger workers are less likely to own cars. Between 1983 and 2014, driver's license ownership in the 20 to 24 age group went from 91.8% to 76.7% rate.



Improves competitiveness of business districts

Successful businesses often “cluster” near similar businesses – creating more opportunity to attract skilled employees and share supportive services. Public transit supports business clusters by allowing people to travel efficiently to work and encouraging compact development. Transit also opens up access to customers who do not drive.



FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Increased jobs, especially in high-unemployment areas

Public transit can bring new jobs to the community – encouraging additional growth in retail and other services. Even smaller scale investments, such as a new bus rapid transit corridor in Cleveland, have been shown to drive interest in commercial property. Public transit especially benefits areas of high unemployment and can produce 2.5 times more jobs in these areas than other areas.

Increases tax revenues

Communities thrive when increased tax revenues provide opportunities for local governments to invest. Properties near transit are typically valued about 8% higher than those without transit access, bringing in more money in taxes without raising rates. Reinvesting in services and infrastructure complete the cycle by improving quality of life while attracting more businesses and residents.

Decreased demand for government services

Public transit can be a lifeline to finding and holding a job, particularly for those with limited mobility or financial resources. Improved or expanded service can attract higher ridership rates, reducing transit operating costs.

FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Improved options for employment

A study in Houston, Texas demonstrated that transit access improves the chance for employment, especially for part-time workers.



The number of bus stops within walking distance also increased the probability of being employed both full-time and part-time.

Another study showed how transit accessibility improvements in Broward County, Florida can increase employability and reduce time spent in welfare programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Sources in this brief include: The New Real Estate Mantra Location Near Public Transportation, APTA (2013), Recent Lessons from the Stimulus: Transportation Funding and Job Creation, Smart Growth America (2011), How cities voted for transportation funding, coast to coast, Curbed (2016), The Business Case for Investment in Public Transportation, APTA (2016), Recent Decreases in the Proportion of Persons with a Driver's License across All Age Groups, University of Michigan (2016), Impact of Public Transit on Employment Status (NCHRP 2015), Influence of Transit Accessibility to Jobs on the Employability of the Welfare Recipients (NCHRP 2015). Photos: Shutterstock.