

9 IN 10 AMERICANS SEE BENEFITS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

According to a new public opinion survey conducted by HNTB Corp. America THINKS, almost 9 out of 10 (88 percent) Americans view public transportation in a positive light, recognizing that public transportation provides a wide array of benefits to the communities they serve. According to the survey, this high level of approval is directly related to users recognizing the cost savings, avoidance of traffic, convenience factor, and the potential to be productive that public transportation offers.

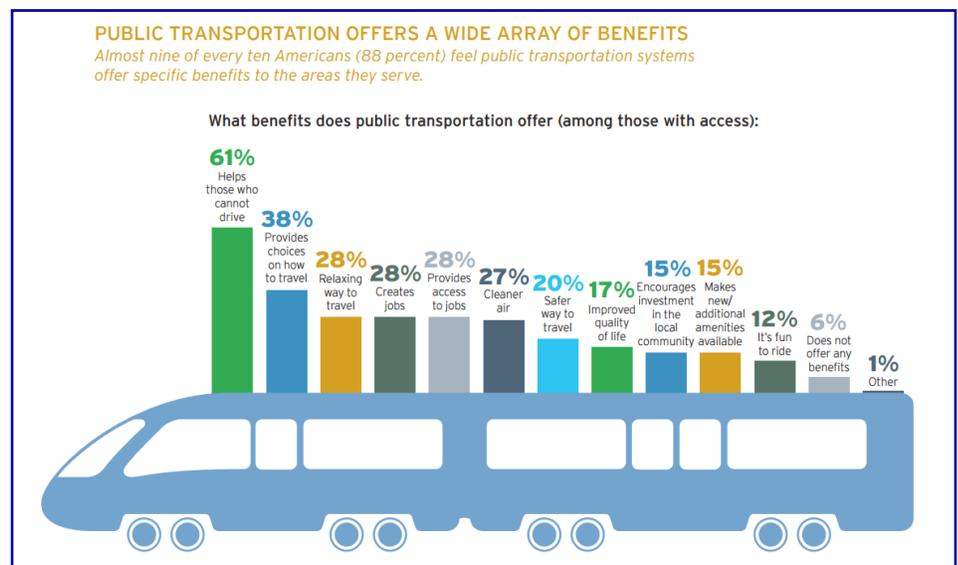
The survey was conducted by HNTB as a part of their annual America THINKS series, which asks Americans “what do you think?” about transportation, infrastructure and the built environment, with issues ranging from aviation to public transit to autonomous technology. The survey, titled Public Transportation – 2017, polled a random nationwide sample of 1,034 Americans in the month of March 2017. Outreach was conducted via email invitation and the survey was taken online. The results of the survey help pinpoint issues related to the industry, in an effort to foster discussions and solutions.

Public Transportation – 2017 further highlights the experiences many Americans have with public transportation. 83% of survey takers responded that

they have some type of public transportation option available to them where they work or live, and 71% responded that they have at least used public transportation once. A smaller but still sizable margin (51%) of people answered that they have opted out of driving and instead used public transportation to reach their destination within the past 12 months.

“Public transportation is a vast network employing more than 400,000 dedicated people around the nation working tirelessly to deliver vital mobility options that serve and benefit our communities in a multitude of ways”

The positive outcomes found through the survey from Americans use of public transportation are supported by a myriad of identified benefits. Foremost, the fact that public transportation helps those who cannot drive was cited by respondents as the primary reason for their positive attitude on it, registering at 61% of all who were surveyed. Beyond that, 38% of respondents said it gives them a choice in how they can travel, while 28% said it was a more relaxing mode of travel than driving. Furthermore, a sizable portion of respondents noted that public transportation can have positive economic and environmental outcomes, such as creating jobs (28%), creating access to jobs (28%), and contributing to cleaner air (27%).



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NOTES FROM THE TOP

Summer is finally here!

As we begin to close out FY 2017 and prepare for the new fiscal year, I would like to recognize the Public Transportation Staff for their hard work in exceeding the FY 2016-2017 Public Transportation Goals. Here's a highlight of this year's activities and accomplishments:

- Hosted the 2016 Annual Public Transit Conference
- Conducted 19 Workshops statewide
- Conducted 58 Site Visits statewide
- Conducted 11 Outreach Meetings
- Executed FY 2018 Operating Contracts

Kudos to the Public Transportation Staff for a job well done! Another accomplishment this FY, we have developed "The Benefits of Transit" Executive Summary and Brochure for transit providers to use as a tool for educating the public and elected officials about the need for and the benefits of public transportation and continued investment in transit services. If you would like to have the brochure personalized with your agency contact information, please contact Chris Stansbury, Alliance Transportation Group, at CStansbury@emailatg.com and Michelle Horne, LADOTD, at michelle.horne@la.gov.

