



You Can Help Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transportation

Transit for Livable Communities

TLC is working to bring about a greater emphasis on biking, walking, and transit use in Minnesota. Our major policy initiatives include:

- Securing increased funding for transit, biking, and walking.
- Encouraging development and zoning that supports walking, biking, and transit.
- Implementing Bike/Walk Twin Cities
- Monitoring state and regional policy and roadway investment, traffic congestion, traffic safety, and parking.

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In Minnesota, the transportation sector is responsible for 25% of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to Climate Change. More efficient cars and cleaner fuels, while important, will not do enough to reduce emissions to acceptable levels. We all will need to drive less and walk, bicycle, ride transit and carpool more often.

TLC participated in the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group appointed by Governor Pawlenty. That group recommended a number of strategies to make it easier and more appealing for people to drive less. The recommended strategies included: 1) smarter development patterns, 2) expanded transit and better facilities for bicycling and walking, 3) adopting a policy of "Fix it First" for our infrastructure investments, and 4) New tools to help employers can encourage transit use, bicycling, and walking.

Everyone can do something to reduce emissions — policy makers, employers, and you! Here are some ideas:

Walk or bike.

- To work, school, the grocery store, the movie theatre, the library, school meetings, the ATM machine, church.

- Patronize businesses in your neighborhood. Let businesses know if you arrive on transit and ask for a transit incentive (a free ride coupon) if they provide free off-street parking. Ask businesses and institutions to invest in bike parking.
- Set an example. Escort the kids home from rehearsal, practice or the scout meeting in a foot or bicycle patrol.
- Restless or ready to move? Locate your home or business in a location where you can commute easily without a car, where your kids can be close to school and recreation, where you can accomplish many daily activities in the neighborhood.

Support transit.

- Find out about the transit routes that connect to home and work by clicking www.metrotransit.org
- Plan errands to do on the way. Did you know that you can get on and off the bus along the route without paying extra fare? Did you know that you can make a return trip using the same fare if you complete your travel within 2 1/2 hours.
- Be the resource person about transit at your workplace. Keep extra schedules in your desk. Plan offsite meetings and conferences in transit-friendly locations. Make sure policies, especially parking policies, do not favor driving over taking the bus. Does your workplace

Check out TLC's other policy briefs including:

- *Peer City Spending on Public Transit*
- *Transit Fares in Peer City Regions*
- *Subsidies for Roads, Parking, Driving, and Transit*
- *Congestion Facts*
- *Highway Lane Miles in Peer Regions*
- *Sources of Funding for Transit*
- *Denver: The New Transit City*

participate in a price reduction program for bus passes? Acknowledge first-time and faithful riders. Start an e-mail newsletter for transit users.

- Adopt a bus shelter near work or home. Get your neighbors and co-workers involved — help to keep the shelters clean and report any problems to your transit provider.
- Ride transit when you vacation. It is easy to learn about transit in other cities on the internet. You can often order a transit map or visitor pass before you leave home.

It pays off.

- Owning a car is expensive. The average family spends over \$7,000 per year on transportation costs most of them for vehicle related expenses. Families that can substitute a bus pass for one car can save a lot.

When you drive.

- Share rides. Call Metro Commuter Services at (651) 602-1602 or www.metrocommuterservices.com to help find a carpool to work or school.

- Drive courteously. Give pedestrians, bikes, and buses the right of way.
- Obey the speed limit.
- Be sure not to block sidewalks and transit stops when you park your car.

Be informed. Get involved.

- Support construction of sidewalks in all commercial and residential areas.
- Support efforts to design roads to balance the needs of all users—pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and drivers.
- Comment on your city's transportation and land use plans.
- Support mixed-use development like apartments above stores and businesses