

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation ridership is growing.

- ▶ Americans took 10.7 billion trips on public transportation in 2008, 400 million more than in 2007.¹
- ▶ Ridership was the highest in 52 years and set a modern ridership record. The increase occurred despite falling gas prices, lost jobs and an economic recession.¹

Despite increased ridership, clear benefits to the environment and traffic congestion mitigation, public transportation continues to face financial struggles and cuts.

- ▶ Most rail transit vehicles and trolleybuses are electrically propelled and emit little or no pollution. Many newer buses are fueled by alternative fuels.²
- ▶ Current public transportation usage reduces U.S. gasoline consumption by 4.2 gallons each year.³
- ▶ Congestion reduction due to public transportation saves 340 million gallons of gasoline a year.² Transit-related congestion relief saves \$19.4 billion annually.⁴
- ▶ State governments, which provide the largest percentage of funding for transit, are facing declining tax revenues, which has meant that many transit systems have been forced to increase fares, reduce service and lay off workers. A report by Transportation for America tallied such cutbacks in 85 communities across the U.S.⁵

However, some states are increasing funding and turning to alternative financing mechanisms to fund public transportation.

- ▶ States provided \$13.3 billion in funding for transit in the 2007 fiscal year, \$2.2 billion more than in 2006. Forty-six states provided funding for public transportation in 2007. Thirty-two states increased funding—seven states by more than 75 percent. Three states cut funding by anywhere from 31 to 100 percent.⁶
- ▶ The most common major source for overall transit funding in 2007 was the gasoline tax. Seventeen states relied on it for at least a portion of their transit funding, while three states relied on it for 100 percent. Since motor fuel taxes are generally applied on a per-gallon basis, and not as a percentage of the total sale price, some question the adequacy of the fuel tax as a revenue source as improvements are made in fuel efficiency and more people use public transit.⁶
- ▶ Seven states in 2007 relied on a general sales tax for at least a portion of their transit funding. Three states relied on it for 100 percent of state transit funding.⁶
- ▶ Ten states relied on a motor vehicle/rental car sales tax for funding, with Iowa relying on it for 100 percent of transit funding.⁶
- ▶ Seven states relied on registration, license and title fees for at least some portion of transit funding. Montana relied on those fees for 90 percent.⁶
- ▶ Four states relied on lottery or casino revenues for some transit funding.⁶



¹ American Public Transportation Association. "10.7 Billion Trips Taken on U.S. Public Transportation in 2008." March 9, 2009. Accessed from: http://www.apta.com/media/releases/090309_ridership.cfm

² APTA. "2008 Public Transportation Fact Book." June 2008. Accessed from: http://www.apta.com/research/stats/factbook/documents08/2008_fact_book_final_part_1.pdf

³ ICF International "Public Transportation and Petroleum Savings in the U.S. Reducing Dependence on Oil." 2007

⁴ APTA. "Critical Relief from Traffic Congestion." Accessed from: <http://www.apta.com/research/info/online/congestion.cfm>

⁵ Transportation for America. "The United States of Transit Cutbacks." Accessed from: <http://t4america.org/transitcuts/>

⁶ American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. "Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation." 2008.

MAJOR SOURCES FOR OVERALL TRANSIT FUNDING (2007)

State	Transit Funding 2007	General Fund	Gas Tax	Motor Vehicle/Rental Car Sales Tax	Registration License/Title Fees	Bond Proceeds	General Sales Tax	Interest Income	Other
Alabama	0	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.
Alaska	\$91,539,200	99.6%							0.4%
Arizona	\$10,142,000	0.4%							99.6%
Arkansas	\$4,251,656			91.8%					8.2%
California	\$3,110,690,806		46%			0.2%	45.4%		8.5%
Colorado	0	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.
Conn.	\$876,357,467					76.1%			23.9%
Delaware	\$72,962,500								100%
DC	\$250,868,928	81.1%				18.6%			0.30%
Florida	\$174,806,597		41.5%	2.5%	18.8%				37.2%
Georgia	\$6,024,552						100%		
Hawaii	0	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.
Idaho	\$312,000								100%
Illinois	\$498,900,000						100%		
Indiana	\$42,694,683						100%		
Iowa	\$10,840,785			100%					
Kansas	\$6,000,000								100%
Kentucky	\$3,709,262								100%
Louisiana	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.
Maine	\$4,502,528					88.8%			11.2%
Maryland	\$749,371,455		32.4%	30.2%	24.6%	4.4%		0.4%	8%
Mass.	\$1,351,917,492	3.4%	0.9%			27.3%	54.3%		14.1%
Michigan	\$200,661,111		34.2%	29%	36.5%			0.02%	0.2%
Minnesota	\$237,023,000	7.9%		85.2%		6.9%			
Mississippi	\$1,600,000	100%							
Missouri	\$7,018,541								100%
Montana	\$818,385		9.2%		90.8%				
Nebraska	\$2,900,000		61.6%	26%	12.2%			0.1%	
Nevada	\$125,403							100%	
New Hampshire	\$1,530,000	10.5%	61.7%			27.8%			
New Jersey	\$1,008,129,998	29.6%	16.6%	6.9%		34.7%		1.4%	10.8%
New Mexico	\$56,478,000								100%
New York	\$3,009,046,000	3.5%							97%
North Carolina	\$75,866,447		100%						
North Dakota	\$2,900,000	17.2%			81%				1.7%
Ohio	\$16,450,000	100%							
Oklahoma	\$5,750,000	52.2%	47.8%						
Oregon	\$74,092,943		4.8%			5.8%		1.9%	87.5%
Penn.	\$860,963,000	37.2%		3.8%		14%	18.5%		26.5%
Rhode Island	\$49,214,195	18.8%	78.9%			2.1%			
South Carolina	\$6,400,000		100%						
South Dakota	\$750,000								100%
Tennessee	\$38,310,000		100%						
Texas	\$28,741,067								100%
Utah	0	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.	a.
Vermont	\$6,166,576								100%
Virginia	\$184,417,844		26.6%						73.4%
Wash.	\$42,438,767			X			X		
West Virginia	\$2,523,342	100%							
Wisc.	\$119,134,447		33.3%		33.3%				33.3%
Wyoming	\$2,294,200							34.6%	65.4%

Source: American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials | a. State did not fund public transit in 2007 b. State did not respond to survey X State listed this source but did not specify the percentage of funding they received from it.