

English 180, Third Place; Professor, Barbara Ashwood

Breanna Davis

The city roads are slammed by the five o'clock traffic. The cars are bumper

Fares Around the World,” explains that fares can cost anywhere from fifteen cents to five dollars depending on where the subway is located in the world and how many passengers ride on average (Pasternack). Some systems offer cards for one flat fee per month or year that allow riders to use the system for that given amount of time before they have to pay again. With all these money saving options, why not use public transportation systems? We need to inform others about the great benefits, and then surely other people will want to ride too.

A challenge for increasing the use of public transportation is a lack of accessibility throughout the entire country. Many cities have systems that run throughout the city but not any systems or stops in or near the suburbs. Some people might argue that even though there are a lot of money saving benefits, putting these systems into more communities will just cost too much. However, the cost of making public transportation options available in more communities will eventually be paid back in full. In “Public Transportation Should Be a Priority For Every Government,” Lilani Goonesea finds that over 83% of Australians drive to and from work. She also finds that one in ten people use the

is spent on the tickets for these systems goes back to the owners. Since most likely the city will own the system, the profits will go back to the city and can be reinvested in its infrastructure. The community could really benefit from a system like the railway, and the people clearly want to use it. Why have we not yet invested in more systems like this?

Not only does using the subway or other public systems save riders money and positively contribute to the community, these systems also create a healthier community. Every day people drive their own motor vehicles to work, and each one of these cars puts out harmful fumes. According to McCubbin and Delucchi in the *Journal of Public Transportation*, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the air can cause many health issues, including but not limited to asthma, chronic migraines, and cancer due to daily exposure. As the authors explain, “Motor vehicles emit a wide range of toxic compounds, which can be acutely or chronically poisonous, carcinogenic, teratogenic, or mutagenic” (264). The author goes on to tell readers about the specific effects of carbon monoxide and conclude that exposure to the compounds released by vehicles increases the risk of death (275). The thought of that is simply horrific. By lessening the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> we put into the air through widespread use of public transit, we lessen the risk of harmful health effects.

Another way that public transportation systems help to create a healthier community is by getting people to interact and move around. According to Shobha Srinivasan, Liam R. O’Fallon, and Allen Deary in their article “Creating Healthy Communities, Healthy Homes, Healthy People: Initiating a Research Agenda on the Built Environment and Public Health,” driving a car to and from work alone everyday creates a

sedentary and isolated lifestyle (1447). W



great systems? Driving has so many cons that it does not even seem worth it to drive.

Why don't we all work together to stride into the future as a better generation?

### Works Cited

“Calculator.” Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Web. 23 Apr. 2014.

<[www.wmata.com/rider\\_tools/calculator/calculator.cfm](http://www.wmata.com/rider_tools/calculator/calculator.cfm)>

Goonesa, Lilian. “Public Transportation Should Be a Priority For Every Government.”

SBS News. 1 Apr. 2014. Web. 8 Apr. 2014. ,

<<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/04/01/comment-public-transport-should-be-priority-every>>

2014. <<http://transloc.com/6-health-benefits-of-public-transportation/>>

Pasternack, Alex. "Subway Fares Around the World." Treehugger. Web. 23 April

2014. <<http://www.treehugger.com/cars/subway-fares-around-the-world.html>>

Srinivasan, Shobha, Liam R. O'Fallon, and Allen Dearry. "Creating Healthy Communities, Healthy Homes, Healthy People: Initiating a Research Agenda on the Built Environment and Public Health." *American Journal of Public Health* 93.9 (September 2003): 1446-1450.

"The End of Fossil Fuels." Ecotricity. Web. 28 April 2014.

<<https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green->