

Transit Makes Communities Safer & Healthier

Public transit is a vital tool to making your life safer and healthier, and is one of the greatest public health interventions our leaders can make. The CDC has stated **improving transit is a cost-effective intervention that can improve health** in five years or less.¹ Access to reliable transit is a key to making our communities safer and healthier.



Transit Makes Our Streets Safer:

One out of every 34 deaths is related to cars. Most are due to crashes. Policies that provide **alternatives to car transportation reduce the amount of deaths caused by transportation.**²

- **Transit-oriented communities are five times safer** than automobile-oriented communities. This means transit cuts a community's crash risk in half even for those who do not use transit³.
- A person can **reduce their chance of being in a crash by over 90% simply by taking public transit** as opposed to commuting by car.⁴

Transit Promotes Healthy Living:

- People who take transit are **44% less likely to be overweight, 34% less likely to have diabetes, and 27% less likely to have high blood pressure** compared to people who drive.⁵
- 17% of Americans have difficulty accessing healthcare due to a lack of transportation.⁶

Transit Improves Air Quality and Reduces Cancer Rates:

- **Air pollution is very high near major roads, due to vehicle exhaust, which can cause cancer.** By providing transit alternatives that reduce congestion and get some vehicles off the road, local air quality can be greatly improved.⁷
- **Light rail produces 62% less greenhouse gas emissions per passenger mile than cars.** Bus transit produces 33% less.⁸

¹ CDC Foundation, "Public Health Action Guide - Public Transportation", accessed 2025.

² Journal of Transport Geography, "Car harm: A global review of automobility's harm to people and the environment", 2024.

³ APTA, "Hidden Traffic Safety Solution: Public Transportation", 2016.

⁴ APTA, "Public Transportation Facts", 2024.

⁵ Green Action Centre, "Health Benefits of Public Transit", 2017.

⁶ Ipsos, "Improving access to healthcare by removing transportation barriers", 2024.

⁷ EPA, "Near Roadway Air Pollution and Health: Frequently Asked Questions", 2014.

⁸ US DOT Federal Transit Administration, "Public Transportation's Role in Responding to Climate Change", 2010.

Transit Gets People Where They Need To Go

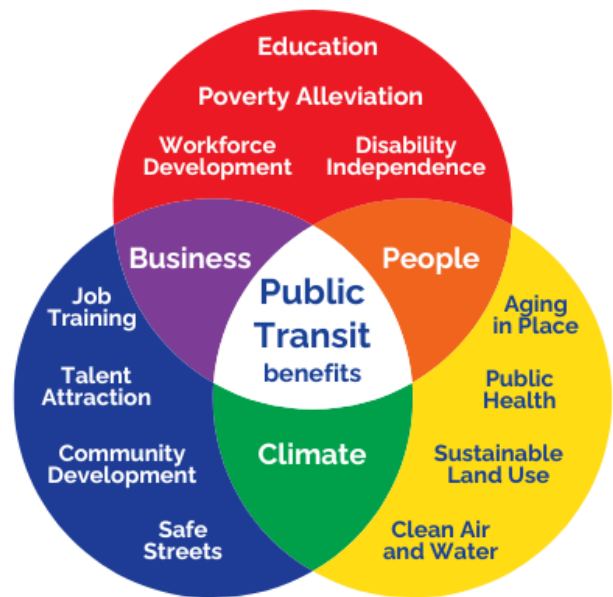
Transit connects people to jobs, school, healthcare, community, and so much more. There are 77 transit agencies across Michigan, **providing 40 million rides a year statewide.**

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.

