

Average number of transit rides each year per Oregonian

Our strategy

Oregon's transportation system supports the state's quality of life and economy across a diversity of geographies and people. Public transportation is a key piece of the transportation system for those who cannot or choose not to drive. The demand for public transportation in Oregon is anticipated to increase as population grows.

Starting in 2019, an influx of funds from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF), created as part of the 2017 transportation funding package, Keep Oregon Moving, will fund new and expanded public transportation service, resulting in

increased ridership throughout Oregon. This Key Performance Measure will assist ODOT in assessing the impact of the new funds.

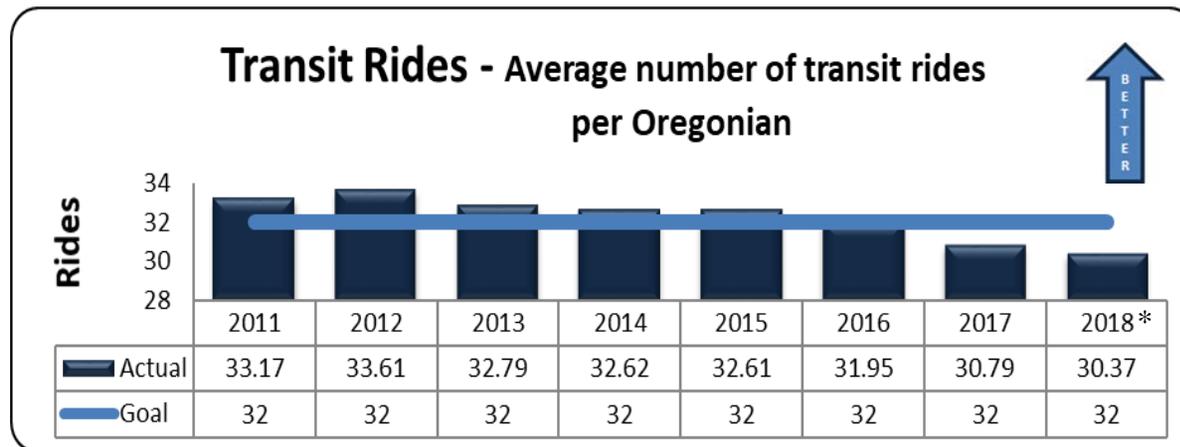
With more money, transit providers will:

- Increase service levels in both urban and rural areas
- Offer more intercity and regional route service
- Improve transit supports such as improved passenger facilities, and technologies such as electronic fare and other integrated fare systems.
- Procure low- and no-emission vehicles.

- Expand services to better serve low-income Oregonians and students in grades 9 – 12.

About the target

The target is an annual goal of 32 rides per Oregonian. The goal will need to be re-evaluated in two to four years. The target was set by evaluating transit ridership trends and population growth over the five-year period of 2011 to 2016.



Facts

- 18.9% of households report having a person who regularly uses transit (at least once a week)
- 5.0% of workers report normally using transit to get to work
- 4.6% of students report normally using transit to get to school & to work

Transit Rides, cont.

How we are doing

The average number of reported rides per capita during the 2011 to 2018 period was 32.51 rides per Oregonian. Ridership declined an average of 0.05% and population growth averaged 1.31%, resulting in a 1.24% average annual decline of rides per capita between 2011 and 2018. The goal is to increase ridership and then maintain the rate of rides at 32 per capita even as the population grows.

Factors affecting results and what needs to be done

The Oregon Public Transportation Plan, adopted by the Oregon Transportation Commission in 2018, encourages ridership increases through policies that encourage improved transit education, comprehensive planning for transit and better transit facilities.

CY 2019 was the first year for distribution of STIF dollars, initiating improvements in transit. It usually takes one or more years to receive funds, get delivery of purchased vehicles, and develop ridership sufficient to determine effectiveness of the investment in new services.



About 90 percent of all trips in Oregon are provided by Lane Transit District, Salem Area Mass Transit District and TriMet. Although all public transit providers in Oregon will be investing in improved services and will show increase in rides, the biggest gains are expected to result from these three agencies.

The cost of providing transit service is going up. Much of the increase of new funds, over time, will be invested in sustaining service levels and other improvements, potentially affecting future ridership increased by limiting the amount of funds available for transit expansion.

ODOT funds have historically contributed an average of 3.5 percent of the state's available transit funding. With the new funding approved in 2017, ODOT is projected to provide 10.5 percent of statewide transit funding in 2020. Local government decisions may impact ridership. For example, in some communities the need for transit support infrastructure such as passenger shelters, secure bus parking, and technology could result in less investment in direct service.

About the data

*National Transit Database ridership data from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is not released until late October 2019. Therefore, the calculation of 2018 transit rides per Oregonian is an estimate.

Contact information

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Data sources

ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division;
National Transit Database;
Oregon Public Transit Information System;
Portland State University Oregon Population Report;
Oregon Travel and Activity Survey