

False Claim: Mass transit saves money

Cost of Trimet Transit vs Cars & Taxis

Mode	COST/Pass.-Mi.	Source of Number and calculation outline - Click for details
Bus	\$0.835	Calc. from Trimet data: Bus system cost / bus passenger-miles
Rail	\$0.434	Calc. from Trimet data: Rail system cost / rail passenger-miles
Combined	\$0.67	Calc. from Trimet data: all system cost / all passenger-miles
Rail, with construction	\$1.11	Calculated from Trimet data and applying amortization
Lowest cost BUS line in Portland	\$0.34	(Line 33-McLoughlin) Public Information Request
Cost of Cars		
Car (actual cost using national data)	\$0.331 (veh.-mi.)	Calc. by national spending / national vehicle-miles
Car (actual cost using national data)	\$0.202	Calc. by national spending / national passenger-miles
Car (using national data - adjusted for Portland)	\$0.254	Calc. by nat'l spend / nat'l pass-miles x 1.634/1.3
Car (AAA estimate)	\$0.522 (veh.-mi.)	From AAA
Car (AAA derived)	\$0.319	AAA cost (above) / pass per vehicle. See note below
Cost of Portland Streetcar		
Portland streetcar	\$1.25 (per ride)	Calc. from PortlandStreetcar.org: total cost / total trips
Portland streetcar	\$1.67	above \$1.25 / 3/4 mile average trip length per Charlie Hales
Cost of Taxi Fare in portland		
Taxi fare - per mile portion only	\$2.10	Cost quote from local cab co. Additional cost is \$2.50 to board
Taxi fare with 1.6 people - per mile portion only	\$1.31	Cost quote from local cab co. Additional cost is \$1 per extra pass.

Notes:

The Trimet costs and Car (BEA) costs are based of REAL costs and REAL miles, unlike AAA which is theoretical. Light rail has massive construction costs which are ignored in the above (and ignored by Trimet's busmaxstat.pdf) except as noted

The cost of roads is mostly included in the cost of driving due to taxes and fees being included.

Line 69 is the sum of lines 70-77 and includes most (all?) driving related expenses.

National average passengers per vehicle is 1.59, calculated by dividing national passenger-miles by national vehicle-miles

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