

TRANSIT WORKS



*Improving the quality of
life for all Californians.*



**California
Transit
Association**

Robust public transit is as vital a component of a thriving community as its schools, public safety forces, hospitals and parks. Unfortunately, many find it easy to dismiss public transit as the domain of environmental alarmists and those too poor to afford their own vehicles. But the truth is that virtually every person in every walk of life benefits in some way from the presence of a vibrant public transit system, from students and seniors who depend on transit in the conduct of their typical daily business to those stuck in traffic every day who, for whatever reason, will never set foot on the bus. Transit does indeed yield immense environmental benefits, and is a critical element in California's landmark commitment to improving air quality. And transit is proven economic stimulus, creating jobs and invigorating business activity in cities throughout the world.

Whoever you are, whatever your concerns, transit works – for you.



62 HOURS

Each person traveling in peak periods via automobile wastes, on average, 62 hours a year – nearly eight full working days – in congestion delays.



TRANSIT WORKS FOR COMMUTERS

As more and more vehicles crowd our roadways, traffic congestion has an increasingly debilitating effect on our quality of life. With each passing year, Californians pay a higher price for mounting congestion – through delays, lost opportunities, higher costs, increased accidents, reduced competitiveness, pollution, frustration and much more.

THE FACTS

- Public transportation services in America's most congested cities saved travelers 1.1 billion hours of added travel time each year.
- Public transportation reduces gasoline usage by 1.4 billion gallons annually, or 4 million gallons of gasoline per day – at \$3.75 a gallon, that's \$15 million a day!
- In California, transit use results in savings of 486 million gallons of oil annually, the equivalent of taking 800,000 cars off the road.
- A full rail car removes 200 cars from the road. A full bus removes 60 cars. A full van removes 12 cars.
- Transit carries 18 percent of trips into San Diego, removing 35,000 cars from the road daily.
- Transit carries 30 percent of all trips into central Los Angeles. Without transit, Los Angeles would need an additional 1,400 freeway lane-miles.
- Transit carries 38 percent of all trips in the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge corridor, without which a 50-percent increase in freeway capacity would be needed.

By improving mobility, reducing road congestion and travel time, connecting and extending transportation networks and enhancing economic opportunity, a commitment to public transit improves the quality of life for all Californians, even those who will never set foot on the bus.





21 MILLION

Los Angeles MTA reported
21 million K-12 student
boardings in 2005-06.

TRANSIT WORKS FOR STUDENT

Hundreds of thousands of California's school kids don't have access to yellow school buses. Cuts to public transit make it harder and more costly to get to school, especially for urban and low-income kids.

THE FACTS

- AC Transit serves 60,000 students daily from 17 different school districts, with 40 percent of Oakland middle and high school students using it to get to school.
- In Elk Grove, one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, 41 percent of all local trips on e-tran are school-related – more than 130,000 trips annually in a city of roughly 136,000 people.
- Students account for 25 percent of all light rail users and 33 percent of all bus riders in the Sacramento Regional Transit system.
- Trips to and from school account for 39 percent of riders on San Joaquin Regional Transit District buses.
- Long Beach Transit issues nearly 60,000 student passes every year
- More than one-fourth of the more than 14 million trips provided annually by North County Transit District (San Diego) are taken by students
- Of the more than 7 million trips provided annually by Golden Empire Transit District (Bakersfield), 30 percent are taken by students.

Reduced state funding for public transit has resulted in cuts to urban bus service and increased fares that fall disproportionately on transit-dependent families and students with the fewest transportation options and least ability to pay.



83% AGREE

83 percent of older Americans agree that public transit provides easy access to the things that they need in everyday life.



TRANSIT WORKS FOR SENIORS

By 2025, an estimated 20 percent of the population – one in five persons – will be over age 65. Providing mobility options is critical for older Californians and for those who care for them. If we fail to expand and sustain mobility options for our older family members, neighbors and friends, the future of older Californians will result in further negative social and economic consequences.

