The Economic Value of Public Transit in Alaska



Client

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Facts

Period 2022

Project Country United States

Public transportation agencies across Alaska serve residents, visitors, and businesses in the state by providing safe, affordable, reliable, and accessible transportation within and between Alaskan communities.

This study assessed the economic impact and value of transit, bringing together both quantitative and qualitative findings to capture the multifaceted benefits of transit and its importance to the Alaskan economy. The scope of the study includes the 14 public transit providers that receive grant funding from the Alaska Community Transit Office.

Developed to support communications with stakeholders, the legislature, and the public, the study addresses the economic value of transit from four perspectives:

1. Statewide Economic Impacts of Transit Expenditures: Transit agency expenditures create jobs and generate business sales throughout Alaska
2. Transit Commuters and the Alaskan Economy: This study quantifies the number of transit commuters by industry who are able to get to work because of transit, alongside the wages they earn and the business sales they help generate.
3. Transit's Role in Providing Inclusive Mobility: A crucial role of transit is providing inclusive mobility, particularly for those who may have limited or no alternative means of transportation.
4. Performance Benefits of Transit: The study quantifies how transit helps avoid costs to people and society relative to other alternative modes of transportation which are often expensive and inconvenient.

In addition to these statewide perspectives, EBP developed individual agency profiles for each of the 14 transit agencies, including with agency level economic results and insights from interviews into the unique ways in which each agency serves their community.

Read the final study here

Key Findings

Statewide Economic Impacts of Transit Expenditures	Transit Commuters and the Alaskan Economy	Transit's Role in Providing Inclusive Mobility	Performance Benefits of Transit
			
831 Jobs **$113.9 Million in Annual Sales** Supported by transit agency expenditures on operations, maintenance, and capital projects **$1.9 in Business Sales for Every $1** Spent within Alaska on transit	**5,645 Workers** Can get to work because of transit **$203 Million in Annual Wages** Brought home by transit commuters **$941 Million in Annual Sales** Facilitated by transit commuters **2 Percent** Transit commuter share, statewide	**28 Percent** Of AK transit commuters live in households without a car available **$24,826** Median income of AK transit commuters **52 Percent** Of AK transit commuters identify as non-white **24 Percent** Of AK transit trips by young people under the age of 16 **34 Percent** Of AK transit trips by people who are 60+ years of age	**1 Million** Trips enabled by Alaska transit agencies that would not be possible otherwise **$117 Million** On average in annual benefits from Alaska transit Compared to **$56 Million** On average in annual costs

Source: EBP Analysis. Enabled trips do not include Interior Alaska Bus Lines and the Inter-Island Ferry Authority. Benefits exclude Interior Alaska Bus Lines, Inter-Island Ferry Authority, and Gulkana Soaring Eagle Transit. Photo credits: Municipality of Anchorage, dba: Public Transportation, Capital Transit, Hall Anderson, Courtesy of Leslie Jackson, Ketchikan Gateway Borough Transit.

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