

METRO AREA TRANSIT IS THE “GREEN WAY TO GO!”

Public Transportation & Metro Area Transit (MAT) Facts

- Public transportation in the U.S.A. provided more than 10.7 billion trips during 2008, the highest level of ridership in 52 years and a modern ridership record, according to an American Public Transportation Association (APTA) report.
- Throughout the United States, public transportation has increased by 38% since 1995—a growth rate more than twice that of the population, and greater than miles traveled by personal vehicles.
- Metro Area Transit (MAT) is the largest rideshare program in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. MAT provided over 1.7 million rides during 2008, which equates to over 5,500 daily rides.

Environmental Benefits of MAT

- Public transportation is a national priority specifically identified to combat global climate change. We all have a stake in expanding the use of public transportation in our country.
- Public transportation allows an **immediate** alternative for individuals seeking to reduce their energy usage and their carbon footprints – it has an immediate “green” impact!
- America’s public transportation systems reduce carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually.
- An individual who switches to public transit reduces his or her daily carbon emissions footprint by 20 pounds; that is more than 4,800 pounds per year. This is equal to a 10% reduction in all greenhouse gases produced by a typical two-adult, two-car household.
- Public transportation produces nearly 50 percent less carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x), per passenger mile, as private vehicles.
- By eliminating one car in a two-car household, utilizing public transportation can result in a savings of up to 30% of a household’s annual carbon dioxide emissions.
- One Metro Area Transit bus full of people removes up to 50 cars from the road; that’s a line of cars approximately four city blocks long. Think of the traffic jam averted by utilizing MAT!
- U.S. public transportation systems save 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline every year, the equivalent of 320 million cars filling up annually. That is a daily savings of almost 900,000 cars per day!
- The typical public transit rider consumes one-half of the oil consumed by an automobile rider.
- Each year, public transportation use saves the equivalent of 34 supertankers of oil, or a supertanker leaving the Middle East every 11 days.
- By choosing to ride the bus, fifty people can save at least 32 gallons of gas in just one day!

Economical Benefits of MAT

- Utilizing public transportation can save households an average of over \$8,300 every year.
- Paving one parking spot costs thousands of dollars, and a single parking space in a ramp can cost over \$15,000. It costs \$3,000 to construct a parking space in a surface lot. Neither estimate includes the cost of the land or the missed opportunity for development.
 - In contrast, a MAT pass for an unlimited number of adult rides costs only \$480 per year. Also, employers subsidizing bus passes for their employees can save money and also receive a tax credit.
- Every \$1.00 invested in public transportation projects generates from \$4.00 to \$9.00 in local economic activity.



**TAKING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS AN EASY AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO SAVE MONEY ON FUEL,
SO LEAVE YOUR CAR AT HOME, COME ON BOARD AND GIVE MAT A TRY TODAY!**