THE FACTS

- Heightened safety risks: Continuing to drive later in life dramatically increases safety risks.
- Limited options, lost mobility: More than one in five Americans (21%) over age 65 do not drive.
- Isolation and reduced independence: More than 50 percent of non drivers age 65 and older stay home on any given day partially because they lack transportation options.
- Diminished quality of life and health: Older non-drivers have a decreased ability to participate in the community and the economy. Compared with older drivers, non-drivers make:
 - 15% fewer trips to the doctor
 - 59% fewer shopping trips and restaurant visits
 - 65% fewer trips for social, family and religious activities

At the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, ensuring that older Americans have transportation options to retain their mobility and independence received the third most votes of 73 issues considered, with 1,002 ballots out of a maximum of 1,200.





95% LESS

Public transportation produces 95 percent less carbon monoxide per passenger mile, as private vehicles.

TRANSIT WORKS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

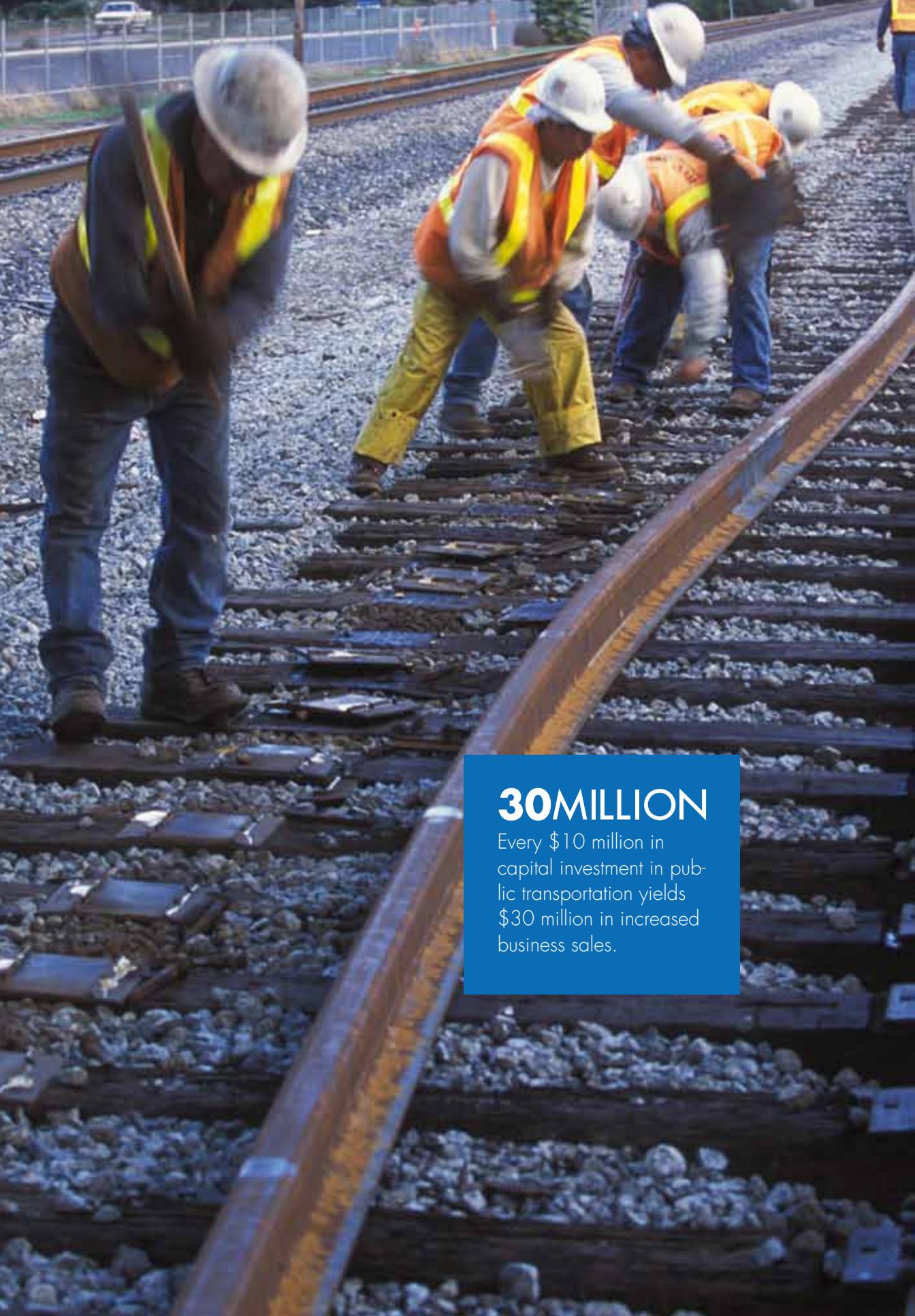
Increased investment in and use of public transportation directly improves and protects the personal health of all Californians. Emissions from road vehicles are the largest contributors to smog. Those who choose to ride public transportation reduce their carbon footprint and conserve energy by eliminating travel that would have otherwise been made in a private vehicle. The result is fewer vehicle miles of travel and reduced emissions.

