

The Economic Value of Public Transit in Alaska



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Client Facts

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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

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Key Findings

Statewide Economic Impacts of Transit Expenditures

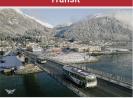
Transit Commuters and the



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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