

Public Transit Recorded 9 Billion Trips in 1999; Up 4.5 Percent

(April 18) Last year, Americans took more than 9 billion trips on public transportation, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the highest ridership in nearly four decades.

Public transportation usage continues to outpace growth in other modes of transportation such as airlines and highways.

Last year, public transportation ridership increased by 4.5 percent over 1998, compared with a two percent gain in motor vehicle miles traveled and a three percent increase in passenger trips on U.S. airlines.

Fourth year of increases

The current level of public transportation usage marks the fourth straight year of ridership increases and represents a 15.2 percent increase since 1995, according to the DOT.

All major modes of public transportation have more riders. Gains in ridership were led by heavy rail transit systems with a 6.4 percent increase. Paratransit service ridership increased 4.7 percent; bus systems, 3.8 percent; and commuter rail systems, 3.7 percent.

[Back to MTA Report](#)