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
- **$79.35/hour** in Greater MN
- **$4.50/rider** in the Twin Cities
- **$115.10/hour** in the Twin Cities
- **11 riders/hour** in Greater MN
- **26 riders/hour** in the Twin Cities
Rural Reality: City transit, rural transit

**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