

# Bringing the Jobs Onboard

Creating High Quality Employment through Transit Investment



## Stronger Communities Through Better Transit

Transit plays a central role in providing access to schools, jobs, medical care, parks, grocery stores and other everyday necessities. For decades, the United States has underinvested in this essential building block for economic mobility and equitable prosperity. Transit is also a vital climate solution, providing the fastest pathway for cutting transportation emissions. Ambitious investment in reliable, fast, and affordable public transit systems will help communities flourish and support an economy that works for all.

The ‘**Stronger Communities Through Better Transit Act**’ would invest \$20 billion in transit operations across the country. This could create up to **230,000 new jobs nationwide**.

Congressman Hank Johnson introduced a **federal bill that would invest \$20 billion in transit operations** through a formula grant program that increases by 50% the operations funding for every recipient of the Federal Transit Administration’s existing urbanized area and rural area formula funds, and increases the federal share of operating costs for rural transit agencies from 50% to 80%.

This infusion of funds could translate into up to **230,000 new high-pay, high-quality jobs nationwide**, including for transit operators and staff who work tirelessly to keep the systems moving, and also the indirect jobs set in motion by the increased economic activity.

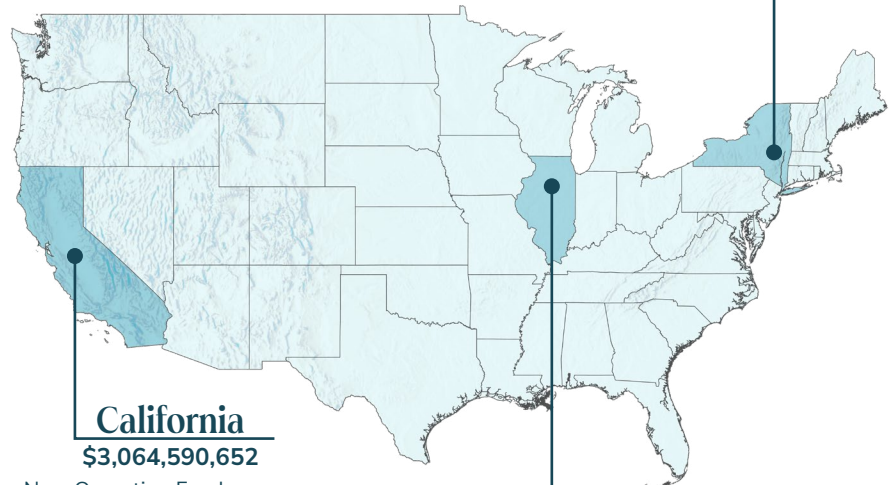
## Jobs Breakdown

### United States Total

This bill would invest **\$20,000,000,000** in new operating funds per year across every state. The map to the right shows a breakdown of estimated jobs in three sample states: CA, IL, and NY.

#### Nationwide Estimated New Jobs

**237,756** total new jobs  
**108,356** new direct jobs  
**129,400** new indirect & induced jobs



### New York

**\$4,090,353,552**

New Operating Funds per year<sup>2</sup>

**35,661** total new jobs

**21,140** new direct jobs

**14,520** new indirect & induced jobs

### California

**\$3,064,590,652**

New Operating Funds per year

**24,286** total new jobs

**14,204** new direct jobs

**10,082** new indirect & induced jobs

### Illinois

**\$1,062,471,632**

New Operating Funds per year

**11,121** total new jobs

**5,989** new direct jobs

**5,131** new indirect & induced jobs

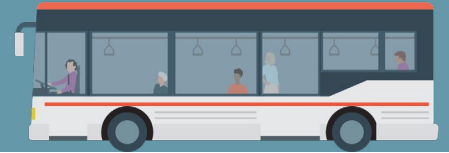


<sup>1</sup> Unlike competitive grants, formula grants guarantee funds to all communities with transit.

<sup>2</sup> **Operations funding** modeling by Union of Concerned Scientists. Shen, Kevin Xu, 2024, "Modeling Federal Transit Operating Support". <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TZKGGX> Harvard Dataverse, V1

# Bringing the Jobs Onboard

Creating High Quality Employment through Transit Investment



## Transit Builds Strong Communities

### Labor Benefits



#### Manufacturing jobs

To add almost **100 million hours** of service, agencies may need to purchase up to 20,000 new buses and trains, which will spur new manufacturing jobs.



#### Staffing stability

A 2022 **survey** from the American Public Transit Association found that 96% of transit agencies have workforce challenges, and 84% have reported that staffing shortages impact service provision.



#### Good working conditions

Successful transit **depends** on agencies sustaining high paying jobs, consistent schedules, training, and safety for workers.

### Environmental Benefits



#### Cleaner air and water

Fewer vehicles on the road means improved local air quality due to reduced exhaust emissions and fewer **microtoxins** from tire wear.



#### Climate stability

The US can spark a more rapid transition to a zero-carbon transportation sector by increasing availability and access to public transit, which already results in **45%** less emissions compared to driving alone. Private vehicle **turnover** to electric vehicles is too slow to reach climate targets alone.



#### Land

Roadways, parking and other infrastructure for cars occupy a massive amount of **space** that could be converted to green space, housing or other community amenities.

### Community Benefits



#### Pocketbook savings

Functional transit delivers household savings from reduced car ownership. People in the United States pay an average of **\$12,182 per year** to own and maintain a new car.



#### Public health

Fewer car crash injuries, decreased air pollution, and better access to preventative **medical care** translate into quality of life and cost savings for families and taxpayers.



#### Increased mobility and opportunity

Everyone can get where they need to go – accessing employment, healthcare, education, recreation, social outings, and basic necessities – especially people who don't drive, who are **disproportionately people of color**, poor and working class people, people living with disabilities, youth and elders.



#### Better commutes

More frequent transit means shorter commutes and time savings for workers.



Visit [climateandcommunity.org](https://climateandcommunity.org) for more research at the nexus of climate and inequality. If you have questions, please reach out to Emmett Hopkins at Climate and Community Project ([ehopkins@climateandcommunity.org](mailto:ehopkins@climateandcommunity.org)).