



We Need Transit to Grow Economic Prosperity

Strong transit increases workforce access, creates more jobs, lifts households out of poverty and ensures everyone can invest in thriving futures for ourselves and our families.



Good transit expands job access where it's needed most. In the Twin Cities metro area, only a small fraction of jobs are reachable by transit in 30 minutes.¹ That puts good job opportunities totally out of reach for people who don't own a car. A strong transit system connects more people to jobs and helps employers attract and retain a strong workforce. Building, maintaining, and operating transit creates jobs too.

> Investment in public transit in the Twin Cities could see a 3-to-1 return on investment. According to a report from the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, a \$3.1 billion investment in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region's transit system saw \$9.05 billion in total direct positive impacts.²

> Investing in infrastructure projects creates and sustains jobs. Not only would supporting public transit see significant returns, but the process of improving the system would create thousands of jobs.³ From repairing existing roads and bridges to manufacturing parts for buses and trains, proper investments could create jobs all across Minnesota.

> Lack of transportation choices stagnates economic growth. Less than a third of jobs in the Twin Cities metro are accessible within 90 minutes via transit.⁴ This means that for the majority of people, most jobs are prohibitively far away unless they own a car or move somewhere else. A more extensive transit system would connect employers to local workforces. The American Public Transport Association estimates that failing to invest in aging infrastructure will result in \$340 billion in business revenue and 160,000 jobs lost over a six-year period.⁵

> Physical and economic mobility are intrinsically linked. Long commutes times keep people trapped in poverty.⁶ The expensive nature of owning a car means many are dependent on public transit to get to and from work, but the average commute time by car is 25 minutes, compared to 45 minutes by bus and 47 minutes by train.⁷ Areas with shorter commutes see higher rates of economic mobility.⁸

> Better access to quality transit boosts household prosperity and local spending. The annual costs associated with car ownership rose to \$10,729 in 2022.⁹ Households without a car spend \$5,000 less per year on transportation costs — that's \$400 of additional money every month to cover rent or spend with local businesses.⁹ In a nation where 32% of Americans struggle to cover an unexpected expense of \$400, robust transit could remake the financial stability of thousands of households.¹⁰

Public transit is essential to regional competitiveness.
> Young people are getting driver's licenses later and want to live in communities with strong transit and transportation options.¹¹ When big employers consider new headquarter expansions, quality transit service is a must.¹² It is no coincidence that eight out of 10 metro areas with the highest transit ridership are also on list of top 10 GDP areas.¹³

WHY TRANSIT MATTERS

Jillian Nelson

I am the community resource and policy advocate for the Autism Society of Minnesota. I am also an autistic adult.

When my partner, Cesar, had a temporary disability, I spent my mornings driving my partner's 8 year-old son to school. As I drove I thought a lot about how I only got my license four years ago, and before that I was dependent on public transportation. I forgot how much that controlled my life: where I could live, where I could work, what access I had to medical care, getting groceries, connecting with friends and family – and how time-consuming it all is.

If my partner did not have my help, he would spend nearly five hours each day on buses just getting his son to school, and going to work, then returning them both home. This is not an accessible way of living.

The disability community is the only marginalized group that anyone can join at any time with a split-second



notice. Including and centering accessibility in transportation isn't just about equity for those that are living with disabilities now. It is also about ensuring that transportation isn't a piece of the crisis when someone joins our community. It ensures that disability does not have to cut people off from their homes, or their jobs, or isolate them from their families. It would mean disabled parents can get their kids to school, buy groceries, connect with friends and families.

I urge everyone to consider what your life would look like if you did not have the option to get in your car and drive yourself. If you had to depend on public transportation: How long would it take you to get here? If you couldn't, where would you work instead? Would you be able to visit your favorite places? Your family? friends?

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Move Minnesota leads the movement for an equitable and sustainable transportation system that puts people first. We are passionate about connecting communities, ending the climate crisis, expanding access to jobs and resources, and improving daily life for Minnesotans of all ages, races, incomes, and abilities. Learn more at movemn.org.

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