

# Missing the Bus

The Steady Decline in Public Transit Ridership

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# The Statistics

- ▶ The public transit systems known as 'legacies' all had noticeable declines in 2016 and 2017: Boston, Chicago, D.C., L.A., New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco
- ▶ 31 of 35 major metropolitan transit systems have had faltering ridership
- ▶ Washington area experienced over 3% decline in ridership (2016-2017)
- ▶ Bucking the trend: Houston, Phoenix, and Seattle as they all either expanded service and/or had network overhauls

# The Causes

- ▶ The problems associated with unreliable service, disrepair and inefficiency
- ▶ More options for alternative transportation (i.e. ridesharing services)
- ▶ Decline in workforce actually going into offices
- ▶ On-demand services like: online shopping, schooling, and telework
- ▶ Economic displacement
- ▶ Lower gas prices
- ▶ More buying power for automobiles

# The Effects

- ▶ The decline in farebox recovery
- ▶ Discontinued service routes on low-ridership lines
- ▶ Service gaps due to re-routing or route cancellations
- ▶ Disparity for ridership population who need public transportation
- ▶ Unknowns of federal, state, and local funding allocations for public transportation

# The Solutions

- ▶ Improve bus service and build out transit systems (i.e. BRT, light rail...etc.)
- ▶ Public-private partnerships encouraging alternatives to driving
- ▶ Dedicated transportation funding sources
- ▶ Equitable transit options for those who need public transportation
- ▶ Establish bond measures to have dedicated funding for transportation improvements and maintenance
- ▶ Public engagement and education about the benefits of public transit systems

Questions???