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[Transit: Just How Important?](#)

We are seeing the real role transit plays in system

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PLYMOUTH—Transit just isn't that important to the smooth functioning of the Twin Cities transportation system.

That's the obvious conclusion to be drawn from the lack of chaos engendered by the bus system strike. Even in areas highly transit dependent—such as the central business districts of St. Paul and Minneapolis—there just doesn't seem to be much difference in traffic when buses are running, and when buses are not.

Normal weather conditions have much more impact on the smooth flow of the system than whether the bus system, which costs taxpayers about \$300 million a year to operate, is up and running or not.

"The bus strike is a giant wake-up call to lawmakers. Let's get off the transit train and spend the dollars where they really make a difference. Let's take that \$300 million a year and invest it in real congestion reduction," said Strom.

"The bus strike shows decisively that proponents of transit are simply not telling the truth when they say that transit ridership reduces congestion. It simply doesn't. Imagine what putting another \$300 million into the metropolitan road system would do to reduce congestion," said David Strom, President of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota.

"Transit is a bad deal for taxpayers. This experience should spur lawmakers to seek new ways to serve transit-dependent communities, through encouraging carpools, more cabs, and even providing subsidized automobiles to lower income families to increase their mobility. Why keep lower-income folks dependent upon an inefficient

bus system when we can open up the job market of the entire twin cities to them through automobiles?" Strom suggested.

Transit takes an enormous share of transportation investment. Lawmakers often have a goal of spending about 25% of transportation dollars on transit, although transit serves less than 5% of all trips.

"Explain the free flowing traffic despite the strike," Strom challenged transit advocates.

The Taxpayers League is dedicated to real reform and solutions for Minnesota taxpayers. It abhors the doublespeak and obfuscation pushed by advocates for more government spending without results.

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