

“Investments in public transportation create almost twice the jobs that highways do, help others get to their jobs, and attract private sector investment, creating still more jobs.”

Source: Connecticut Smart Transportation: Save Money and Grow the Economy, January, 2011 by Smart Growth America.



INVESTING FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY



Investment in public transportation is a critical first step to decreasing the costs of congestion while creating jobs and spurring economic development. Research has shown that more jobs are created from investing in public transit than from putting the same dollars in to expanding roads and bridges. Providing more choices for people to get around also means there will be fewer drivers, slowing the deterioration of our roads. And as a matter of transportation equity, public transit is frequently the only alternative for non-drivers or for those who may be unable to afford the expense of owning a car, to access jobs, education, health care or shopping. Research continues to prove that investment in public transit is good for the economy and good for the environment.



Planning for new development or re-development around public transit stations will give us the biggest bang for our buck. Focusing growth in areas where public transit is currently available or where there is potential for public transit in the near future, has shown to be a proven winner for local communities. Developments that offer residential, retail, office, entertainment within walking distance of bus or rail service are in demand and generating much needed tax revenue without creating the need to expand roads. If people can work, shop and play within a half mile of where they live and if the community ensures the streets are safe and accessible, more people will walk to where they need to go more frequently.

Making our streets safer and friendlier for pedestrians and bicyclists has also proven to be economic stimulators through increased tourism and more people buying local. Encouraging those who are inclined to walk or bike also means less wear and tear on the roads and makes it less congested for those who prefer to drive.

DID YOU KNOW?



Investing \$1 billion in high speed rail infrastructure creates or supports

24,000 JOBS.

Source: American Public Transportation Association

FACT

In Connecticut there are approximately 190 bicycle retail stores, 860 related jobs, generating over \$80 MILLION in annual gross revenue, according to the America Bikes coalition.