

Citizens for Alternative Transportation in Trent Lakes

Public Transport and Our Community

What Is Public Transport?

Wikipedia defines public transport as,

“a system of [transport](#) for [passengers](#) by group travel systems available for use by the general public unlike [private transport](#), typically managed on a schedule, operated on established routes, and that charge a posted fee for each trip.”ⁱ

Public Transport systems can include:

- Buses
- Underground rail or subways
- Surface rail such as streetcars or light rail transit
- Van pool services
- Seniors’ transit
- Transit Services for disabled residents
- Ferries
- Water taxis
- Cable and funicular cars.

Most systems of public transport are operated by local or regional public authorities and are typically funded through a combination of taxes and user fees. User fees alone cannot support an effective public transport system.

What Makes an Effective Public Transport System?

An Effective Public Transport System is one that enhances or improves community life. The following community benefits have been identified as the consequences of an effective public transport system:

- Economic benefits to community businesses
- Economic benefits in terms of savings for those who use public transport
- Improved community health since access to most forms of public transport requires some level of physical activity by the user
- Economic benefits for individuals by eliminating the need to afford or access a car “to earn a paycheck.”ⁱⁱ
- Less traffic congestion
- Reduces carbon emissions and makes it easier for the community to manage carbon emissions.

According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, “public transit builds better lives.”ⁱⁱⁱ

What Would Public Transport in Trent Lakes Look Like?

The nature or mix of public transport that is effective for a community depends on the physical and other characteristics of that community. The public transport system of Venice relies on the famous water buses, while the public transport system of Medellin, Columbia built on the side of the Andes Mountains relies on an elaborate system of cable cars.

The goal is to design an effective public transport system for Trent Lakes that reflects the unique needs and character of this community.

ⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_transport

ⁱⁱ <https://www.remix.com/blog/8-benefits-of-public-transportation>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://fcm.ca/en/focus-areas/public-transit/building-better-public-transit>

Also

<https://www.apta.com/news-publications/public-transportation-facts/>