

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Urban car-based transportation is the single largest source of transportation-related emissions, and its share is expected to continue rising as the populations of cities increase.¹ Mass transit reduces the number of cars on the road, along with associated problems such as air pollution, traffic congestion, and accidents. An added benefit is that it provides an option for those who cannot drive or do not own cars. Public transit includes subways, buses, and bus rapid transit systems in which buses run along main thoroughfares on dedicated lanes with multiple points of entry and exist, similar to subway systems. Over the past 65 years, the United States has spent nearly \$10 trillion in public funds on highways and roads, and just a quarter of that on subways, buses and passenger rail.² Federal funding for mass transit and rail peaked in the early 1980s with an influx of dollars dedicated to constructing metro-rail systems in Atlanta, Miami, and Washington, DC. Since that time, only about a fifth of federal transportation dollars have been used to support public transit infrastructure; the vast majority of funds go to highways and roads.

- Fishery friendliness: Public transit is a fishery friendly practice without likely impacts to fishery ecosystems and resources.
- Co-benefits: Public transit can help commuters save money and can reduce traffic congestion.
- Environmental externalities: Public transit can improve air quality by taking cars off the road.
- Policy catalysts: Public transit can be promoted through infrastructure investment, fare reduction, and reduction of incentives to drive.
- More information:
 - [Drawdown: Public transit](#)
 - [American Public Transportation Association](#)

Continue reading at <https://fisheryfriendlyclimateaction.org/solutions>

¹ Drawdown. "Public transit." <https://drawdown.org/solutions/public-transit>

² Plumer, Brad and Popovich, Nadia (April 2, 2021; updated August 2, 2021). "America has long favored cars over trains and buses. Can Biden change that?" *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/02/climate/biden-public-transit-amtrak.html>