As we close out FY 2017, I would like to remind all providers and MPOs that final invoices must be submitted to our office no later than July 10 to ensure payment for FY 2016-2017 invoices.

As we start the new fiscal year, our annual Executive Directors' meetings will be held in July. The one-day meetings will be held in Baton Rouge on July 17th and 18th and in Natchitoches on July 20th. Executive Directors and/or Transit Coordinators should plan to attend one of these mandatory meetings. We will cover a variety of topics during the meetings on program requirements and compliance issues. We've also invited representatives from the DOTD Audit Section, Financial Section, and Compliance Section to speak on various compliance related topics

BY MICHELLE HORNE

regarding audits, SEFA requirements, ICQ process, DBE compliance, and Title IV and ADA issues. Also, Micah Bailey with Creative Bus Sales will be speaking to the group on warranty processes, vehicle specifications, and other common preventative maintenance issues. Keycha Green, RTAP Program Manager, emailed the registration forms the first of June to all providers. Seats are limited so be sure to sign up quickly.

As I mentioned in April, we are now providing basic computer training through Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC). This has been a very successful training for our transit providers, and we will continue to provide the training each month throughout the 2017 - 2018 fiscal year.

We are also working with State Police to provide more Defensive Driving Training each month. Keycha is developing a 12 month training calendar for 2017 - 2018 to be handed out at the Directors' Meetings. This calendar will help you better plan training for your transit employees.

Please mark your calendars for the 2017 Annual Public Transportation Conference scheduled for November 6 - 8, 2017, in Shreveport, Louisiana at the Shreveport Convention Center. We are excited to return to this location. The Public Transportation staff and the LPTA will be working on the agenda and look forward to providing training opportunities that will support the future challenges facing transportation.

Finally, we want the transit newsletter to be an informative publication that addresses issues of interest to you and others. If you would like to highlight your transit system or recognize one of your staff members, we will provide a forum to do so. We encourage you to share innovative ideas, techniques and uplifting stories about your transit system and/or a special client.

We wish each of you a safe and happy 4th of July and want to extend our deepest thanks to all who are working hard to provide transportation services to those in need throughout the state.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Please be sure to submit all FY 2016-2017 final invoices to the DOTD Public Transportation Office by **July 10th!**



DOTD EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: DOTD Public Transportation Section

JULY 17TH & 18TH	Director's Meeting..... Baton Rouge, LA
JULY 20TH	Director's Meeting..... Natchitoches, LA
For other training sessions, please visit the LADOTD website.	

APTA EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: www.apta.com

AUGUST 6 - 9	Risk Management Seminar..... San Diego, CA
AUGUST 6 - 9	Sustainability & Multimodal Planning Workshop..... Minneapolis, MN
OCT 8 - 11	Annual APTA Meeting & EXPO..... Atlanta, GA

NATIONAL TRANSIT INSTITUTE COURSES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: www.ntionline.com

