

Transit works ... for the ENVIRONMENT

Increased investment in and use of public transportation directly improves and protects the personal health of all Californians. Our car-centered transportation system has led to pollution and poor air quality. 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.

- By taking existing public transportation instead of driving a car, a single person saves 4,800 pounds of CO₂ per year.
- Public transportation produces 95 percent less carbon monoxide (CO), 90 percent less in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and about half as much carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x), per passenger mile, as private vehicles.
- The “leverage effect” of 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.
- Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions represent 82 percent of total US human-made greenhouse emissions.

America's public transportation systems play a vital role in creating a healthier nation. 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 national air quality standards. Increased use of public transportation could have an even greater impact in the future.



CALIFORNIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION