



### **Public Transportation & MATBUS Facts**

- Public transportation in the United States provided more than 10.4 billion trips during 2011, up from 2010 when public transportation gave 10.1 billion rides, according to an American Public Transportation Association (APTA) report.
- Throughout the United States, public transportation has increased by 31% since 1995—a growth rate almost twice that of the population, and greater than miles traveled by personal vehicles.
- MATBUS is the largest rideshare program in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. MATBUS provided over 2.15 million rides during 2011, which equates to over 7,000 daily rides.
- MATBUS ridership has soared in recent years, increasing by more than 81% since 2005.

### **Environmental Benefits of MATBUS**

- Public transportation is a national priority specifically identified to combat global climate change. We all have a stake in expanding the use of public transportation in our country.
- Public transportation allows an **immediate** alternative for individuals seeking to reduce their energy usage and their carbon footprints – it has an immediate “green” impact!
- America’s public transportation systems reduce carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually.
- An individual who switches to public transit reduces his or her daily carbon emissions footprint by 20 pounds; that is more than 4,800 pounds per year. This is equal to a 10% reduction in all greenhouse gases produced by a typical two-adult, two-car household.
- Public transportation produces nearly 50 percent less carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), per passenger mile, as private vehicles.
- By eliminating one car in a two-car household, utilizing public transportation can result in a savings of up to 30% of a household’s annual carbon dioxide emissions.
- One MATBUS bus full of people removes up to 50 cars from the road; that’s a line of cars approximately four city blocks long. Think of the traffic jam averted by utilizing MATBUS!
- U.S. public transportation systems save 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline every year, the equivalent of 320 million cars filling up annually. That is a daily savings of almost 900,000 cars per day!
- Public transportation’s overall effects save the United States 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually: more than 3 times the amount of gasoline imported from Kuwait.
- By choosing to ride the bus, fifty people can save at least 32 gallons of gas in just one day!
- Hybrid electric buses can improve fuel economy approximately 25-50 percent over a conventional diesel system in urban transit systems. MATBUS added two hybrid fixed route buses and two hybrid paratransit buses in 2011. MATBUS plans on adding three more hybrid diesel-electric buses in 2012.

### **Economical Benefits of MATBUS**

- Utilizing public transportation can save households an average of \$10,126 each year.
- Paving one parking spot costs thousands of dollars, and a single parking space in a ramp can cost over \$15,000. It costs \$3,000 to construct a parking space in a surface lot. Neither estimate includes the cost of the land or the missed opportunity for development.
  - In contrast, a MATBUS pass for an unlimited number of adult rides costs only \$480 per year. Also, employers subsidizing bus passes for their employees can save money and also receive a tax credit.
- Every \$1.00 invested in public transportation projects generates from \$4.00 to \$9.00 in local economic activity. Investing in MATBUS saves & pays!