

An investment in transit, is an investment in our community

By **[ADD NAME]**

Transit is essential for our community. It is a driver of economic growth and opportunities. And it is a critical tool in addressing the climate crisis.

Public transit, like trains and buses, and accessible walking and bike routes, give us a healthy, clean, and affordable way for everyone to get around. But for too long, ensuring transit is fully funded has not been a priority for policymakers.

We need to change that. Which is why I was proud to join with **[ADD NAME OF LOCAL GROUP]** and their Week Without Driving to highlight the need to invest in transit here in **[NAME COMMUNITY]**.

By raising our voices together and not driving, we are demanding an upgraded public transit system that not only connects and improves our neighborhoods but protects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we call home, for generations to come.

We know that transit is a driver of economic growth, jobs, and opportunity. Nationally, tens of millions of people in the U.S.—from small rural towns to major urban centers—rely on public transit to get to work every day, generating trillions of dollars in economic activity. Every dollar invested in transit offers a 5-to-1 return, and every \$1 billion invested in public transit produces 50,000 jobs.

The COVID pandemic and recovery forever changed how communities like ours function, work, socialize, and commute. They also dramatically showed that public transit is essential to our community, local economy, and the lives of people throughout our region.

Essential workers depend on and operate transit, small businesses depend on transit, and historically marginalized communities depend on transit. Transit is a key component of economic recovery and a more environmentally sustainable society, and it's a road to equity for disconnected communities—rural, urban, and suburban.

We also know the climate crisis is not coming; it is here now. And it's getting worse by the day. We've seen it all around us on a near daily basis. It is impacting our economy and nearly every aspect of our daily lives. Investing in public transit is one of the top ways we can help address the climate crisis on the scale that is needed.

The transportation sector is the largest source of U.S. climate pollution — and 80% of transportation emissions come from the [cars and trucks on our roads](#). It's one of the only major sectors where emissions are still [rising](#).

And this impacts lots of people in our community. Take for example, **[ADD LOCAL EXAMPLE]**.

For far too long, policymakers have prioritized highways and cars over public transit. This has devastating impacts not only for the climate crisis but on the budgets of local transit agencies like ours.

An investment in transit by policymakers would be a win-win. A win economically and a win in our efforts to address the climate crisis. Which is why we need **[ADD LOCAL ASK/DEMAND]**

The Week Without Driving was critical in raising our collective voices and making sure policymakers heard our demand. But it can't stop here. Transit is essential, and we need to fund it as such.