

What are the advantages and disadvantages of using public transportation compared to other modes of transportation?

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Advantages of using public transportation include:

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Tim Lu

Technical Support Engineer at Dell EMC (2018–present) · Author has 300 answers and 1.2M answer views · 7y

Originally Answered: As someone who uses public transportation, personally what are the advantages and disadvantages compared to other modes of transportation?

I'm studying at a uni in a small city near Sydney, Australia.

To go to the main shopping mall, it takes about an hour including walking to bus stops and waiting for the bus.

I live just outside campus and i go to the gym on campus so I don't need any transportation for those.

Most of my friends here have a car because it's really inconvenient to go places, and at night taxi (uber just came recently) is the only option.

For me i tailored my lifestyle so that I don't need a car. When i really need to go places, i take the bus or I get a lift from friends.

Why do I take the bus? Because I don't have other options. Do I like taking the bus? No. For 3 reasons:

1. There are often shady people especially high school kids at the back of the bus. Best case - they play loud offensive music. Worst case - i get verbally assaulted (fortunately not physically yet)
2. I get motion sickness occasionally. Especially when i have lack of sleep, but mainly because my body is aging.
3. It's expensive. International students are not entitled to concessions in NSW. It cost about \$3.50 one way.

Do i want a car? Yes. Why didn't I get one? Because I can't afford it. And I didn't want my parents to buy me one since they have already paid for my tuition and living expenses (plus the extra semesters because i failed).

I love driving very much. But i think University is a good stage to practise frugality, and I would appreciate my life more when I start earning money.

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Transportation Consultant · 7y



This will depend on what form of public transport, for example, rail or bus. We can make a comparison between bus and when you say other means, I believe you are referring to your personal car.

With respect to the above, there are the obvious disadvantages, for example, travel time, comfort, convenience, and safety.

Public transport can be inherently slower due to strongly enforced speed limits. The larger size of the vehicles which makes it difficult for to accelerate rapidly and attain high speeds. Furthermore, the frequent boarding and alighting of passengers increase travel time significantly, especially if it traverses a very busy route. Although segregated bus Lanes may make it more efficient during peak periods, overall, it tends to be a slower form of travel.

Public bus may be a little uncomfortable, since it may not have possess the fancy gadgets and entertainment such as our favourite Songs playing, the air conditioner set to the exact temperature we want. The seats may also not be as comfortable as we would like. If the bus is really crowded it may also be somewhat of a discomfort since people constantly brush against you or step on your feet in some cases.

If you're someone who does a lot of shopping, the public bus not be very friendly form of travel since you have to carry all of that luggage from stop to stop till you get home. The bus stations may also be far from wherever your final destination is or the next stop. I'm sure nobody likes to walk for 3km or above under the scorching sun. The bus becomes increasingly inconvenient for trips which are indirect, meaning you have to stop at several different locations. Some of which may not be on the same route or line.

There is also the safety issue particularly if you take the bus during odd hours such as late at night or very early in the morning. You may get attacked by an assailant if your area isn't well lit or protected by security.

particularly when you consider the cost of fuel, repair & maintenance, registration, insurance, parking and fines or tickets when you happen to like breaking rules. Public transport helps you avoid all of the aforementioned costs.

In addition, the public transport is relatively safer than passenger cars, since buses often travel at lower speeds. Research consistently shows the public transport system as being a safer mode of travel. Accidents are far fewer, so consider that your chances of being involved in an accident significantly reduce when you opt for the public transport system. It can also foster social harmony since we can interact with many people as we travel. It is also a good system for those who can't drive due to age, disability or poverty.

It is also a more healthy approach because of the walking and standing associated with it. Both of which are known to reduce stress significantly. You can lose weight, help your cardiovascular system and reduce your chances of having diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and a variety of heart diseases if the public transport system is used more frequently.

Passenger vehicles account for close to 80% of emissions in some nations. Consider that public buses contain as much as 40x to 50x more passengers than a car or jeep, if we consider the average number of passengers being 1.5 persons. New systems such as straddle buses may even accommodate up to a 1000 people. If you considered, the number of passenger cars on the road reduces tremendously, hence, emissions reduce also. The fewer vehicles on the road from the use of public transport also means congestion reduces. Congestion is known to be a major cause of increased fuel consumption and hence emissions.

I hope this has been of some help.


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Marcelo Soares

Lives in São Paulo and never drove a car · Author has 3.1K answers and 3M answer views · 7y



Originally Answered: As someone who uses public transportation, personally what are the advantages and disadvantages compared to other modes of transportation?

