

# 1000 TEXANS FOR TRANSIT

## THE CASE FOR DEDICATED STATE TRANSIT FUNDING FOR TEXAS METROPOLITAN REGIONS

A majority of 28 million Texans – growing to 50 million soon – want better public transportation and are willing to pay more taxes to fund better transit.

### **Texas metropolitan regions have 1/3 the transit funding our competitors have**

- Average local + state spending on public transportation across all states was \$114 per capita in 2016, but only \$64 per Texan.
- Compared to the 8 other states with one or more of the 10 largest metro regions in the nation, Texans experience only 1/3 as much local + state transit funding per capita.
- Average state funding of public transportation in America is \$44 per capita - in Texas: \$1.08
- Only 17% of Americans live in the 15 states that fund public transit less than Texas.

### **Innovations at Texas transit agencies are being watched, copied across the nation**

- Houston METRO's bus system reimagining overhaul has been copied across the nation, including last year in Austin, with ridership up in Austin and other metros following Houston's lead on efficient, frequent service.

### **We massively subsidize driving with no marginal benefit, with transit ready to help**

- TXDOT has asked for \$41 million a year in funding for transit for rural areas, home to 6 million Texans - to meet basic needs.
- Equal transit funding per capita for the 22 million other Texans: \$160 million a year.
- \$330 million a year would raise us to Indiana standards for state transit funding per capita.

### **Texans want more transit funding**

- According to the 2016 TTI survey, "the most frequently cited change that Texans would like to see in order to improve the transportation system for them was to improve public transportation."
- Kinder Houston Area Survey: 92% of the 7.5 million Texans living in Houston region think "much-improved mass transit" is important.

### **We need to fix our transit funding problem**

- \$201 million a year dedicated to transit for rural and metropolitan areas.
- Let Texans vote on local options funding

**1000 TEXANS FOR TRANSIT** is a project of **Farm&City**, a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan nonprofit think & do tank dedicated to high quality urban and rural human habitat in Texas in perpetuity.

Find out more at [FarmAndCity.org](http://FarmAndCity.org) or contact Jay Blazek Crossley at [jay@farmandcity.org](mailto:jay@farmandcity.org)