Transit is a crucial service that offers alternative modes of travel and increases accessibility. The transportation services provided by Arkansas’ public transit providers and human services agencies provide a vital connection to goods, services, and employment, particularly for those who are transportation-disadvantaged (e.g. seniors, persons with disabilities, and those with low income).

These services not only get people from place to place, but they provide opportunities for those who may not otherwise have the freedom that often comes with having a personal vehicle. The agencies who provide these transportation services are valuable assets to their communities.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is making great efforts through continued investment in transit; addressing state of good repair, and inter-agency coordination issues, to make transit service more accessible to all citizens of Arkansas.

The following pages emphasize the benefits and importance of transit, and serve as a reminder of why continued investment in transit will be key for the future of mobility in Arkansas.
Transit, a $66 billion industry, directly employs more than 680k people.

Transit can reduce financial stress: Affordability of transit may reduce stress, especially for low-income households.

Property values are higher on average if they’re located near transit with high-frequency service.

87% of transit trips connect to local businesses, and employees with limited transportation options can connect to job opportunities.

$1 invested in transit equals $4 in economic returns

Transit benefits environmental sustainability by using cleaner energy sources, encouraging efficient energy consumption, and promoting denser development patterns.

Transit reduces energy use by the equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline a year.

Transit reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 37 million metric tons.

Transit can reduce the number of vehicles on the road which can lead to reduced congestion, resulting in:

- Reduced road maintenance, reconstruction, & associated costs,
- Less excess fuel consumed, and
- Less personal time wasted due to waiting in traffic.

Savings: Commuters spend roughly $800 a year in additional costs generated by congestion.

The public transportation funds administered by ARDOT helped provide over 8.5 million trips in 2016 and support transit programs covering more than 83% percent of the state’s land area.

Improved access to health care and healthy food. Providing access to health care can result in fewer missed appointments and better health outcomes.

Transit reduces energy use by the equivalent of 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline a year.

Transit reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 37 million metric tons.

Improved mental health: Taking transit can result in less stress/anxiety from driving in congestion or under time constraints, and can provide the ability to socialize, relax, or be productive during transit.

Transit increases personal mobility by providing options for travel needs. Many people, especially those who cannot drive, rely on transit to access important resources and destinations, e.g. for key activities like medical appointments.

Improved physical fitness: Biking and walking are typically done in conjunction with transit trips.

Transit provides transportation solutions and bridges gaps.

Percentage of US Transit Bus Fleet Powered by Diesel/Gas and by Alternative Fuels.

- 2007: 89.9%, 9.9%
- 2015: 52.4%, 47.6%

Of the passenger fatalities between 2000-2009:

- 89.5% were in Cars or Light Trucks
- 8.3% were in Rail (combined)
- 1.4% were in Buses

Transit is a much safer travel option than driving.

- 89.5% were in Cars or Light Trucks
- 0.7% were in Commercial Aviation
- 1.4% were in Buses

- Todd Litman, Evaluating Public Transportation Health Benefits (Victoria Transport Policy Institute) 2010