

Summary of Transit Systems in the 35 Largest US Metropolitan Regions

Metro Region	Population (2022)	Population Growth (21-22)	Annual Transit Ridership (21-22)	Ridership per Capita	Ridership Growth (21-22)	Pop within 1/2M of frequent transit	Route Miles					Rail to Airport	Fare Recovery	Pandemic Recovery
							Heavy Rail	Commuter Rail	Light Rail	Other Rail				
New York	19,617,869	-2.60%	2,758,988,914	140.6	33%	43%	522	2,153	47	70	Y	29%	34%	
Los Angeles	12,872,322	-2.49%	350,274,029	27.2	34%	22%	32	827	172	-	N	6%	30%	
Chicago	9,441,957	-1.84%	283,293,944	30.0	26%	29%	208	1,155	-	-	Y	18%	48%	
Dallas	7,943,685	4.01%	48,510,656	6.1	19%	3%	-	167	182	9	Y	6%	62%	
Houston	7,340,118	3.06%	57,522,271	7.8	28%	16%	-	-	44	4	N	5%	64%	
Washington DC	6,373,756	-0.18%	188,933,834	29.6	107%	17%	234	177	-	4	Y	9%	54%	
Philadelphia	6,241,164	-0.06%	179,099,964	28.7	64%	22%	106	447	-	83	Y	17%	44%	
Atlanta	6,222,106	2.17%	53,407,732	8.6	10%	5%	96	-	-	3	Y	12%	56%	
Miami	6,139,340	0.02%	87,367,521	14.2	15%	12%	50	142	-	9	Y	11%	29%	
Phoenix	5,015,678	3.51%	35,551,134	7.1	-31%	14%	-	-	54	6	Y	6%	50%	
Boston	4,900,550	-0.83%	203,455,402	41.5	68%	14%	76	776	53	22	N	19%	45%	
Riverside	4,667,558	1.47%	12,625,824	2.7	24%	N/A	-	-	-	-	Y	8%	51%	
San Francisco	4,579,599	-3.57%	188,620,776	41.2	73%	17%	239	244	82	34	Y	12%	58%	
Detroit	4,345,761	-1.05%	17,515,954	4.0	16%	8%	-	-	-	10	N	6%	58%	
Seattle	4,034,248	0.39%	112,499,410	27.9	38%	23%	-	164	49	13	Y	9%	44%	
Minneapolis	3,693,729	0.09%	43,172,198	11.7	18%	12%	-	78	44	-	Y	10%	50%	
Tampa	3,290,730	3.64%	17,515,954	5.3	-5%	6%	-	-	-	5	N	8%	27%	
San Diego	3,276,208	-0.68%	63,544,417	19.4	46%	37%	-	82	174	-	Y	15%	34%	
Denver	2,985,871	0.74%	61,284,680	20.5	26%	22%	-	99	120	-	Y	11%	42%	
Baltimore	2,835,672	-0.31%	51,454,797	18.1	19%	14%	29	400	58	-	Y	6%	46%	
St. Louis	2,801,319	-0.67%	18,513,137	6.6	7%	4%	-	-	91	2	Y	8%	94%	
Orlando	2,764,182	3.40%	17,599,932	6.4	19%	2%	-	98	-	-	N	10%	34%	
Charlotte	2,756,069	3.60%	12,640,017	4.6	19%	5%	-	-	37	8	N	7%	48%	
San Antonio	2,655,342	3.80%	25,106,918	9.5	5%	N/A	-	-	-	-	N	7%	41%	
Portland	2,509,489	-0.14%	55,993,315	22.3	24%	26%	-	29	119	15	Y	10%	48%	
Austin	2,421,115	6.03%	20,417,077	8.4	21%	22%	-	64	-	-	N	6%	34%	
Sacramento	2,416,702	0.81%	11,319,897	4.7	40%	10%	-	-	85	-	N	7%	43%	
Pittsburgh	2,349,172	-0.92%	32,328,532	13.8	44%	8%	-	-	50	-	N	12%	49%	
Las Vegas	2,322,985	2.54%	46,503,564	20.0	23%	23%	-	-	-	8	N	26%	34%	
Cincinnati	2,265,051	0.36%	12,045,971	5.3	5%	7%	-	-	-	4	N	12%	29%	
Kansas City	2,209,494	0.80%	11,807,263	5.3	17%	6%	-	-	-	4	N	1%	19%	
Columbus	2,161,511	1.06%	10,275,316	4.8	12%	N/A	-	-	-	-	N	17%	47%	
Indianapolis	2,141,779	1.45%	5,751,302	2.7	11%	8%	-	-	-	-	N	5%	40%	
Cleveland	2,063,132	-1.20%	19,081,613	9.2	20%	5%	38	-	30	-	Y	12%	41%	
Nashville	2,046,828	2.88%	6,512,365	3.2	46%	6%	-	63	-	-	N	9%	69%	

