

# Don't Myth the Bus

This document addresses some of the common myths about the costs and impacts of transit in Allegheny County.



**Myth** Transit doesn't solve traffic congestion.

**Fact** 1 bus with 60 riders = 270 sq. feet  
60 single occupant cars = 7,240 sq. feet



**Myth** Port Authority is bloated and mismanaged.

**Fact** The Port Authority of Allegheny County's expenses have risen at just half the rate of inflation over the last five years (not including retiree pension and healthcare benefits that cannot be touched).

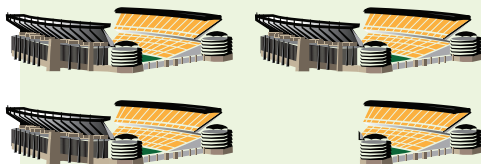
## 2010 Port Authority Spending



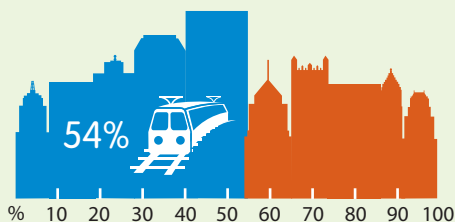
For 2010 (the most recent reporting year available), the percentage of budget Port Authority spends on administration is the 6th lowest of all urban transit agencies in Pennsylvania, and 4th lowest among 23 peer transit agencies nationwide.

**Myth** Nobody uses transit in Allegheny County.

**Fact** 230,000 daily trips:



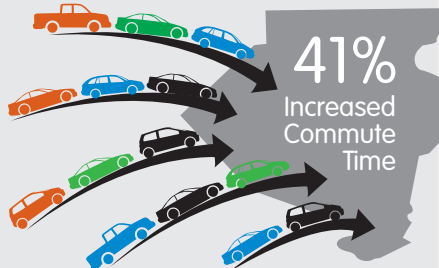
230,000 daily trips (about 3.5 Heinz Fields)



54% of Downtown workers commute by transit. Imagine the traffic if everyone drove instead.

**Myth** Transit cuts won't affect me.

**Fact** Commute times would increase 41% on average across Allegheny County



**Myth** Privatizing transit will solve our problems.

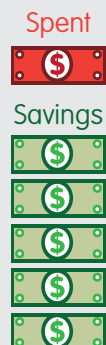
**Fact** Subsidized Mass Transit



Every transit system in the world operates with some form of public subsidy. Nearly all other transportation infrastructure (e.g. roads and bridges) is also supported with public funds.

**Myth** Port Authority shouldn't need more money.

**Fact** The money we spend on transit is less than what transit saves us by eliminating congestion, wear and tear on roads, etc.



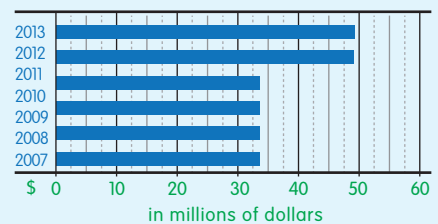
\$1 spent on transit saves the average Allegheny County taxpayer at least \$5 in costs and taxes. Further investment in transit will result in further savings for taxpayers.

**Myth** The transit union is greedy.

**Fact** In 2008, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 85 gave unprecedented concessions in the renegotiation of its labor agreement: \$3 million annually in healthcare expenses, \$4 million annually in pension contributions, and a \$27 million annual reduction in future retiree healthcare expenses. This has reduced the rate of increase in legacy costs by half.

In 2012, an even more concessionary labor agreement was established with ATU Local 85, which froze wages and increased employee pension contributions for a resulting \$60 million in cash savings over four years.

## Union Concessions

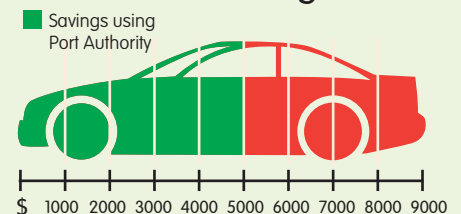


**Myth** Port Authority is expensive to use.

**Fact** Commuters can save over \$5,000 annually by taking transit instead of driving a single-occupancy vehicle.

Port Authority riders collectively save over half a billion dollars annually by commuting on transit.

## Annual commuting costs



This information was compiled by GoBurgh from publicly available data.