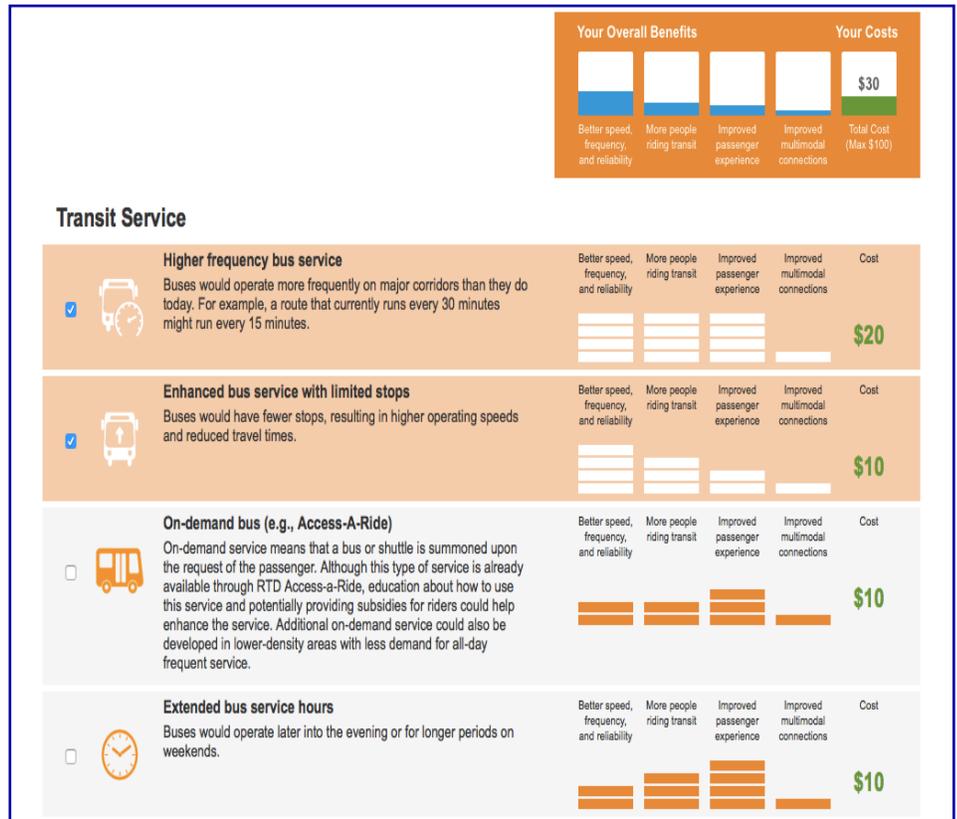
JULY 21	Introduction to Transit Asset Management..... New York, NY
JULY 31 - AUG 3	Procurement Series - III - RFP's and Competitive Contract Procurement..... Salt Lake City, UT
AUG 15 - 17	Management of Transit Construction Projects..... Alexandria, VA
AUGUST 22	FTA Real Estate Requirements..... Atlanta, GA

SPOTLIGHT ON...

BUILD YOUR OWN TRANSIT NETWORK - TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND BUDGETING OUTREACH MADE EASY

Denver has recently been in the process of a significant public outreach effort called “Denver Moves: Transit”, with the goal of determining the region’s transportation needs over the next 20 years. In a joint collaborative effort, RTD (Denver’s transit operator), the City of Denver, and Denver County have undertaken a robust citizen engagement process to create a localized vision for regional transportation.

The working team has developed a unique and intuitive platform to assist their outreach efforts. Dubbed “Build Your Own Transit System”, a digital website allows residents to turn into impromptu transportation planners, with an added emphasis on budgeting. Users of the digital platform are given a hypothetical \$100 and given the decision to choose between a set of transportation enhancements. The primary constraint placed upon the user is to consider the fiscal limitations as they plan their proposed transit network improvements. Options such as including shelters at bus stops are given to the user (frequently appearing as a priority when surveying riders, but often neglected by transit agencies). Further options such as extending hours of operation or increasing service frequency are also given to the hypothetical planner.



After the user determines their highest priorities, a personalized graph is displayed and informs the user of the various benefits that they have accrued for Denver transit riders. As in real life, high frequency bus/bus rapid transit are improvements that generate the greatest benefits across the board. More costly improvements such as light rail – which RTD has been extensively building within the past 10 years – have similar results in improving the transit network, but come at a greater cost to the budget. The benefits based on the users decisions are as follows:

- Better speed and reliability
- More people riding transit
- Improved passenger experience
- Improved multi-modal connections

The overall goal of “Build Your Transit System” is to visually illustrate the costs and benefits of various forms of transit. As riders frequently care about speed, frequency, and reliability, the online tool helps explain that certain improvements like rider information, increased distances between stops, and transit signal priority can help achieve these outcomes at a relatively low cost.

DOTD ON THE GO...



One of the DOTD PT Section's mandates is to provide information and technical assistance to transit providers in Louisiana in order to assist them in meeting their requirements for FTA funding. These activities come in many different formats and venues. DOTD PT provides numerous training courses, workshops, and training materials, as well as a website and an annual conference. To keep all of our constituents up to date on DOTD PT's activities, DOTD On The Go features just a few selected items each quarter.

