



FACT SHEET

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION HELPS PROTECT FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENT



Public Transit is a cost-effective and green transportation solution

A clean environment and healthy air quality are important to Florida's ability to attract retirees, investment, and tourism

Whether you are a rider or not, public transportation benefits your air quality. Transit produces less air pollution and carbon emissions and is a much greener alternative to travel by automobile. From 1996 to 2006, growth in greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, primarily from automobiles, represented almost one-half (47 percent) of the increase in total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. A clean environment and healthy air quality are important to Florida's ability to attract investors, retirees, and tourists.

Public transportation is the responsible environmental choice.

- Public transportation offers an immediate alternative for individuals seeking to reduce their energy use and carbon footprints. Taking public transportation far exceeds the combined benefits of using energy-efficient light bulbs, adjusting thermostats, weatherizing one's home, and replacing a refrigerator.
- Public transportation in the USA saves 37 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. Also cuts down on air pollution that may cause asthma in children.
- Choosing to use public transit is a green choice. When one individual switches a 20-mile roundtrip commute to public transportation, his or her annual CO₂ emissions will decrease by 4,800 pounds per year. This is equal to a 10 percent reduction in a two-car household's carbon footprint.
- Expanded public transit strategies and coordinated travel activity, land use development and operational efficiencies, can reduce greenhouse gases by 24 percent. The annual savings in vehicle costs to consumers will exceed the cost of enacting these strategies by as much as \$112 billion.
- Public transportation systems throughout Florida are investing in environmentally friendly vehicles such as diesel electric hybrids, which are up to 40 percent more fuel efficient than conventional diesel buses.

By investing now in public transportation, we can also strengthen our economy, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and enhance the quality of life for all Floridians.



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