



Overview of Benefits of Public Transit and KRM Commuter Rail



Regional Transit Authority

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Benefits of Public Transit

- Provides an alternative mode of more efficient travel for heavily traveled corridors, and densely developed urban communities and activity centers where it is not desirable, or possible to accommodate all travel by automobile.
- Contributes to efficiency in the transportation system, including reduced highway traffic and congestion, air pollution, and energy consumption.



Benefits of Public Transit—continued

- Supports and encourages higher development density and infill development and redevelopment which results in efficiencies for the overall transportation system and other public infrastructure and services.
- Provides choice in transportation, enhancing the Region's quality of life and economy.



Benefits of Public Transit—continued

- Reduces the necessary household expenditures on transportation, permitting greater household savings, other expenditures, and overall higher standard of living. Positive impact on household quality of life and local economy.
- Essential to meeting the travel needs—work, education, healthcare, shopping—of persons unable to use personal automobile transportation. (16 percent or 61,000 households in Milwaukee County, 8 percent or 5,800 households in Racine County, and 7 percent or 3,800 households in Kenosha County)



Need for Public Transit

- About 40 percent of Milwaukee County transit riders do not have an auto available for travel.
 - 15 percent of Milwaukee County transit riders would not be able to travel.
 - 85 percent of Milwaukee County transit riders would find an alternative way to travel—some of which would be more expensive (taxi and auto).

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation 2003 survey.



Need for Public Transit—continued

- Without Public Transit

Those Riders With An Auto As Alternative

- Increased expenditures on transportation, decreasing quality of life and negatively impacting the local economy.

Those Riders Without an Alternative

- Loss of work with increase in public assistance, unemployment compensation, and food stamps.
- Increased home healthcare and health insurance costs.



Need for Public Transit—continued

- Benefits of Public Transit in Wisconsin Outweigh Costs by Factor of 3.5 to 1
 - 70 percent of benefits are reduced transportation expenditures.
 - 15 percent of benefits are reduced public assistance and healthcare insurance costs.
 - 15 percent are due to reduced congestion, and traffic accidents.

Source: "The Socio-Economic Benefits of Transit in Wisconsin", Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 2003.



Why Public Transit?

- Needed in heavily traveled corridors and densely developed urban communities and activity centers.
- Reduces highway traffic and congestion, and attendant air quality pollutants and energy consumption.
- Supports more efficient higher density development.
- Provides desired choice.



Why Public Transit?— continued

- Reduces expenditures on transportation.
- Essential to meeting the needs of those without an auto.



Benefits of KRM Commuter Rail

- Fast and convenient service
 - Nearly twice as fast as bus
 - As fast or faster than auto for longer trips during congested times
 - Alternative to increasingly congested IH 94
- High degree of reliability
 - Not affected by street and highway congestion
 - Inclement weather will have little or no impact



Benefits of KRM Commuter Rail (continued)

- Removes traffic from highway system
 - Trips made on commuter rail would otherwise be made on state highways and IH 94
- Environmental benefits
 - Contribute to reductions in air pollution and energy consumption
 - Encourage higher density and more efficient urban development
- An alternative for travel during reconstruction of IH 94 over next 20 years



Benefits of KRM Commuter Rail (continued)

- Improved accessibility
 - Directly connect KRM corridor with Lake and Cook Counties and City of Chicago
 - S.E. Wis. residents would have better access to jobs in Lake and Cook Counties
 - S.E. Wis. employers would have better access to labor force in Lake and Cook Counties
 - Improved accessibility for minority and low-income populations
- Will promote land development and redevelopment around stations
 - Increased land and property values
 - High value residential and office development along with retail and service
 - Improvement in station area neighborhoods will benefit adjacent neighborhoods



Benefits of KRM Commuter Rail (continued)

- Promote economic development in the KRM corridor
 - More closely connect Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee to each other and to N.E. Illinois and Chicago
 - Improved linkages may be expected to result in more economic and population growth in KRM corridor and in Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha-Chicago mega-metro area
 - Companies such as S.C. Johnson have indicated importance in retaining and attracting qualified employees



Benefits of KRM Commuter Rail (continued)

- Increased safety of travel
 - Fewer property damage accidents, injuries, and fatalities for commuter rail travel compared to bus and automobile travel.
- Potential increased use and flight schedules at General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA)
 - Improved accessibility to GMIA from northeastern Illinois and attendant increased use of GMIA by northeastern Illinois residents



Benefits of KRM Commuter Rail (continued)

- Improved accessibility to arts, culture, and entertainment
 - Benefits to area arts, culture, and entertainment—and restaurants and hotels—of improved access within southeastern Wisconsin and connection to northeastern Illinois (potential increase in out-of-state visitors, tourists, attendance and spending).
 - Benefits to area residents of improved access to northeastern Illinois area arts, culture, and entertainment.



Benefits of KRM Commuter Rail (continued)

- Improved accessibility to colleges/universities
 - Improved accessibility to colleges/universities within southeastern Wisconsin.
 - Improved access to northeastern Illinois colleges/universities for southeastern Wisconsin residents and businesses.