THE FACTS

- U.S. greenhouse gases from transportation represent 28 percent of total U.S. emissions
- If an individual switches a 20-mile roundtrip commute to public transportation, his or her annual CO₂ emissions will decrease by 4,800 pounds per year, equal to a 10 percent reduction in a two-car household's carbon footprint.
- Public transportation reduces the nation's carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually – equivalent to the electricity used by 4.9 million households. To achieve similar reduction in carbon emissions, every household in New York City, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Denver and Los Angeles combined would have to completely stop using electricity for a year.
- 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 plays a vital role in creating a healthier California, and is a critical component in California's commitment to reducing emissions. Providing significant environmental benefits-by reducing smog-producing pollutants, greenhouse gases and run-off from paved surfaces that degrade the water supply, and by conserving ecologically sensitive lands and open spaces-public transportation is helping to meet air quality standards. Without a robust network of public transit options, California's emissions reduction goals can never be achieved.





30MILLION

Every \$10 million in capital investment in public transportation yields \$30 million in increased business sales.

TRANSIT WORKS FOR THE ECONOMY

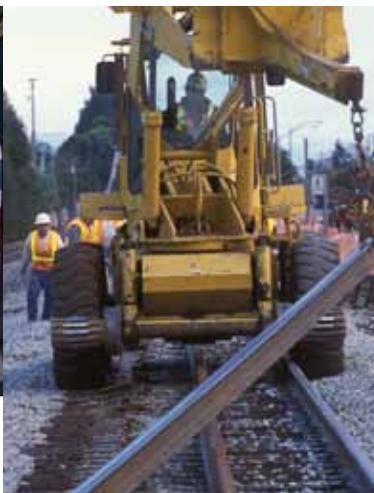
Transportation is the backbone of a strong and prosperous economy, and investments in public transportation generate significant economic benefits. A commitment to public transit contributes to economic strength through direct dollar investment, multiplied throughout the economy, and improved transportation options, which create economic benefit for individuals, households, businesses and governments.

Dollars invested in public transportation flow through all sectors of the economy and a cross section of communities – large and small, urban and rural. Through increased jobs, income, profit and tax revenue, they provide economic stimulus far exceeding the original investment.

THE FACTS

- Every \$1 billion invested in public transportation capital and operations creates and supports 36,000 jobs.
- These 36,000 jobs result in roughly \$3.6 billion in business sales and generate nearly \$500 million in federal, state and local tax revenues
- Every \$1 invested in public transportation projects generates approximately \$5 in local economic activity.
- Every \$10 million in operating investment in public transportation yields \$32 million in increased business sales.
- Real estate – residential, commercial or business – that is served by public transportation is valued more highly by the public than similar properties not as well served by transit. In San Diego, residential properties for sale near commuter rail stops were valued 17 percent higher.

More than ever before, public transportation is an essential element for maintaining a vibrant business community and economic climate. In fact, business leaders are often the driving force behind local efforts to increase public transportation investment and use.



ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1965, the California Transit Association is dedicated to shaping California's critical investment in the future of transportation. Among its membership, the Association numbers all of California's largest urban transit operators, as well as dozens of agencies in suburban and rural areas. Also included are commuter rail agencies, transit support groups, national and international transit suppliers, and government agencies. The California Transit Association is committed to a collaborative approach to advocating for improved transit operations throughout California, working with local, state and federal legislators as the primary advocate for transit in the state. With support and active engagement from member organizations, the California Transit Association is committed to achieving the 21st Century transportation network that Californians need and deserve.





**California
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