

Public Transit Fights The Climate Crisis

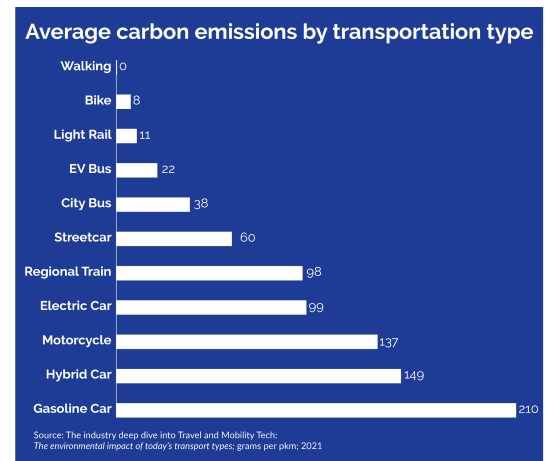
Investing in public transit is critical for combating climate change. Public transit reduces transportation's carbon footprint by offering reliable and sustainable alternatives to personal vehicles. Additionally, it alleviates traffic congestion, leading to fewer emissions from idling vehicles. **Public transit systems inspire urban development**, encouraging denser, walkable communities that reduce reliance on cars and **contribute to a healthier environment**.

What To Know:

- Public transportation gets people where they're going while emitting far fewer climate-warming greenhouse gasses than cars. The reason is efficiency: while cars carry one or two people, buses carry 50 or more, and trains carry even more.¹
- Transport accounts for 23% of global CO2 emissions. **70% of direct transport emissions came from road vehicles, and transport-related carbon emissions are rising.**² By 2050, its expected transportation will account for over 33% of global CO2 emissions.³
- Light rail systems produce 62% less greenhouse gas emissions per passenger mile and bus transit produces 33% less than a personal vehicle.⁴
- Switching from solo driving to public transit for a 20-mile commute can reduce an individual's yearly CO2 emissions**, equivalent to a 10% decrease in all greenhouse gasses emitted by a household with two adults and two cars.⁵

"I've seen people develop asthma in real time because they lived near the incinerator or by a freeway. We as Michiganders have a responsibility to rectify car pollution and the impact it has on the communities throughout our state."

- Za'Nyia Kelly, a Dearborn resident who rides the bus to live a more sustainable life.



¹ MIT Climate Portal, "Public Transportation", 2025.

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Chapter 10: Transport", 2019.

³ UN Habitat, "Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities", 2022.

⁴ US DOT Federal Transit Administration, "Public Transportation's Role in Responding to Climate Change", 2010.

⁵ American Public Transportation Association, "Public Transportation Reduces Greenhouse Gases and Conserves Energy", 2008.

Transit Gets People Where They Need To Go

Transit connects people to jobs, school, healthcare, community, and so much more. There are 77 transit agencies across Michigan, **providing 40 million rides a year statewide.**

Transit is Essential for:

- **Older Michiganders** who want their independence after retiring from driving
- **Persons with disabilities**
- **Low-Income workers**
- **Young people** who can't afford to drive
- People who'd prefer not to drive

Transit Benefits People Who Don't Ride:

- **Decreases traffic** and congestion
- **Makes roads safer** for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians
- **Lowers pollution** and helps Michigan meet our climate commitments
- Drives **economic development**
- We all depend on people who depend on transit



Public transit is at the heart of everything.

Unfortunately, transit is underfunded and under attack, leaving many people stranded without other options. But TRU is working to change this!

TRU is a nonprofit dedicated to bringing more and better transit to metro Detroit. We advocate, educate, and mobilize for transit and other affordable mobility options. For 25 years, we've been advocating for the right to get where you need to go, throughout Detroit and Michigan.

Learn more and get involved at DetroitTransit.org.