SITE VISITS

Part of the outreach and assistance that LADOTD provides to the Rural Public Transportation (Section 5311) and Elderly and Disabled (Section 5310) providers are site visits from the program managers. In the last quarter, LADOTD conducted numerous visits to 5310 & 5311 providers (Greater King David, Iberville COA; St. Helena Parish Hospital; Livingston Activity Center; N.O. Home of Incurables/Hainkel Home; St. Margaret's Daughters Home; Town of Grand Isle; ARC of East Ascension; Arkansas Elder Outreach, Tangipahoa COA; Ascension COA; Assumption COA, Vernon Parish; Calcasieu Parish; Cameron Parish; Lincoln Parish, ARC of GNO; Ouachita ARC; Ouachita COA; Jackson COA, St. Helena COA; St. Tammany COA (COAST); Rapides Senior Center; City of DeRidder; Westwego COA; STARC-St. Tammany ARC; Terrebonne)

OUTREACH

To further the goal of providing some form of public transportation in all 64 parishes, as listed in the Louisiana Vision 2020 Plan, LADOTD has been conducting educational visits to all the parishes in Louisiana that do not currently have some form of public transit service. Last quarter LADOTD completed outreach for Ascension COA, Jackson COA, and Caddo/Bossier for JARC programs.

TRAINING

DOTD staff provided STARS training at DOTD in April, May, and June for Section 5310 providers receiving operating assistance. DOTD also held Microsoft Word Level 1 training at the LRTC in May, as well as Microsoft Excel Level 1 training at the LRTC in June. DOTD provided Driver Safety Training in the month of May.

If your agency or someone within your agency deserves recognition for a job well done, or has already received recognition or an award, please let us know. Email or send a brief description, photos, and contact information to Michelle.Horne@la.gov or to Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development/Public Transit Section, attn: Michelle Horne, P.O. Box 94245, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

Diana Mendes, AICP, HNTB senior vice president and national transit/rail practice leader had the following to say about their most recent iteration of the survey, "Public transportation is recognized for offering many benefits, and our survey asked respondents to rank a number of them. Among these, increased mobility options and contributing to economic growth, stronger business opportunities and a better quality of life were cited most often. But it's more than trains and buses. Public transportation is a vast network employing more than 400,000 dedicated people around the nation working tirelessly to deliver vital mobility options that serve and benefit our communities in a multitude of ways."

Survey takers were also asked what specific modes of public transportation are available to them. 78% of respondents identified the most common mode as buses and streetcars, followed by taxis or ridesharing at 64% and railroads/subways coming at 34%. Regarding where they would make specific improvements to infrastructure, roads received the largest amount of responses at 34%, followed by public transportation systems at 23%, bridges 18%, sidewalks 14%, and bike paths at 11%.

When respondents were asked how they would divide public transportation funding if they were in charge, 29% said they would invest in transit vehicles

(buses and/or trains), 21% to safety systems and controls, 18% to parking facilities, 17% to track infrastructure, and the remaining 15% to station or stop facilities.

The survey also found a significant amount of interest in Americans using driverless technology to access public transportation. 47% of survey takers responded that they would be interested in using driverless vehicles to go to and from public transportation stations, with millennials being most in favor of this at 63%.

FROM CAPITOL HILL...

US Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao recently joined President Donald Trump at a "Roads, Rails, and Regulatory Relief" event. Surrounded by workers and stakeholders from numerous infrastructure related fields, the event was the close to 'Infrastructure Week' at the USDOT Headquarters. During the event, Secretary Chao announced the USDOT has published a Federal Register notice seeking public input identifying different ways regulatory obstacles could be removed to expedite the completion of crucial infrastructure projects nationwide.

Elaborating on the Federal Register soliciting public comments, Secretary Chao had this to say: "The current process takes far too long. Today and all week, we have heard many recommendations from governors, mayors, and other state officials who actually build things. A special DOT Task Force has already acted on what we've been hearing and identified dozens of ways to streamline the process"

The Regulatory Reform Task Force (RRTF), which was formed earlier this year to comply with President Trump's Executive Order 13777 directing each federal agency to establish an RRTF to recommend ways in which federal regulations could be reduced, is chaired by USDOT Deputy Secretary Jeff Rosen. "We expect this process will help us uncover ways to assist in better deploying infrastructure – ways we hadn't even thought of," said Deputy Secretary Rosen.

The RRTF is hoping to solicit valuable comments regarding the USDOT's regulatory requirements from public/private sponsors, industry organizations, and transportation stakeholders who are familiar with the department's policies and procedures. Comments to the USDOT can be made via the Federal Register website:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/06/08/2017-11791/transportation-infrastructure-notice-of-review-of-policy-guidance-and-regulation>