Source: National Transit Database Transit Agency Profiles

Note: The summary table includes "fixed guideway route miles" as tracked by NTD. For light rail and BRT ridership per mile, route length in miles was used.

Read the full research report: [Investments Today Matter Tomorrow: Transit Lessons from Other Metro Areas](#)

Light Rail Ridership Per Mile in the United States (2019/2023)							
Metro Region	Transit Agency	2023 Ridership	2019 Ridership	Length (miles)	Ridership/Mile (2023)	Ridership/Mile (2019)	Corridor
Boston	MBTA	101,300	152,200	23.7	4,274	6,422	Urban
Seattle	Sound Transit	84,500	84,000	28.7	2,949	2,932	Mixed
Houston	Metro Transit Auth of Harris Co	44,300	62,300	22.9	1,934	2,721	Urban
San Diego	San Diego MTS	119,200	123,900	65.0	1,834	1,906	Mixed
Minneapolis	Metro Transit	41,600	82,000	23.0	1,809	3,565	Mixed
Los Angeles	LA County MTA	115,500	140,800	89.8	1,286	1,568	Freeway/Freight
Portland	Tri-County Metro Trp Dist	72,200	117,800	59.7	1,209	1,973	Elevated
San Francisco	San Francisco Muni	77,500	164,900	71.5	1,084	2,306	Urban
Philadelphia	SEPTA (2022)	42,800	76,200	39.6	1,081	1,924	Urban
Phoenix	Valley Metro Rail, Inc.	30,400	44,300	29.8	1,020	1,487	Urban
Salt Lake City	Utah Transit Authority	36,900	56,000	42.5	868	1,318	Freeway/Freight
Denver	RTD (2022)	51,200	99,200	60.1	852	1,651	Freeway/Freight
Charlotte	Charlotte Area Transit (2022)	15,600	30,600	19.3	808	1,585	Freeway/Freight
Dallas	DART	66,000	92,000	93.0	710	989	Freeway/Freight
Baltimore	MTA	14,600	18,600	30.0	487	620	Freeway/Freight
Saint Louis	Bi-State Dev Agency	20,100	42,600	46.0	437	926	Freeway/Freight
Cleveland	Greater Cleveland Reg TA	1,300	4,900	31.0	42	158	Freeway/Freight
Pittsburgh	Port Auth of Allegheny Co	21,324	N/A	24.2	881	N/A	Mixed
Newark	NJ Transit Corp	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	Mixed

Source: National Transit Database Transit Agency Profiles, APTA Ridership Reports

“Urban” is defined as systems that are mostly or exclusively street-running at grade, provide direct access to destinations, and pass through the city’s densest neighborhoods

Bus Rapid Transit Ridership per Mile in the United States					
Metro Region	Passengers per Day	Number of Corridors	Length (Miles)	Ridership/Mile	ITDP Rating
Albuquerque	8,100	2	16.7	485	
Alexandria - Arlington	1,412	1	6.8	208	
Aspen - Gleenwood Springs	N/A	1	44.7		
Cleveland	15,000	1	6.8	2,206	Silver
Eugene	10,000	2	11.8	847	Bronze
Fort Collins	3,000	1	5.0	604	
Hartford County	9,674	1	9.3	1,040	Silver
Las Vegas	34,189	3	39.2	873	Basic BRT
Los Angeles	26,179	2	46.0	569	Bronze (Orange Line)
Miami	23,000	1	21.1	1,088	
New York	305,911	12	63.4	4,827	
Orlando	1,588	3	3.1	512	
Pittsburgh	41,861	3	18.6	2,251	Bronze (MLK)
Richmond	7688.5	1	7.6	1,012	Bronze
San Bernardino	2,475	1	16.7	153	
San Francisco	20,000	1	N/A	N/A	

Source: Centre of Excellence for Bus Rapid Transit, Global BRT Data