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## **New Report Says L.A. Transit Users Come Out Ahead, While Drivers Lose 63 Hours a Year Stuck in Traffic**

- ***Local drivers said to waste up to 50 gallons of gas a year due to traffic congestion.***
- ***Total average yearly cost for wasted time and fuel - \$1,464 per driver.***
- ***Two-person household in Los Angeles could save up to \$866 a month, or \$10,395 a year, by using public transportation.***

**SANTA MONICA, Calif.** - A major new report confirms that Los Angeles-area drivers are spending more time than ever in their cars due to traffic congestion. It also reports that regular transit riders save not only time, but also a substantial amount of money by opting to use public transportation instead.

According to the 2010 Urban Mobility Report from Texas A&M University's Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), public transit users in Los Angeles and parts of Orange County saved more than 33 million hours and nearly 14 millions gallons of fuel by using public transportation. The associated cost saving was estimated at over \$773 million.

The TTI report looked at road congestion in 439 urban areas of the United States and showed that, although traffic delays had declined slightly in the past several years because of higher fuel prices and the economic downturn, the problem appears to be on the rise again.

"Public transit can take you almost anywhere you want to go, often at a fraction of the cost of driving," said Dan Dawson, customer relations manager for the Big Blue Bus. He noted that parking rates in such areas as downtown Los Angeles can cost drivers upwards of \$300 a month.

"Our Line 10 Express bus goes from Santa Monica to downtown L.A. for two dollars," he said. "That's a huge savings, especially for people who work there or visit frequently."

Dawson said trips around Santa Monica and the Westside can also be inexpensive when transit is taken over driving. "You can ride on any of our 18 local and Mini Blue routes for a dollar," he said, "and that fare drops to 50 cents for seniors, the disabled and Medicare riders. That's pretty hard to beat when you compare it to what it costs to buy gas and pay for parking."

According to a recent study published by the American Public Transportation Association, a two-person household in Los Angeles could potentially save \$866 a month, or \$10,395 a year, by using public transportation. These figures factor in local gas prices and the average cost of parking.

Highlights of the TTI report include:

- Travelers nationwide would have suffered an additional 785 million hours of delay and consumed 640 million more gallons of fuel in 2009 - costing \$19 billion - without public transportation.
- Costs nationwide from traffic congestion continue to rise - from \$24 billion in 1982 to \$115 billion in 2009.
- The total amount of wasted fuel in 2009 topped 3.9 billion gallons, equal to 130 days of flow in the Alaska Pipeline.

- Cost to the average commuter: \$808 in 2009, compared to an inflation-adjusted \$351 in 1982.
- Yearly peak delay for the average commuter was 34 hours in 2009, up from 14 hours in 1982.
- Nearly 60 percent of all trips on public transportation involved travel to and from job sites.

The 2010 Urban Mobility Report can be found at <http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/>. The January 2011 American Public Transportation Association Monthly Savings Report can be found at [www.apta.com](http://www.apta.com). For more information about the Big Blue Bus, visit [www.BigBlueBus.com](http://www.BigBlueBus.com).

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### **About the Big Blue Bus**

The Big Blue Bus operates a fleet of over 200 energy efficient vehicles transporting more than 80,000 passengers daily across a nearly 52-square mile service area. Nationally recognized for its long-standing commitment to a cleaner environment, the entire fleet operates on alternative fuels, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), which helps cut emissions by over 80 percent. Serving Santa Monica and the Los Angeles area since 1928, the Big Blue Bus has an 86 percent on-time performance record, and has won numerous awards for its customer service, safety and efficiency.