

# THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR TRANSIT INVESTMENT

National transportation studies show that every \$1 that communities invest in public transportation generates approximately \$6 in economic returns. Moreover, every \$1 billion of federal transit investment creates about 35,000 jobs.

Through 16 selected projects, this map illustrates just some of the positive economic returns from transit investment around the country.

**PORTLAND**

The Portland streetcar has spurred a **\$3.5 billion investment** within two blocks of the line, including **10,212 new housing units** and **5.4 million square feet** of commercial space.

**CENTRAL VALLEY**

High-speed rail in the **Sacramento/Central Valley** region would create **160,000 construction jobs** while increasing taxable income by **\$48 billion** per year, increasing tax revenues by **\$2 billion**.

**LOS ANGELES**

**\$16.5 billion** worth of MTA transit construction projects in **Los Angeles** would generate **\$32 billion** of economic output, **\$8.7 billion** in earnings and **210,800 jobs**.

**WICHITA**

**Chance Coach, Inc.** in Wichita, KS, which provided American Heritage "streetcars" to over 100 American cities, generated **\$50 million** in revenue and contributed over **\$15 million** to the Wichita economy.

**AUSTIN-SAN ANTONIO**

The **Commuter Rail** proposed for the **Austin-San Antonio** area is projected to increase personal income by **\$20 billion** over 30 years, which would raise state and local **tax revenues** by **\$2.3 billion**. **GSP** is projected to increase by **\$2.5 billion** by 2030.

**WISCONSIN**

**Wisconsin** public transit systems save riders and taxpayers **\$730.2 million** annually and the State **\$74.3 million** in public assistance spending. The savings help generate almost **12,000 new jobs**.

**KENOSHA-RACINE-MILWAUKEE**

The **KRM** proposal, during **construction**, would inject **\$560 million** into the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee economy, and have a lasting **\$24 million annual** impact. Projected development would create **71,000 jobs** and increase area **property value** by **\$7.9 billion**.

**LAFAYETTE**

**Lafayette** generates **\$34.3 million** annually and **1,582 jobs** with its **CityBus**, whose total **income** impact, in 2005, was **five times greater** than the system's operating **budget** of \$7 million.

**NEW YORK**

Every billion dollars spent on transit in New York State yields **\$3.4 billion** in total economic output, **37,500 jobs** and **\$1.8 billion** in employee compensation. Spending on transit yields by far the highest economic benefit among all industries in the state.

**NEW JERSEY**

**New Jersey** GSP increases **\$840,000** for every **million** invested in transit, generating **\$647,465** worth of **income**, nearly **\$60,000** in **taxes** and 11 jobs, compared to 8 jobs from an equal investment in highways.

**VIRGINIA**

**Virginia** expects a **19.2 percent return** on its investment in the **Metrorail** system, including additional **tax revenues** of **\$2.1 billion** over 30 years.

**CINCINNATI**

Economic benefits of the proposed **I-71** light rail are projected to exceed costs by almost **\$800 million** over **30 years**. Most benefits would accrue to **congestion management**.

**CHARLOTTE**

The estimated tax value of development along **Charlotte's LYNX light-rail line** within the South Corridor is in excess of **\$550 million**. Property values in the **South End Historic District** area of the line increased from \$233 million to **\$442 million**.

**ATLANTA**

Between 2001 and 2005, **MARTA** expanded **Atlanta's** economy by **\$1.3-\$1.5 billion** annually. MARTA helped to create approximately **19,600 jobs** in the region in **2001** and is expected to create an estimated **45,500 jobs** in the region **by 2055**.

**DALLAS**

The **Dallas** Area Rapid Transit (**DART**) has had an added value of **\$4.26 billion** since 1999. Total annual **tax revenues** associated with development near DART will exceed **\$127 million** by project completion.

**CHICAGO**

Every **dollar** spent on transit for greater **Chicago** yields a **20-60 percent** return on investment.

For references and more information, please visit [www.edf.org/transit](http://www.edf.org/transit)