

**COMPARISON OF REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS
 SIMILAR IN POPULATION TO THE MILWAUKEE AREA REGARDING GOVERNANCE, FUNCTIONS, AND FUNDING**

Metropolitan Area	Transit Authority/Agency	Service Area	Year 2000 Urbanized Area Population (millions)	Transit Technologies Used	Governance	Functions/Funding
Chicago, IL	Regional Transit Authority of Northern Illinois (RTA)	Six counties	8.3	Bus, Heavy Rail, and Commuter Rail	Governed by a 16-member board of directors appointed from within the six-county region as follows: five directors by the Mayor of the City of Chicago; four directors by the suburban members of the Cook County Board; one director from Suburban Cook County appointed by the President of the Cook County Board; and one director each from DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties appointed by the Chairman of their respective county board. The Chairman of the RTA Board--the 16th member--is elected by at least 12 of the appointed members. The board membership is not population proportional.	The RTA is a funding and oversight entity for public transit services in northern Illinois including the Chicago metropolitan area. It provides funding to, and financial oversight for, the three public transit operators serving the Chicago metro area: the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra commuter rail, and Pace suburban bus. The local funds distributed by the RTA are generated by a 1 to 1.25 percent sales tax ³ collected in Cook County, and a 0.75 percent sales tax collected in the 5 suburban counties.
St. Louis, MO	Bi-State Development Agency (Metro)	1 county plus portions of 2 other counties in 2 states	2.08	Bus and Light Rail	Governed by a 10-member board of Commissioners. Five members are appointed by the Governor of Missouri, with 3 of the 5 nominated jointly by the City and County of St. Louis County; two members are appointed by the Governor of Illinois, 2 members are appointed by the Madison County (Illinois) Executive, and 1 member is appointed by the St. Clair County (Illinois) Executive. The board membership is not population proportional.	Metro directly operates all public transit services in the St. Louis metropolitan area except in the City of St. Charles MO. (St. Charles Area Transit) and in Madison County, IL. (Madison County Transit) which operate transit services entirely separate from Metro. Metro transit services in St. Clair County, IL are provided under a service contract with St. Clair County. Metro uses revenues generated by a 0.25 percent sales tax collected by the cities, counties, and transit districts in the Metro service area to fund transit operations.
Denver, CO	Regional Transportation District (RTD)	4 counties plus portions of 3 other counties	1.98	Bus and Light Rail	Governed by a 10-member board of directors elected from districts to 4-year, staggered terms. The board membership is population proportional with approximately 165,000 voters per district director.	The RTD directly operates all public transit services in the Denver metropolitan area. The RTD uses revenues generated by a 1.0 percent sales tax collected by the District in the Denver metropolitan area to fund transit operations.

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Cleveland, OH	Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA)	1 county plus portions of 4 other counties	1.79	Bus, Heavy Rail, and Light Rail	Governed by a 10-member board of trustees. Four members appointed by the Mayor of Cleveland and confirmed by the City Council; three members appointed by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, with at least one residing in the City of Cleveland; and three members elected by the mayors, city managers, and township trustees of the suburban municipalities in the RTA district. The board membership is not population proportional.	The RTA directly operates all public transit services in Cuyahoga County and some service extends into adjacent counties. Other public transit systems are operated in the adjacent counties in the metro area. Most of the RTA's local revenue comes from a 1 percent Cuyahoga County sales tax; the surrounding counties do not contribute.
Pittsburgh, PA	Port Authority of Allegheny County	1 county plus portions of 4 other counties	1.75	Bus, Light Rail, and Inclined Plane	Governed by a 9-member board of directors appointed by the chief executive of Allegheny County and confirmed by the Allegheny County Council. One member must be a County Council representative. The board membership is not population proportional.	The Port Authority's transit system covers Allegheny County, with extensions into adjacent counties. The neighboring counties also have their own transit systems, with routes that run into downtown Pittsburgh. The Port Authority also owns and operates several transit and highway bridges and tunnels, and three limited access expressways. Its revenues are generated by five separate sales and use taxes ^b levied by Allegheny County and the State of Pennsylvania.
Portland, OR	Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Tri-Met)	Portions of 3 counties	1.58	Bus and Light Rail	Governed by a 7-member board of directors appointed by the Governor. Each board member represents, and must reside in, a specific geographic area in the Tri-Met service area. The board membership is population proportional.	Tri-Met directly operates public transit services in parts of Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties with one route extending into Vancouver, WA. (Several other public transit systems are operated in these three counties and in adjacent counties within communities that have withdrawn from Tri-Met.) Tri-Met uses revenues generated by a 0.6618 percent payroll tax collected by the district to fund transit operations.
Cincinnati, OH	Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)	1 county plus portions of 3 other counties	1.50	Bus	Governed by a 9-member board appointed by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. The Cincinnati City Council nominates 4 of the 9 members but the County Board is not obligated to confirm them. There currently is no representation for the areas outside Hamilton County.	SORTA directly operates all public transit services in Hamilton County with extensions into adjacent counties. The neighboring counties also have their own transit systems, with routes that run into downtown Cincinnati. Local funding comes from revenues generated by a 0.3 percent payroll tax collected in the City of Cincinnati plus funds provided by the suburban governmental units receiving transit services. Separate local funding agreements are required for SORTA transit routes serving areas outside Hamilton County.

