



### What is transit?

Transit (or public transportation) includes vehicles operated by a public agency for the public. In Pittsburgh, this includes 98 bus routes, three busways, a 26.2 mile light rail system, two inclined planes, and shared-ride paratransit system. The Authority also has seven maintenance and storage garages, and 50 park-and-ride lots. In 2019 Port Authority of Allegheny County provided more than 63 million passenger trips and the Pittsburgh area ranks among the top 20 highest metro areas for transit ridership.

## Transit impacts the city, and it's people, in many ways

### Economic Impact

Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates \$5 in economic returns. Access to transit supports neighborhoods, local businesses, and the economy through job creation and business sales. The local economy thrives when employees, customers, and residents can get around town\*.

The annual economic impact from Port Authority's spending generates \$929 million for Pennsylvania, supporting 6,240 jobs and more than \$484 million in earnings\*\*.

Home values near busy public transit lines increased 4 - 42% more than homes in the same urban area. Port Authority service adds \$3.2 billion in residential property value across Southwestern Pennsylvania.

\* American Public Transportation Association, Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment, 2020 Update, p. 36

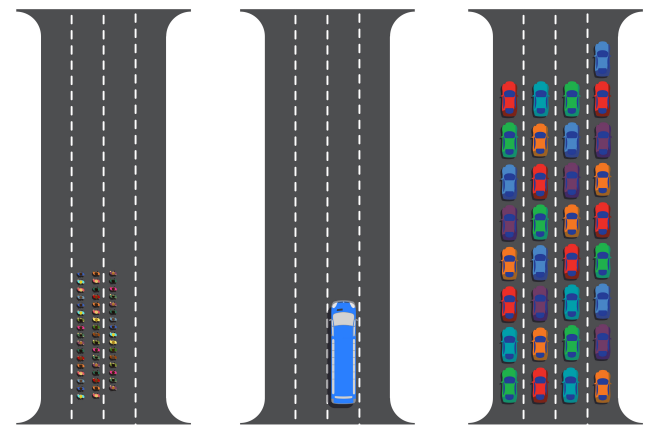
\*\* Southwestern PA Partnership for Mobility, Final Report, June, 2019, p. 13

### Environmental Impact

Public transit moves people efficiently while producing less air pollution. Port Authority is dedicated to continuously reducing its impact on our air: our 2 new electric buses eliminate diesel fuel consumption entirely!

- The fuel efficiency of a fully occupied bus is six times greater than that of the average single-occupant car.
- A bus emits only 20% carbon dioxide emissions compared to single-occupant cars and only 10% hydrocarbon emissions.
- Transit is more efficient in terms of energy consumption per passenger mile (energy used to transport one passenger one mile) than a car.

50 people walking    50 people on a bus    50 people in 33 cars



## Job Access

About one-half of Downtown Pittsburgh's employees use public transit to commute to work. Transit routes are important in bringing workers to and from their jobs, especially at night. Twenty-seven percent of Americans report doing some paid work at night (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.).

In Allegheny County, Port Authority's 28X route carries many employees working late shifts at Pittsburgh International Airport. The routes serving Oakland are busy well outside the traditional "rush hours" due to the 24/7 nature of the hospitals and universities clustered there. With the medical, educational, and service sectors being as strong as they are in and around Pittsburgh, it's easy to see why it's essential that transit be accessible at all hours.

## Health

Using public transit can enhance your overall health. According to a Japanese study referenced by the American Heart Association\*, compared to drivers, transit users were:

- 44 percent less likely to be overweight
- 27 percent less likely to have high blood pressure
- 34 percent less likely to have diabetes

Bus/train commuters had even lower rates of diabetes, high blood pressure and overweight than the walkers or bikers. The researchers suggested that one explanation could be that these commuters actually walked farther to and from the train or bus station than walkers or bikers traveled to and from work.

\* American Heart Association, "Taking public transportation instead of driving associated with better health," News Release, 2015.

## Safety

Riding public buses and trains is safer than being in a private car or small truck. Urban areas with high levels of public transportation use tend to have lower fatality rates per population than urban areas with limited public transportation usage. In 2018, traveling in buses and trains was more than 15 times safer than traveling in automobiles and small trucks\*.

\* American Public Transportation Association, The Hidden Public Transportation Safety Solution: Public Transportation, 2016 Update, pp. 11 -17 and National Safety Council, Injury Facts, 2020, Deaths by Transportation Mode.