I never learned how to drive, so I plan all aspects of my life to live without a car. I live at walking distance from the office and near good public transportation options. And take a taxi or an Uber when I need.

The best thing about not driving is that you mostly don't need to pay attention.

I can't estimate how many extra hours of reading I've had in my life just because I don't drive. Many, many hours. If I'm standing on the bus, I listen to music or podcasts.

If I need to go to a city up to 500km away, I can take a bus. On the way I do a lot of reading, planning, listening to music, sightseeing, social networking and, if the trip is long, sleeping. When I travel by bus between São Paulo and Rio, I try to get a schedule when I can sleep for most of the way. The 1AM bus gets there when the sun rises. And it's beautiful in some parts of the road.

Of course, it depends a lot on convenience, availability and timing. Buses in Brazil have notoriously irregular schedules, but since I found an app called Moovit their schedules became quite feasible to me.

I really don't need a car. And the city doesn't need one more bad driver. Win-win situation.

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Truck Driver at Decker Truck Lines · Author has **4.3K** answers and **1.9M** answer views · 3y



The advantages

- The cost of public transportation is low.
- The passenger is not responsible for the vehicle in any way.
- There is little stress due to driving in the traffic on the road.

The disadvantages.

- You go where the route takes you, rather than where you wanted to go.
- You have no control over the time it takes to get to your destination.
- You ride with strangers, so you may encounter some dangerous people.

Its sometimes worth taking a bus rather than driving yourself. For example, the bus to Disney cost \$6 per person. Parking fees at Disney for your car can be \$50. What's cheaper?

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Public transportation is a mass-transit system. If you need to move large numbers of people quickly and efficiently then the mass- transit systems (typically trains, busses & subways) are a good & usually reliable answer to the problem. As transport modes for individuals go, public transportation maximizes numbers moved at the cost of substantial personal discomfort, destination inconvenience & frequent frustration.

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Another word for public transportation is mass transportation. The reason this is appropriate is the goal of public transportation is to move many people in fewer vehicles rather than the typical of moving one person in one vehicle. The more successful public transportation is the fewer vehicles on the road. When this happens there is less call for added lanes to roads, which by the way does not reduce congestion.



Tom Stagliano

Senior Aerospace Engineer (studied at MIT) · Author has **51.3K** answers and **167.6M** answer views · 3y

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First, I will easily walk two miles to get somewhere. That is a nice 35 minute walk. Therefore, I would never use a bicycle for less than 2 miles let alone a car or public transportation.

At 2 miles or more, how safe is the path/roads for using a bicycle? What about in bad weather with water or snow on the ground? Would you need to take a change of clothing to use that

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Public transport is good if it runs from where you are to where you want to be in a reasonable time and at a fair cost. Even then it is not so good if you have a lot of luggage to carry or at peak times when it is over crowded. Cost is a major concern. If you have company, a family or

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Bill Flewelling

Lifelong nondriver and transit user · Author has **12K** answers and **3.7M** answer views · 3y

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The advantages: as a non-driver I spend a fraction of what a driver does on transportation; I don't have to structure my life and budget around fuelling, driving, parking and maintaining a car; I can live my life at a walking pace in dense urban neighbourhoods whose pleasures are best enjoyed on foot, or on a bus or streetcar. The disadvantages: having to adapt to a

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Gary McAdam



I.T Service Desk Analyst at Leeds Beckett University (2015–present) · Author has **17.4K** answers and **13.7M** answer views · Updated 1y

Well in my case it's quite simple - I live in Baildon, but work in the centre of Leeds, 12.5 miles away. Car parking in Leeds city centre near my office is difficult to find and very expensive

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Retired at National Health Service (NHS) (2016–present) · Author has **2K** answers and **532.7K** answer views · 3y

"What are the advantages and disadvantages of using public transportation compared to other modes of transportation?"

Using public transport I don't have to worry about finding (let alone paying for) a parking space.

I don't have to pay the London congestion charge.

I don't have to concentrate on driving, I can just sit back and enjoy the journey.

I don't pay road tax

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Brice Fleckenstein



Legendary BitCoin Talk member. · Author has **6.7K** answers and **3.6M** answer views · 3y

The primary disadvantages are GENERALLY time (public transit usually is a LOT slower than driving for several reasons INCLUDING that it almost never goes from near where you are DIRECTLY to near where you are going PLUS stopping for passengers fairly frequently and the

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