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Norfolk, VA	Hampton Roads Transit	7 cities in one county	1.39	Bus and Ferryboat	Governed by a 9-member board of Commissioners appointed as follows: one from each of the seven cities served by the transit system, a representative from the Virginia State Legislature, and the Chairman of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. The board membership is not population proportional.	Hampton Roads Transit directly operates all public transit services in the Norfolk metropolitan area. The seven communities in the district provide funds for the transit system through their local budget processes.
Kansas City, MO	Kansas City Area Transportation Authority	7 counties in 2 states	1.36	Bus	Governed by a 10-member board of directors appointed by the Mayor of Kansas City and the Counties in the district in Kansas and Missouri. The Board includes five members from each state. At least three board members are from the City of Kansas City. The board membership is not population proportional.	The Transit Authority directly operates all public transit services in Jackson and Clay Counties, Missouri and one route in Platte County, Kansas. Local funding is provided through Kansas City, Mo. from a 0.5 percent sales tax initiated in the early 1970s and a 0.375 percent sales tax implemented in 2004. Two other public transit systems--Johnson County Transit and Unified Government Transit--serve the Kansas portion of the district.
Columbus, OH	Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)	1 county plus portions of 3 other counties	1.13	Bus	Governed by a 13-member board of trustees with seven appointed by the Mayor of the City of Columbus. Two members are appointed by the Franklin County Commissioners. The remaining four members are appointed by the 10 other member communities on an alternating basis. The board membership is not population proportional.	COTA directly operates all public transit services in Franklin County and provides very limited service in the surrounding counties. COTA is funded by a permanent 0.25 percent sales tax as well as another 10-year, 0.25 percent sales tax that went into effect January 1, 2008.
Austin, TX	Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CMTA)	Portions of 3 counties	0.90	Bus	Governed by a 7-member board of directors including: two council members appointed by the Austin City Council; one commissioner appointed by the Travis County Commissioners' Court; one representative appointed by the mayors of the suburban cities of Travis County; one representative appointed by a panel made up of the mayors of the suburban cities of Williamson County, the County Judge, and the presiding officer of each municipal utility district outside Travis County in the CMTA service area; and two members-at-large appointed by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The board membership is not population proportional.	CMTA directly operates all public transit services in the greater Austin area. In its rural areas, CMTA utilizes rural public transit services provided in the surrounding counties which are coordinated with CMTA service. CMTA is funded by a 0.25 percent sales tax collected in all member communities.

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Salt Lake City, UT	Utah Transit Authority (UTA)	Portions of 6 counties	0.89	Bus and Light Rail	Governed by a 16-member board of trustees appointed by the city and county governments that fund the UTA including: seven from the municipalities within Salt Lake County and the municipalities of Grantsville and Tooele; 1 from unincorporated Salt Lake County, 1 from Salt Lake City; 2 from the municipalities in Utah County; 2 from the municipalities in Davis County; 2 from the municipalities in Weber County and the municipalities of Brigham City, Willard, and Perry; and 1 from the Utah Transportation Commission (ex-officio). The board membership is not population proportional.	UTA directly operates all public transit services in the greater Salt Lake City area, providing service in Salt Lake County and the five adjacent counties. UTA is funded by sales taxes ^c collected in the member communities.
Louisville, KY	Transit Authority of River City (TARC)	1 county plus portions of four others in two states	0.86	Bus	Governed by an 8-member board of directors appointed by the Mayor of the Louisville Metro (City/County) government. The board membership is not population proportional.	TARC directly operates all public transit services in the Louisville Metro area (Jefferson County, KY). TARC also serves limited areas in five adjacent counties, four in Kentucky and one in Indiana. TARC is funded by a 0.2 percent payroll tax collected in Jefferson County. Separate local funding agreements are required for TARC transit routes serving areas outside Jefferson County.
Charlotte, NC	Charlotte Area Transportation System (CATS)	1 county plus portions of four others in two states	0.76	Bus and Light Rail	Governed by the 26-member Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC). The Commission has 16 voting members including the mayor and manager of the City of Charlotte; the chairman of the Board of Commissioners and manager of Mecklenburg County; and the mayors and managers of the three towns in Mecklenburg County. The MTC also has 10 non-voting members including eight representing the local governments outside Mecklenburg County and two representing the North Carolina and South Carolina Departments of Transportation. The board membership is not population proportional.	CATS directly operates all public transit services in Mecklenburg County, NC, including the City of Charlotte. Cats also provides express bus and limited local bus services between Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and the surrounding counties including York County, SC. CATS is funded by a 0.5 percent sales tax collected in Mecklenburg County. Separate local funding agreements are required for CATS transit routes serving areas outside Mecklenburg County.

^aIn Cook County, the RTA collects a 1 percent sales tax is on general merchandize and a 1.25 percent sales tax on selected food, drugs and medical appliances.

^bPortion of State taxes of 1.22percent on sales, \$1 per tire, \$2 per vehicle rental, and, 3 percent of vehicle leases; and Allegheny County taxes of 10 percent on alcoholic drinks and \$2 per vehicle rental.

^cUTA sales tax rates vary in the district as follows: 0.68375 percent levied county-wide by Salt Lake County; 0.55 percent and 0.526 percent levied by participating cities in Box Elder and Utah Counties, respectively; 0.5 percent levied county-wide by Davis and Weber Counties; 0.3 percent levied by participating cities in Tooele County; and 0.276 percent levied by non-participating cities and areas in Utah County.