

## Rural Reality: City transit, rural transit

### What is public transit and who uses it?



In 2013, people used public transit **12 million** times in Greater Minnesota and over **95 million** times in the Twin Cities; **88%** of those rides were on a **bus**.



Statewide, transit consists of **buses** and **paratransit** vehicles. In the Twin Cities, transit also includes **light rail**, **commuter rail**, and **vanpool** options.

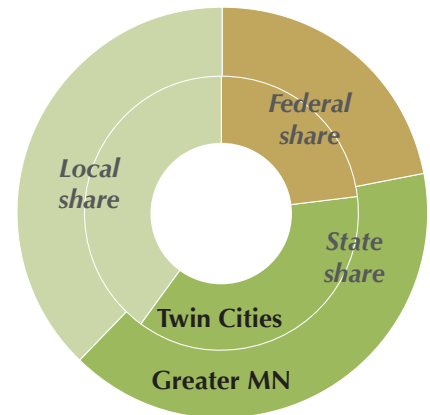


In the Metro, about 80% of riders are **commuters**. In Greater MN, riders are divided fairly evenly among **children and youth**, **workers**, and **seniors and persons with disabilities**.



### How is transit funded?

Transit dollars come from **federal, state, and local governments** for both **operating** and **capital** expenditures. Greater MN and Metro systems also receive funds from the **state motor vehicle sales tax**.



2013 funding, operating and capital combined. Data: MnDOT

### How do we measure value? Operating expenses in 2013:

**\$7.39/rider**  
in Greater MN

**\$4.50/rider**  
in the Twin Cities

**\$79.35/hour**  
in Greater MN

**\$115.10/hour**  
in the Twin Cities

**11 riders/hour**  
in Greater MN

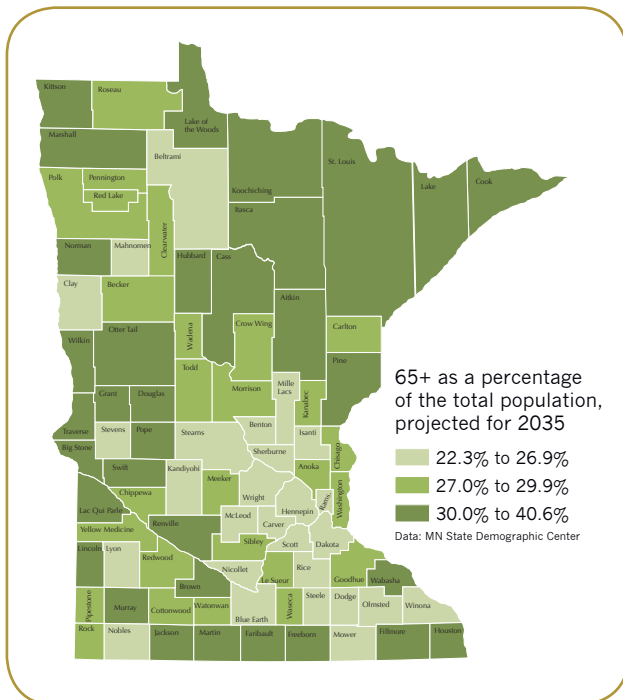
**26 riders/hour**  
in the Twin Cities

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### Items to know.

#### Maintaining and expanding reliable funding is a major issue.

With the gas tax decreasing as an adequate form of funding, highways compete increasingly with transit for general fund dollars. **While some states are experimenting, none have found a definitive solution yet.**



#### Growing transit-dependent population.

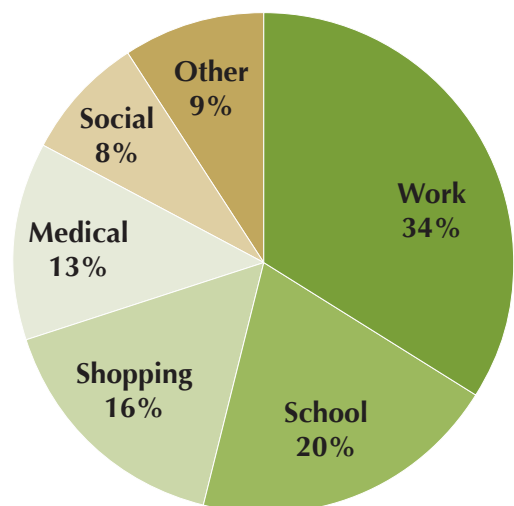
“Transit-dependent” people don’t have cars or don’t drive. They tend to be disabled persons, low-income workers, and—significantly—seniors. In both Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities, **the senior population is expected to double over the next 20 years.** In 2010, half of riders in Greater Minnesota reported not having either a car or a driver’s license. That share rose to 70% for rural systems.

#### The different ways people use public transit.

Riders in Greater Minnesota use transit to:

- Get to work and school.
- Shop.
- Get to health care.
- Get together with friends and family.

**Work and school is most frequent in urban systems; shopping and health care trips increase in rural ones.**



Data: MnDOT, 2010 Greater MN Ridership Survey